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English 1101

Prof. Scanlan

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Nature Colors: Parks vs Trees

Since I was fourteen year old, I have been fond of nature and its colors. Nature has always brought me to peace and helped me relax whenever I am upset. Looking at this creation has taught me to enjoy the world around me. Both “Cadman Plaza at Night” and “Clark Street and Monroe Place” have brought me to that moment when I had first visited New Brunswick, Canada and I have gotten to enjoy the nature that was in Canada and in New York. In John Berger’s “Understanding a Photograph,” he states, “A photograph celebrates neither the event itself nor the faculty of sight itself. A photograph is already a message about the event in records.” (292) This made me think of the reasons and the messages of each photos taken.

While these nature photos clearly rely on the rule of thirds and the studium, I would like to claim that the colors and the dominant impression of the photos are brought my attention into taking these photos and are the most potent terms to use when examining nature photos. In both “Clark Street and Monroe Place,” taken on the afternoon of October 30, 2015, and “Cadman Plaza Park and Night,” taken on October 13, 2015, there are many differences and similarities that drew me to take these photos.

In “Clark Street and Monroe Place,” taken on the afternoon of October 30, 2015, and “Cadman Plaza Park and Night,” taken on October 13, 2015, one of the differences that I had noticed was the differences in the colors that are in the picture. In “Clark Street and Monroe Place,” the colors of the trees are yellow, green, and reddish-brown. In “Cadman Plaza Park at Night,” instead the trees are green. The colors of the sky are also different because “Cadman The color in each photo helps create the dominant impression of the photo. In both photos, the dominant impression is relaxation. This is considered the dominant impression because with the trees having different colors, it can be told that this photo is taken during the fall time.

The differences in both photos are the items in each photo. In “Cadman Plaza at Night,” there are a set of benches, post lights, and grass on the right side of the photo. In the middle of the park is a Cadman Plaza monument. On the right of the photo, there is a bunch of bushes and trees. In “Clark Street and Monroe Place,” there are trees on the right, on the left there are light brown, burgundy, and brown houses, which were decorated for Halloween. In these photos, these the “Clark Street and Monroe Place” was taken during the day. This is noticed by the lighting of the sky. This sky is a lighter shade of blue unlike the “Cadman Plaza at Night” photo.

In John Berger’s article, “Understanding a Photograph,” he states “The only decision h can take is as regards the photograph its unique power. *What it shows invokes what is not shown.”* (293) Berger means the photographer has complete control over what is shown from what is not shown in his or her photos. This quote from his articles relates to my photos because I had the choice of talking a bigger picture but I wanted to leave out some items for the suspense or gives the person examining the photo a sense of imagination. For example in “Clark Street and Monroe Place,” the center of the photo where the road leads to the middle of the trees gave me the imagination of it leading into another dimension, like in Alice in Wonderland.

Both photos have a message that I have gathered after looking at them both for a couple of times. The message of both photos is enjoy the beauty of nature while it lasts. This is the message for both photos because there are multiple items in each photos that have brought to life from nature itself and enjoying or preserving its beauty gives nature a chance to live on forever. In Susan Sontag’s article “On Photograph,” she states” Photographs furnish evidence.”(531) Meaning, whenever a photo a taken, we tend to use it as evidence to say that we went to that particular place. Sontag also said, “The picture may distort; but there is always presumption that something exists, or did exist, which is like what’s in the picture.” (531)

Both “Cadman Plaza Park at Night” and ‘Clark Street and Monroe Place” mean a lot to me as a photographer not only because of the fact of taking the photos to remember a time in my life but also because is reminds me of the times that I went on road trips with my family to places I have never been to before. The colors and the dominant impression of the photos have brought me back to my childhood times. This would be considered a punctum, which is a private memory that an item(s) of a photo helps a person connect with something from their past.

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