

	<h1>Open College of the Arts</h1>
	<h2>Tutor report</h2>

Student name	Simon Lewis	Student number	505520
Course/Module	People and Place	Assignment number	2

Dear Simon

Many thanks for your second assignment. Apologies for the delay in sending back but I wished to incorporate information gained from my recent visit to OCA.

Overall Comments

The assignment was presented as a series of prints in a box. The assignment is also on a blog with explanation text.

In the explanation you describe how you research to find a suitable event, which is good. I would also add in here details of any research that you looked at – this would really strengthen the introduction.

In the guidance for each assignment at the end of my tutor report I normally recommend some starting points for research (and you are encouraged to research and find your own).

The prints were good quality, but do consider having them printed with a border. This has two functions – one prevents fingerprints when handling.

Secondly it shows where the edge of the frame is – we often see prints, which have been cropped at the edges through the printing. For example 'Detachment' in the print the leading soldiers foot is just on the edge of the frame. On the blog there is clearly more space around the foot. To assess I have looked at both prints and screen version – for assessment, if you are submitting prints, you may wish to reprint to ensure they are full size.

The review at the end is clear and you are recognizing how to improve your work – I think this can be taken further and you can be more critical of your own approach. It is by doing this, that you can really push and improve your photography.

I would add one point and that is to research other photographers' work and make notes. Sorry if the point on research is repeated and repeated in this feedback, but I think it is essential for you to pick up on this and demonstrate

and evidence it in your work – it will undoubtedly help you to improve your photography.

Assignment potential (after Assignments 2 and 4)

Tutor to select one of the statements below:

**delete as appropriate*

I understand your aim is to go for the Photography (Painting/Textiles/Creative Writing, 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 succeed 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.*

Please see my comments on the learning log section regarding research.

Feedback on assignment

1

Do not underestimate the power of black and white imagery. We normally recommend going out shooting intentionally with a black and white head on (you will look for different elements for an image – texture, shadow, form etc. as opposed to colour). However this set has worked well in black and white.

The distinctive shape of the bearskin stands out as a dominant shape here against the texture of the wall.

The angle of view could be slightly better but I understand that this could be due to shooting position restriction.

The top left and right corners could do with some slightly burning in to stop them falling off the corner of the page – I am an old black and white printer and I can see instantly where I would make my shape to deal with these two areas! I understand that you use Aperture and this is the one programme I am not familiar with, so can't recommend best how to do this.

However the adjustment needs to be slightly darker.

2

A great opportunity for an image, which captures a moment of action.

The lack of focus is a pity, but you have recognized this and explained the technical constraints for this. On a real assignment, this would be an image to go back and reshoot. (I would consider redoing this for formal assessment).

This is an image that could only be in black and white, as the emphasis has to be on the black shiny boot.

3

This image has strong framing – the face of the guard can be seen. However again the focus is an issue. With a shot like this, taking a few shots at different apertures would allow you to explore the best place to make the focal point of the image.

If you do have a range of shots here, I would expand on your commentary and use some of the 'rejects' to show different options.

4

This image shows the movement of the guards. The angle of view places us alongside the action and you can feel if they are about to carry on marching out of the frame and straight past! Technically the image is quite high contrast and detail is being lost on the spectators on the left hand side. A little selective adjustment here could stop them appearing so harsh.

5

In this image I think a closer crop could be taken to eliminate the sky – this is doing nothing for the scene.



6

I have less of an issue with the backs of guards than you do – this is very much part of the scene. However the bright white sky is causing contrast issues, which should be addressed. A different angle of view could allow for a view, which shows more of the regimented pattern of the guards walking.

7

The image shows the exchange of positions. The guard in the background is annoyingly out of focus – it is that point of focus where it is not quite blurred enough.

A different crop is shown below. Again there are issues with the background sky being too light.



8

The image just has enough detail on the faces; a position slightly further round would give a less obtuse view. Do watch for the tones on this image,

the belts and hands are losing detail whilst the rest of the image has heavy midtones.

9

A different type of image and it differs from the traditional tourist view. The long stride gives an effective triangle, which mirrors the point of the sentry box. A slight crop could remove the lamppost and some of the sky.



10

This is the best image of the set and one that seems to capture the expressions of the guards. What makes it for me is the other spectators glimpsing through the guards.

Sketchbooks

NA

Learning Logs/Critical essays

Your log is clearly laid out – the key is to clearly separate the assignments and research into distinct tabs to help assessors see the work quickly.

The exercises are clearly presented and it is clear to follow.

The area now to concentrate on is research. Do look at the reading list for People and Place (I have attached a copy for reference). Even if you have looked at sources it can be worth revisiting for another assignment.

Evidence of clear research is vital for assessment. You should show how you interact with the resource sources. This can be notes on chapters from books/magazine where you then scan the pages on.

If you are looking at a particular image, an annotated diagram can say plenty about the image.

If you would like to talk to me on the phone regarding research, please do let me know and we can arrange it.

On the references section DO expand this to being more than a list of sources – evaluate them, pull out any poignant or useful bits – show you

have interacted with the references.

Reference is a key part of the course and is looked at during formal assessment. If you have posts that deal with research in your log, I would highly recommend moving them to the reference section so the assessors can assess this in one easily accessible section.

Suggested reading/viewing

See attached list

Also do look at the work of Alexander Rodchenko – the image of the stamping foot immediately brought his work to mind.

Do look for some articles on black and white processing. Black and white is treated very differently in post-processing to colour work and some background reading will help with tonal control.

Pointers for the next assignment

Assignment 3

Buildings in use

You may find these photographers useful to start looking at for research.

Eugene Atget

Domestic Landscape - Bert Teunissen

If you have any queries on this feedback, do contact me directly.

Regards

Andrea

Tutor name:	Andrea Norrington
Date	9/7/12
Next assignment due	15/9/12

