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Essay 2

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Manhattan Bridge on Different Days

To take a photo is a decision for me. As John Berger said, “A photograph is a result of the photographer’s decision that it is worth recording that this particular event or this particular object has been seen.”(Berger, pg#292). “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day” and “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day” are both my photos that I took recently, so in this essay, I will describe these two familiar photos and compare them with those terms I learned in class. Both photos have the similar studium, the Manhattan Bridge, which is the main part in the photo. Although both two photos are about the Manhattan Bridge, each photo has their own characteristics, these characteristics make both of them unique. In this essay, I will show the description and comparison between the two photos I took and use studium, frame, color, feelings and dominant impression to compare these two photos.

The first photo I want to introduce is “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day”, this photo was taken on March 28th, 2017 in John Street Park, the park was on the right side of the bridge and also it was under the bridge. In this photo, it was rainy at that time, but still there was one tourist who was on the left bottom of the photo, he was looking at the East River and Manhattan which is on the other side of the bridge. In the middle of the photo, Manhattan Bridge went across the whole photo, I can clearly see the structure of the bridge: two bridge piers which was made of steel bars, steel ropes were holding the whole bridge from the top, and the bottom of the driveway. In the middle left side of the photo were buildings in Manhattan, and also I can see part of the Brooklyn Bridge in the left side. Because of the weather, the buildings looker so fuzzy and the top of the highest building in the photo was even covered by clouds. In this photo, the cloudy sky and the East River also took the important parts. Since it was a rainy day, this photo made me feel a little bit frustrated.

The second photo is “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day”, this one was taken on March 29th, 2017 in Main Street Park. Main Street Park was on the left side of the Manhattan Bridge. In John Street Park, I can see few trees, but in Main Street Park, trees were more than John Street Park. I took this photo under the bridge, but what was different from John Street Park is that in the right bottom of the photo I can see some dry bushes, which gave me a feeling of nature. It was a sunny day, the sky was clearly blue. Unlike the photo “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day”, light reflection made the Manhattan Bridge look so new. This photo made me feel bright and hopeful.

Now I am going to use terms to comprehend and understand these similar photos I took. For studium, they both consist of sky, the Manhattan Bridge, buildings in Manhattan and the East River. The sky in the “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day” is cloud and a little bit fuzzy, while the sky in another photo is clear and light blue. What is more, the angle that I took these two photos is one of the interesting elements, because I took these two photos under the bridge, I can see the whole bridge, the pier of the bridge, which is made by two rectangles. Because of the angle, the Manhattan Bridge looks longer than its actual length. The bushes in “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day” did not come out in “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day”, which is one differences between these two photos. The frame between two photos is also interesting and different. In “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day”, the screen cut the blue sky, the bushes at the bottom, the buildings in Manhattan and part of the East River, while in “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day”, the screen cut the whole East River, the Manhattan Bridge, the buildings and part of the Brooklyn Bridge.

“It is the photo that takes you.”(Teju Cole) If “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day” made me feel hopeful and bright, that I would say “Manhattan Bridge on a Rainy Day” gave me the opposite feeling. How can these two similar photos give me two completely different feelings? “Each element contributes to the kaleidoscopic coherence of the image.”(Teju Cole, paragraph #4), although these two photos consist of the same thing, because of the different elements in two photos, the feelings are totally different. In these photos, color is the cause of the dominant impression, it drives my feeling when I see these photos, when I see blue color in “Manhattan Bridge on a Sunny Day”, I feel hopeful and bright; when I see another photo, I feel a little bit upset.

After comparing these two photos I took, I clearly know that even though I take the photos of the same thing, if other elements in the photos are different, the feelings of the photos are totally different. So I want to suggest my readers, when they are trying to take photos of a place or an object, they can change the elements in the photos, such as weather, background and angle. That will make the feeling of the photos different. (915 words)

Work Cited:

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