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**Night Skies and Bright Lights**

According to John Berger, in his essay *Understanding a Photograph*, he states: “A photograph is the result of the photographer’s decision that it is worth recording” (Berger 292). I agree with this because in my experience, that I will discuss, it is a collaboration of an image, or images, that work to tell a story or convey a subtle meaning. While walking and enjoying a relaxing moment from all the typical stress a college student faces, I often seek an environment that will drift thoughts and display a view of the city skyscrapers and local landmarks, especially bridges. It is a breathtaking phenomenon that I associate with calming comfort and it is the sole reason I chose to photograph the two eye-catching views of the bright city skyscrapers from the Long Island City piers and Astoria Park. While these locational photo may seem to only show a view, it is actually much more than that. These eye-catching photos are used to capture the feeling and emotions of the particular location. The dominant impression of the two photos are calming and with tranquility. For example, I’ve realized while looking at a photo of a warm tropical environment I start to feel warmer, or I simply imagine myself there. This is exactly the same reaction the photos “Low tide, Low lights, and a Lovely scenery” and “Afternoon Stroll on a New York City Night” convey.

According to Susan Sontag's essay, *On Photography,* “Photography has become one of the principal devices for experiencing something” (Sontag534). I agree with this because the photograph “Low tide, low lights, and a lovely scenery,” is one of which widely known for its astonishing pool and sports courts, which attract visitors from all the five boroughs and beyond. The views are what really sold me to come here and share this experience. “Low tide, Low lights, and a Lovely scenery” is a studium photo, because it displays the famous Robert F. Kennedy (Triborough) Bridge as well as Wards Island Park to the right and to the left the Upper East Side of Manhattan. As a matter of fact, the rule of thirds is shown in the photo because the subject is not completely displayed due to the trees covering parts of the bridge, it needs to be more centered. All things considered, the dominant impression of the photo shown is calming.

Furthermore, I found an interesting concept on Susan Sontag’s ideas of photography stated in her essay, *On Photography,* she states: “An ugly or grotesque subject may be moving because it has been dignified by the attention of the photographer” (Sontag536-538). I agree with Sontag as I happen to one evening come across when visiting my best friend, this beautiful scenery of a similar location to the picture described and I simply had to share my amazement. Although the atmosphere displays this “ugly” weather and the exhaust fumes combined in the skies, “Afternoon Stroll on a New York City Night” is full of vivid impression, striking colors, and an abundance of creative thoughts. The studium of this photo shows the iconic Empire State Building with the featuring colors of the night Green, Red, White! As well, in the lower portion of the picture not in the distant, but directly where standing, is the iconic tourist attraction site known as the Long Island City Piers (Gantry Plaza). Equally important, the iconic Waterside plaza is shown in the distant of the lower-left of the picture and the East River is portrayed in the picture with the reflection of the city lights. The pro-filmic event that is exhibited regardless of the photographer, is the city skyscrapers will be lighted up, the Empire State Building will be representing whichever color desired, and the Long Island City Gantry Plaza would remain as peaceful as shown. Lastly, the photo conveys the dominant impression shown as breathtaking.

In conclusion, these two photos display a specific similarity in terms of the traits they each convey. The two photos are based off of an amazing and breathtaking view, which attract people to creativity vision the surroundings and environment. Both photos convey the sense of pro-filmic event in the means of having the same overall subject, the refreshing, vivid, astonishing panoramic view of the late night skies over the breathtaking lightening of the city skyscrapers. As can be seen, both the photos comparatively convey the dominant impression of calming, tranquility, and breathtaking due to the similar refreshing feeling one feels in “aw of shock” when coming across such a phenomenon.

(814 words)

**Work Cited**

1. Berger, John. "Understanding a Photograph." Classic Essays on Photography, edited by Alan Trachtenberg, New Haven: Leete’s Island Books, 1980.
2. Sontag, Susan. “On Photography.” Essays of the 1960’s & 70’s, edited by David Rieff, Library of America, 2013