



# Open College of the Arts

## Formative feedback

Student name	Jose Francisco Souto Martinez	Student number	██████
Course/Unit	Context & Narrative	Assignment	2
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Written		

### Overall Comments

This assignment feels promising in places. I liked the use of conceptual contrast - the framed smartphone and the playing cards. The typewriter texting doesn't really come across though, because it's too small to read. But all this is a playful use of signs that is essentially sculptural (about the objects).

Your approach of making carefully designed close shots of props and using yourself as a model is very similar to your previous assignment. So much so that this almost looks like part of the same assignment. This could suggest consistency, but you're a Level 1 student and I hope you will find a wider variety of photographic subjects. The use of objects feels a bit static, too slick and carefully placed so as to make the images feel like illustrations or advertising photography rather than reflections of a living, breathing reality. Now that may have been what you were after (and the assignment lends itself to use of props) but be aware of the connection to adverts.

### Assignment 2 Assessment potential

I understand your aim is to go for the Photography/Creative Arts\* Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback.

### Feedback on assignment

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity

Time passing?

The assignment seems to be about the use of new technology to replace old technology. (Time passing is more about historic narrative). There are some amusing sculptural jokes, like the post-it notes on the tablet or the playing cards with smartphones. Here you are referencing how things have changed - or rather a contrast - so there is a sense of time (past and present).

I didn't understand the tape deck photo. Or the map photo. Not sure how they are supposed to represent the past/present change technology you write about.

Unseen

The notion of the unseen doesn't really have a part in this assignment. Your approach has been humorous juxtaposition. You are making visual comments about the changes in communication and representation.

Depth

This work is fun but it's not deep. It has little personal resonance and apart from showing the changes of representation it says little about the *effect* of those technological changes. Jean Baudrillard's concept of simulacra takes the effect of particularly television images and the realities they presume to represent a stage further and questions whether the plethora of images desensitizes and alters human perception of the real. You may want to check him out, but don't sweat over it too much. But I mention him because if you're thinking is moving in this direction it would be useful for you to know him for future works.

### **Coursework**

**Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity**

Your visual poem is more compelling than your assignment. It's again using self-portrait and props but in a more varied and personally meaningful manner. The replacement of lego to coins to pills is a sad but realistic trajectory.

### **Research**

**Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis**

I don't see the connection to Duane Michals' work here but maybe it's elliptical. But it's good you're looking at work like his. One thing you should take from it is its self-contained narrative form - they are little stories or comic strips. That could be something worth exploring for you because you like to create set-ups. They are all pretty much single shots (in the cinematic sense).

### **Learning Log**

**Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis**

*Summarize how you have applied what you've learned from the course to your assignment photographs. Also note down what you've learned from other photographers in executing the assignment.*

Your writing is good if a bit voluminous. If it helps you that's fine, but you don't need to write volumes as an artist, you just need to write what matters.

## Suggested reading/viewing

### Context

Have a look at the objects created by artists like Ai Weiwei and Marcel Duchamp. There's a Duchamp exhibition at the Royal Academy until early January. Dali (same exhibition) may also interest you for his manipulations and altered meanings of objects.

## Pointers for the next assignment

You are already exploring self-portraiture and I hope you will be able to find both a strong narrative (that is self-contained) as well as meaningful.

## Summary

Strengths	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fun conceptual use of props.</li><li>• Amusing contrasts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing a narrative.</li><li>• A little less like advertising!</li></ul>

**Please inform me of how you would like your feedback for the next assignment: written or video/audio.**

Tutor name	██████████
Date	22nd November 2017
Next assignment due	10th February 2018