

Student Name: Danielle Dominic

Essay1: My Photo Essay

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Aurora



HOPE



SERENITY

THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

According to the Science Learning Hub (2012), Reflection occurs when light bounces off an object, likewise, a camera lens works by taking all the light rays bouncing around and using glass to redirect them to a single point creating a sharp image. Reflection plays a key role in the concept of physics of a camera. Photography is the process of rendering observation self-conscious according to Berger (2013). Photography involves a heightened sense of awareness of how we observe and perceive things around us. The three photographs “Aurora”, “Serenity”, and, “Hope” highlights the idea that photography is not just about recording reality, but it is also about intensity, artistry, depth, and interpretation. While these photographs are all landscapes, they are quite different in terms of my own perspective, intentions, and what I actively chose to capture.

As stated by Barthes (1981), “The punctum of a photograph is highly individual not public, the punctum pierces the viewer the viewer in a particular private way, raising certain individual memories, and consciousness to the surface”. While most people have their own idea of serenity, I find peace in the tranquility of a landscape. The photograph “Serenity” brings out a visual balance of calmness. “Serenity” entails an empty street, street lights, cars, traffic lights, and trees. The clouds in this photo feelings of calmness and detachment. The gentle whisper and rustle of the leaves in the wind gave me a

sense of harmony in nature. Together the trees and clouds created a serene environment, giving me a sense of calmness and peacefulness. It brings back memories of morning walks and cloud gazing with my family. The rule of thirds plays an important role in this photograph. In “Serenity”, the central element is the bright light pole placed at the corner of the photograph. This creates more energy, interest, and most importantly balance in the photograph. It draws the viewer’s attention not only to the bright light but to the entirety of the photograph.

Berger (2013) explains that, “A photograph is effective when the chosen moment which it records contain a quantum of truth which is generally applicable, which is as revealing about what is absent from the photograph as about what is present” (20). The ‘The Quantum of Truth’ is shaped by the context in which the photo was taken, the interpretation of the viewer, and the intent of the photographer. In the photo “Hope”, the camera adds intent. It forces me to look at the photo as an art piece rather than just a landscape. The photo depicts clouds, which are shaped like a group of people looking into the sun. The sun represents hope, that no matter how dark things may seem, the light will always arrive. The sun offers us hope. It teaches us to stop worrying about tomorrow. The sun is the dominant impression in “Hope”. This is what you notice first in the photograph. “Hope uses natural light from the sun. The intense light creates a high contrast image. The sun appears extremely bright and the surrounding objects like the trees, and the building appear darker. This makes the photo “Hope” look more compelling. The white clouds and their fluffy edges add more texture and bring out different tones of white. The leaves, building, and the clouds add diverse shapes and forms to the photograph.

Based on Barthes (1981), “The studium of a photograph is the public and historical grounding of the photo”. The studium is the photo’s context and its general understanding. In the photo, “Aurora” we can appreciate the beauty of the setting and the skill used in capturing it. I used the filter “Dramatic warm” in this photograph. Warm hues like orange are used in this photo. Also, the poles Creates a dominant path of movement. It even divides the sun into two halves. The reflection of the sun can even be seen on the windows of the building giving an illusion of illuminated interiors. This photo depicts tranquility, because it was captured in the morning before the busyness of the day. The sun creates a silhouette of the building, cars, and poles. In Teju Coles’s “Perfect and Unrehearsed” (2015), he explains that, “the goal of the photo was a precise organization of forms which gave that event its proper expression”. The decisive moment of this photo is the little bird on the power lines. Aurora means “sunrise”, it signifies hope. This photograph is made up of buildings, street lights,

cars, clouds, the sun, bird, power lines, and trees. There is also a harmonious combination of shape, colors, and texture in this photograph. The dominant impression of this photograph is subjective. While some people might think the dominant impression of this photograph is the sun, others might also think that the dominant impression of this photograph is the red hand.

Ultimately, a photograph is a visual representation, that bears witness to a decision being made. Berger states, “A photograph contains a quantum of truth”. Photographs not only documents events but it tells a story. It invites the viewer to interpret the photo based on their experiences and understanding. “The Beauty of Nature” is something that cannot be measured, it is vast that simple words cannot describe it. It depicts the natural beauty of the world and allows me to tell a story based on my perspective.

(965 words)

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