



Open College of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Jose Souto Martinez	Student number	██████████
Course/Unit	Context & Narrative	Assignment	4
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Written + Annotated Es- say		

***See annotated essay.**

Assignment 4 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

- Good essay, nicely written with some informative chunks of knowledge. But your interpretation verges on the subjectively ethereal at times. Try to keep it real and stick to what you're seeing. You seem to get a bit carried away.
- Although, having said that, I can understand why this picture set you off on an imaginative train of thought. That's often what good pictures do. When this happens, ask yourself whether this is likely to be true or whether there is some other reason.
- You've chosen a well-known photograph by Andreas Gursky, Rhein 2. I can understand why this very clean, graphic image has resonated with your work, although I haven't seen you make landscapes.
- One of the most interesting things here is that you interpret the image top down, whereas I've always seen it as a perspective from near to far. The allegory leading us away from the familiar ground, across the challenges of life (the river) to the uncertain horizon and the end (the sky). But no interpretation is right or wrong. It depends on your own conviction and on what you are ready to understand. So perhaps what I see as ethereal is somehow important for you. I would guard against the heroism of the artist though. Either seeing others or yourself as some metaphysical poet is a one way street to a big ego!

Coursework

I don't think the connection between a watch and Napoleon is about the watch being capable of making history! It's about associations that people make with symbols and which advertisers want the punters to make with the product. Clearly there's an effort here to associate a rapidly-becoming-obsolete item with something 'classical' and 'everlasting' and 'traditional' as learning, history, heroic figures and 'great art', as if these very qualities could be bought and possessed by owning that watch rather than just using a phone to tell the time. All advertizing is manipulative unless it explains a simple specification list.

But you're making a concerted effort to dig into the meaning of pictures here. In time it will come.

Research

Your research for this essay is good. Actually I'm somewhat surprised your interpretation is so subjective based on the wealth of references.

Learning Log

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.

The blog is good. Personal reflection for an essay is difficult because you're attempting to reflect on something your reflecting on. But I suspect you'll look back at this essay in a few years and do it differently.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

Have you read (or seen the TV documentary) of John Berger's *Ways of Seeing*? Despite it's age, it's surprisingly relevant. It may be a help to you. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pDE4VX_9Kk

Pointers for the next assignment

I really hope you don't do more close up images for the final assignment. You could try the 'subtractive method' that Gursky uses in *Rhein II*, but whatever you do, be ambitious and widen your views.

Summary

Strengths	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nice, clear, lucid writing.• Making some good points about Gursky's leaning towards the manipulative.• This is interpretation of a kind, if a little too imaginative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A bit woolly and subjective at times!

Please inform me of how you would like your feedback for the next assignment: written

or video/audio.

Tutor name	[REDACTED]
Date	24th April 2018
Next assignment due	5th July 2018