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Essay #2

English 1101 (Prof. Scanlan)

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Final Draft: Two flowers

 In his book, *Understanding a Photograph,* 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 seem"(292). This is most definitely true since every time I decide to take a picture is because I see an object, or event happening that I will his worth recording. The two photos that I have chosen to compare are of objects that we tend to see at least once in our daily lives, and that is something loved by many, and one of the many beauties of the world, flowers. Also I must say that while I did feel that it was worth taking a picture of the flowers at the moments I took them, just as Cartier-Bresson said in Teju Cole, “Perfect and Unrehearsed” article, “It is the photo that takes you,” I also feel that the photo took me, and in that in some way I had no control over it and needed to take this photo. While both “jet dead” and “vivid” are both pictures of flowers, they have their differences the most notable one being their color. To show this difference I will proceed to analyze and talk about the colors present in both pictures, secondly about the shapes of the flowers, third I will briefly mention the pro-filmic event behind the pictures and lastly the dominant impression as well what made me feel that this particular moment was worth recording and how this pictures also took me.

I took my first picture, “Jet dead” on the dusk of the same day that the class was told the details of Essay 2 and that we were supposed to start taking pictures to be used on the essay. This caused me to sit on my backyard and look at every single object that I felt was worth taking a picture of, and that most called my attention. That was when I saw that little spiky looking ball which during the summer was a beautiful vivid purple flower. In the photo it's most certainly that the dominant impression is the spikes that compose this flower and it's pro-filmic event while perhaps not that relevant, is the death of this flower, and it was this that literally made the picture took me and it was worth taking. But of course while it's death was one of the biggest reasons that made me feel it was worth taking, the spikes that give off a not-so-deadly vibe and it's blurred-out lively green background which totally creates a contrast between this dead flower colors and the green of the still living plants also caught my attention and gave me further impulse to proceed to take this picture. Lastly it's worth mentioning that this photo was taken following the rule of thirds and I centered the flower as much as possible as well gave it all the focus that my phone was capable of doing to make it, the spiky-ball, the studium of this image.

My second picture, “vivid” is a very vivid looking flower whose color is a bright yet dark looking pink. I took this photo while I was walking around in the garden of my place of work and it caught my attention, so after looking at the many flowers in the vicinity this one was the one which I thought was worth taking and so I did because of its vivid color, and if you look in the background of the picture if you look around the frame you may notice that there are many more flowers like this one and it's just not one. As John-Berger "a photograph is already a message about the event it records” (292), and I feel this photograph has a message of the event that is that the flower still going strong and unlike “jet dead” is not planning on doing anytime soon. As for the studium of this picture is the many droplets of water that are in the flower and its strikingly vivid pink color. It’s pro-filmic event can be said to be how despite the harsh cold weather that has been going on lately, this flower still is completely vivid with its pink color and alive. Also it's very notable that unlike in the previous picture, in this one the petals of the flowers are round and give off a soft impression, it makes you feel you can safely soothe this flower and it won't feel harsh or bring you any kind of pain. One more thing I want to mention is how just like in “jet dead,” this picture follows the rule of thirds and the flower is completely centered in the middle as well has very high focus on it, allowing us to see it in great detail at the cost of a blurry background.

Now here I will proceed to compare both of my images without going into much details unlike I did in their individual paragraphs. The first difference that I want to point out between the two is their colors. “Jet dead” is a dark flower, while on the other hand “vivid” is a flower of a very vivid kind of dark pink. Now the reason I saw kind of dark is because somehow, it just doesn’t feel like the bright pink we are used to think of when we heard the word pink. Now because of their difference in colors they each give a different dominant impression such as perhaps when you look at “jet dead” you get a feeling of darkness, death, and harm, but when you look at “vivid,” it gives you the impression of something happy, bright, and soothing. Af for some photographic terms that can be used for these pictures, are studium, pro-filmic event and what type of photo are they. The studium in both of the pictures can be pretty much said to be the same, and that is the flower since they are the focus of the entire picture. For the pro-filmic event, in “jet dead” is the death of the flower, and in “vivid” it can be said that it is the flower’s vitality to be able to survival in such harsh weather.

In conclusion, as Teju Cole mentioned in his article, Cartier-Bresson said “"There’s no single right answer, just as there’s no photographic formula." I believe that there is no right answer for what a photographic formula is, we all will have our own formulas, just as I have mine, and used it taking both “vivid” and “jet dead,” and it was enough to capture the feelings that I felt when I first looked at them, in the picture, therefore capturing that moment forever in time.

(1188 words)

Works Cited

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