



Open College of the Arts

Tutor report

Student name	Martin Tayler	Student number	511655
Course/Module	Art of Photography	Assignment number	three

Overall Comments

This is a proficient portfolio which illustrates sound control over technique and the aims of the exercises and assignment. Colour is often a personal thing for artists, and while some images could be criticised for not exactly matching the brief, I think this is high on impossible when working with natural subjects. Your own aims have been met admirably and that is what really matters here. The images show a real concern for colour and their relationships in tone, shape and volume.

Colour in Art & Design is still dominated by the use of the painters mixing colour wheel which doesn't help photographers understand colour too well. We use additive and subtractive colour systems which are quite different to produce imagery, while the finished results are usually defined by the history of art conventions.

Another issue is that colour exists solely in the brain! You might find some further reading on the subject which would explain this better [see my suggestion below] You will know that your printer uses cyan, magenta and yellow as its primary colours, while the camera and monitor use red, green and blue. If you look at Langford's Basic Photography you will see a simple explanation of this science which should help. This principle of colour as we know it today in imaging science has been around for quite a while (200 years) but has been ignored by painters and other artists including Goethe.

Feedback on assignment

This portfolio which focus on plant forms and the vibrant colours afforded by the varying seasons represents a considered submission which deals with all of the expectations of the assignment. There are impressionistic tendencies as well as the more technical, illustrative recordings going on- all of which are visually enticing.

It is important to realise that it is not just the combination of colours which is important, but the proportions too. In this submission you have considered this throughout and the majority of images here harmonise well in this respect. The colour wheel and its relationships however do give us a grounding from which to build our relationship and understanding of how colours work with each other. There are no rights or wrongs. The harmony proposed by art theory and in these exercises are not rules which must be obeyed.

Generally the colour combinations make for good postcard images rather than those which challenge the viewer via new and individual interpretations.

You have not forgotten the other aspects of the module such as proportion and linear composition. This makes for a considered portfolio which hangs together extremely well.

Red always comes to the fore in imagery, while blue recedes into the background. You have used this aspect of colour perspective effectively in the poppy and other flower images

Learning Logs/Critical essays

The blog continues to develop and is already becoming quite a monster to navigate through. Try to give some consideration to hierarchies to make this easier for the assessors.

You mention a lack of time and I do think that I have messed up your submission dates for which I apologise. This hasn't hindered you from the evidence here and you have the perfect opportunity and location for your next assignment as a result. This gives you some breathing space to give some more consideration for your next few assignments.

The submission together with the blog indicates that you are 'seeing' the relationships between colours and are able to reflect on previous practice and perhaps understand how it becomes a learned *thing*, which we can apply unconsciously.

You might want to play with channels in photoshop (hiding channels in turn to see the different effects).

You are clearly building a momentum for your studies so try to maintain this and you will begin to find studying to be second nature and much easier as you go along. Your commentaries seem to suggest that you are enjoying your new knowledge and this should help you put what you have discovered into practice in future assignments.

Evidence suggests that you are undertaking empirical research around the subject of photography, Books, Journals exhibitions etc., but there is no real reflection on this in the blog at present- mainly a bibliography. Try to relate this part of your study to your practice more The examiners will be looking for clear evidence of this come assessment time so this is something you think about how to convey this.

Suggested reading/viewing

Try to get to some of the degree shows of nearby institutions. You should find them very informative and you can see the scope of practice undertaken by photography students elsewhere.

UWE is on at the moment and you might just catch this if you are back from your northern travels:

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/cahe/creativeindustries/events/degreshows.aspx>

Pointers for the next assignment

I think some more personal commentary would be good. Try not to think of your work being assessed and undertake this for **you**. You are not assessed on what you say or think, but only on the fact that you do engage in some way with your own and other practitioners' practice.

Try not to let "poor" weather hinder your practice. Often inclement weather produces the most unique imagery.

Tutor name:	David Kinney
Date	10 th June 2013
Next assignment due	5 th August 2013