



Open
College
of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Michael Franklin	Student number	517401
Course/Unit	Context and Narrative	Assignment number	3
Type of tutorial	Written / Audio-Visual		

Overall Comments

Your commitment to improving as both a student and practitioner is abundantly clear, Michael, and our tutorials have always marked you out as someone who is eager, honest and self-aware. As far as this assignment goes, while there's plenty of evidence of someone who's keen to try new styles and approaches, this is work that is characterised by a certain indecision; like you've had no problems creating work but have been less sure of what works most effectively. This is par for the course, and part of the learning process, so do keep these frustrations in perspective. I sometime get the feeling that you can be a little too quick to put yourself through the wringer!

Feedback on assignment

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

- It's great to see you taking on the technical challenges of using new hardware in this assignment, and the photographs that have utilised this are striking, particularly the final image, which felt like the culmination of the work/ your thinking on this assignment.
- Of the different aesthetics you've employed here, would it have made more sense to have picked one and gone with that? The stylistic parameters here are a bit too wide to make everything hang together as coherently as it might. Even though the subject matter, ie you, gives it consistency, it does feel like work that has not been curated as tightly as it might have.
- As such, decision making seems to be the issue here, and not having the confidence to recognise when the job has been done. As you said in our tutorial, know when to stop! This, perhaps, is where the risk-taking lies for you. Hopping from one rock to the next in the hope that it will provide answers and resolutions is less likely to give you the results you want than having the presence of mind to recognise when something has dropped into

place. Again, this is as much about experience and confidence in your own judgement as anything else.

- Aside the requirements of the project brief, in terms of what you've been reaching for with this work, I think you've nailed it with the final image. A thought: worth printing it at a fairly large scale for assessment and highlighting it as a standalone image?
- For all that you can obviously feel quite frustrated at times and highly self-critical, do take a step back and recognise when/ where you are clearly making progress. While your editing could have been more ruthless, this assignment has clearly seen you moving forward in other ways. The final shot came as a consequence of your willingness to try new equipment and styles, which is always welcome, but it also felt altogether more personal than the assignment's other images. Even if the image hadn't turned out to be as striking as it is, the fact that you've done this represents a pretty significant step forward.

Learning Log

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

You write in a thoughtful and eloquent manner and are clearly diligent and ambitious.

Suggested viewing

Context

- *Men*, Tom Wood

Pointers for the next assignment

A4 calls for a very different approach, so do make sure that your research is thorough. Googling tends to be the first - sometimes *the only* - port of call for people when researching, so do look beyond this. The UCA's online library has its limitations and can be a source of major frustration, but is worth persevering with. Likewise, journal websites always contain the absolute cutting edge of scholarly ideas, so use them carefully. Sage Journals is one that I'm a frequent user of.

Tutor name	Andrew Conroy
Date	Tuesday 20th August
Next assignment due	Tuesday 17th September