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Essay 2

Ballet: Dynamic Poses

Photography became one of the principles of modern technology and many different fields such as art, science, and business use a camera as a main or secondary source of technology. Photography is a unique tool that creates visible images by focusing on light reflected from objects on a sensitive surface inside the lens of a device such as a camera. Many people interprets photography in many different ways. The studium of the photo already describes itself as what the photo consists of and I can analyze it aspects by looking at the background. In addition, I interpret photography as taking many photos in many different angles and aspects so I can to capture a very specific moment I want in time. I also make sure cut any insignificant detail in my photos to make use of the frame. The two photos of a ballerina I look distinctively similar, but they have their differences as well. While some people believe the studium is not as important compared to the punctum mostly because of the photographer’s passion, I believe the studium is just as important as the punctum because it reflects the photographer’s personal interest in physical form. In order to prove this, I will explore the stadium, frame and decisive moment between both photos.

As I said before, the studium of the photograph already speaks for itself, giving enough details that makes it possibly interesting, beautiful, etc. The first photo, titled “Fifth position,” was taken using a Samsung J3 smartphone camera at a dance studio at a 1:00 during Saturday. The photo shows a few ballerinas doing the fifth position stance, where my sister, who is wearing is black sweat pants and purple tank top, showcased in the center of the photo. The second photo, titled “Supporting Leg Position,” which was taken using the same smartphone and the same day, yet at 2:00 instead. This photograph shows my sister, once again, in the center of the photo, and other ballerinas in the background doing the “supporting leg” position. The ballerinas hold one leg in mid-air and bended, along with both arms. The first photograph has a slight vertical angle of view, while the second photograph’s has more of a balanced angle of view. In addition, while the first photograph has a small aperture due to the less exposure of light at the center of the photograph, the second photograph has a larger aperture, exposing the background to more light.

The frame cuts the insignificant details and creates the basic structure of the photo. While the frame on “Fifth Position” cuts my sister and other ballerina’s lower body to make the pose more dramatic, the frame on the second photo “Supporting Leg Position” cuts the ballerinas’ heads, which is to display more focus to the ballerina’s body and her pose. The structure of my sister’s shape and gesture of her body in both photos are noticeably different as well. My sister’s arms and hands in “Fifth Position,” creates a gesture of elegance and a parallel of small rectangle shapes, meanwhile, two other ballerinas in the background intersect each other. In the second photo, my sister’s bended left leg creates an angle that slightly intersects her other leg to help balance it, and the bent arm to the left intersects another ballet horizontally, while two ballet dancers’ poses at the background mirror each other. According to Teju Cole’s “Perfect and Unrehearsed,” she states, “The feeling of harmony comes in part from this ability to see and capture a scene’s repetition of shape or gesture” (2). In sum, both photos that captures different gestures and shapes of the ballerina support that they create a more balance of symmetry and her expression of dancing and elegance.
 The decisive moment captures a specific moment that refers to an event. Both photographs’ decisive moment is very similar because they both consist of dynamic pose. However, while the decisive moment of the first photo is the specific position all dancers’ body, arms and hands, which creates a well-balanced and stiff, yet somewhat chaotic tone, the second photo’s decisive moment was the dancer’s leg and arm position perfectly placed. John Berger, who wrote “Understanding a Photograph,” even states, “A photograph is a result of the photographer’s decision that it is worth recording” (292). I waited for my sister to perfect her position stances for both photos because it will create a moment that I considered memorable and worth recording.

Ultimately, the studium is just as significant as the punctum because it is a physical form of the photograph that represents the photographer’s personal interest(s). When it comes to taking photographs, I would recommend taking as many photos as possible, especially on poses and on “moving objects,” because one photograph may not look the original intention, but its studium may surprise you. In addition, take photos in many different angles; think about how much light or darkness the photo needs. One may asked, “how will photography become immersive our interests?” Many photo experts are conducting experiments to turn the flat, 2D photography into more movable 3D for the future so that photography will increase visual communication, which helps us discover powerful stories through them. I learned that with all the tools photography has, the possibilities are endless. Everyone has their own interpretation of photography, and our personal interests inspire us to create new ideas for the future.

Word Count: 895

Works Cited

Berger, John. “Understanding a Photograph.” *Classic Essays on Photography,* edited by Alan Trachtenberg, Newhaven: Leete’s Island Books, 1980, pp. 292. Print

Cole, Teju. “Perfect and Unrehearsed.” *The New York Times*, 11 Nov. 2015, pp. 3. Print