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Essay 1: My photo essay

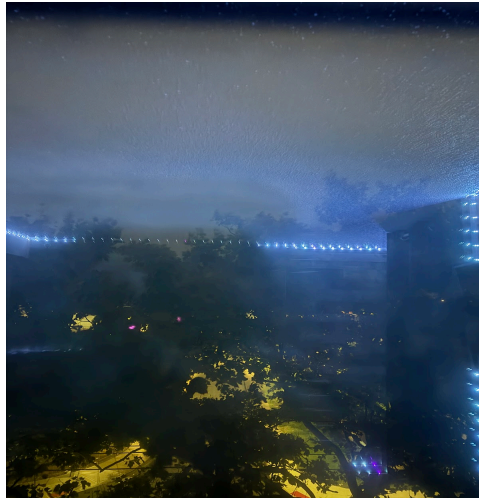
English 1121 (Professor Scanlan)

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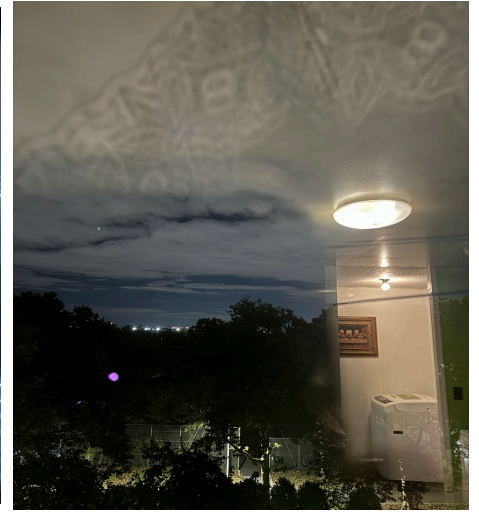
Through my window



Light My Way Home (2024)



Illusion (2024)



Lights Here, There, and Everywhere.(2024)

According to Webb(2014), “ My creative journeys typically start with an image I see in the world.... if it later attracts other images to it..... these images taken together may create a single entity-something larger, more complicated, more alive than the individual image alone”(26). This is an accurate description for the events that guided me to capture photographs through my window. A single image led to many beautiful, related images from which I choose the ones that most stood out. Mirrors and windows give us the privilege of observing and examining ourselves and our surroundings through reflections. At times they lead us to amazing and beautiful discoveries that will leave us mindblown. The photos “Light My Way Home”, “Illusion”, and "Lights Here, There, and Everywhere” will take you on a journey through exploration of reflections and how they have the ability to invert reality in everyday life while telling a story. We will dive deep into how punctum, reality effect,

composition, light, Dominant impression, and vantage point affect our comprehension and view of a photograph.

I was midway through cleaning my home when I noticed the reflection of the living room. It was reflected on the window while I could also see the trees and ground outside. Everything clicked for me in that moment and I was inspired to capture it. The result of that moment of inspiration was the photo, "Light my Way Home. According to Berger(2013), "The minimal message of a photograph Instead of it being: "I have decided that seeing this is worth recording", we may now decode it as: The degree to which I believe this is worth looking at can be judged by all that I am willingly not showing because it is contained within it"(21). I captured what I thought was worth recording but it also contains my strong feelings towards my home. To me this photo contains the punctum because it pierces me deeply since it reminds me that no matter what happens, I'll always have a warm home to return to. While I appreciate all the photographs, I prefer "Light My Way Home" because it holds emotional meaning to me while the other photos (Illusion and Light Here, There, and Everywhere) are very aesthetically pleasing and very artistic and I like them because of the work I put in.

Reality effect, the illusion that adds to a photo's realism is present in all three of my photos. Due to using reflections, the photo's may appear to come out of a fantasy but when you look deeply within, you realize that the composition and lights of the photos add to the reality effect. For "Light my way home" the living room seems to be floating but realizing that there is a window and noticing the trees makes you realize, oh, that's the reflection of the inside of a house. Also, since there is light outside and also in the house, the lights seem to blend in together but thanks to the inside lights being brighter, they stand out more. This makes the living room the dominant impression. For "illusion", the composition is a bit more tricky and if you don't analyze well, you may lose sight of the reality of the photo. If you have not noticed, in the photo there are some bright and dim lights. If you focus on the bright lights, you will notice that they seem to be coming from the outside, which is not the case. The

light is reflected on a window and what seem to be buildings are actually LED lights. This makes the dominant impression here to be the LED lights. However, something that takes away from the reality effect are the stars, which I fabricated by spraying hairspray on the window, since due to the light pollution it is hard to see stars in NYC. As for “Lights Here, There, and Everywhere”, the light reflected from the inside adds to the reality effect when combined with the composition of the photo. The dominant impression here is still the inside reflection due to the light being bright and easily noticed. Nevertheless, a difference we can see is towards the clouds which shows the reflection of a curtain which seems to blend in with the clouds but due to the similarity in shades but stand out due to the shapes. Finally, each photo contains a different composition with similar elements which add to the reality effect while having enough differences to make each image unique.

When taking each photo I kept looking for the preferred vantage point. For each photo, I had to capture certain angles. When it comes to “light my way home”, I wanted the living room to occupy the Space right in the middle of the photograph. It seemed just right because while there is light in the foreground, the light in the living room is more outstanding and it made the photo more cohesive while conveying the feeling I wanted it too. The photograph “Lights Here, There, and Everywhere” was the third I took and one in which the vantage point is of great importance because It was actually taken by using the same window as “light my way home” but at different angles. While I like the angles of these photos, I prefer the angle for “Lights Here, There and Everywhere” because it allows more to be included in it. Additionally, while there are many light points, the light from the reflection stands out the most. As for “illusion”, I had to work many angles when looking for the vantage point because a little movement in any direction would affect what the image conveys. Everything worked out in the end and the result was an image that I never thought of being capable of creating.

Overall, through the many elements that gather to assemble a photograph we can learn to appreciate and look for the reality of it. Moreover, a series of photos help us

convey a story more smoothly and make that story come alive. As stated by Cole(2015), “‘It is the photo that takes you.’ ... there are “often multiple potential moments to discover in many situations.” This was used to describe what is known as the decisive moment. Like the inspiration I had to capture the reflections Through my windows. The reflections were the ones that urged me to capture it after capturing my attention. So, enjoy your life and capture or better yet let a moment capture you in a photograph. Finally, I would like to add on three things that I have learned while writing my photo essay: Photo composition, the college sentence, and Dominant impression.

(1115 Words)

References

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