Ashley Singh

Essay 2

English 1101 (Prof. Scanlan)

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Memories

“Recently, photography has become almost as widely practiced an museum as sex and dancing-which means that, like every mass art form, photography is not practiced by most people as an art.” I see how much photography has blown up in the world and I’ve been a part of that. I love taking photographs and capturing moments that I will not be able to see again. Photographs are memories for me that I cherish. Taking pictures is like documenting the world, no matter what type of photograph it is. Like Susan Sontag said about photography “It is mainly a social rite, defense against anxiety, and a tool of power.” I took two that I documenting special moments and I compared the two.

The first photo I took was of my sister and her boyfriend to post on social media to show off where we were. Even though we live in New York City it felt like we were tourist in our own city. Susan Sontag says “photographs will offer indisputable evidence that the trip was made, that the program was carried out, that fun was had. Which is what I feel like me and generations does when taking photographs. We all three were hanging out after class on a Wednesday on September 21, 2016. I met up with them by their college at BMCC and they took me to this beautiful scenery. We were at Battery Park where the photo was taken. In the background you can see the view of the New York Harbor, in New York City. I really love this photo because it is a documentary photograph, but the way it came out looks like it is an art photo. The studium of this photo is the silhouette of my sister and her boyfriend facing each other in front of a beautiful sunset. The sky’s orange tones lights up the picture and you can see that reflecting onto the water. There are many buildings in the background that gives this photo a very pretty landscape background.

In the photo my sister and her boyfriend are not facing the camera, because in the pro filmic event I thought of it that way. I waited for the moment when they weren’t looking to capture this off guard photo, because my sister was yelling at me that I was taking the photo wrong and to take it right. The punctum of this photo made me feel an admiration of their love. For instance, the way he is looking at her looks like love at first sight.

My second photograph is of my friend Subrina, the picture was taken on a Wednesday also which was on September 14, 2015. I’ll always remember what day this photo was taken because it was the day before her birthday. That day we went on a small tour at NYU College around 28th street. We were on a couple floors up, where she was looking through the window. I thought the view was really pretty and I wanted to document this moment as a memory so I snapped this photo of her off guard. The studium of this photo shows my friend looking through a long window at another building that is red and much textured. There are many rectangles in this photo on the building across the window and the windows that are rectangles as well. There is also a very nice lighting coming from the window that makes the photo look very sharp. Also her outfit is matching with a blue jacket and her blue hijab. The punctum of this photo gives me a mysterious feeling because I’m wondering what she sees instead of me or what does she find so interesting outside the window, and what does she think and feel.

What I love about these two photos are that the people I was capturing who are my subjects was not looking at the camera they were looking away and not directly at the camera. Even though these photos was me documenting the moments, the photos came out looking like artistic photos when that was not the intent. The difference is in the first photo is that it very dark because the sun is setting and you can’t see the people they are a silhouette in the photo. But you can clearly see the background, the many buildings, the water, and the sunset. There is a lot in this background compared to my second photo. In my second photo you can see the person very clear, facing the window. This photo is very bright because of the lighting coming from the window. This photo is simpler and only shows one building in the background.

These photos memorialize moments in my life with people that I love. Where ever I go taking photos has become a part of my life, especially taking photos of my loved ones. Which Susan Sontag says “cameras go with family life.”

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