Zara Jaborova Nov.7 2017 Professor Scanlan Essay 2

Understanding Photography in Library

My photographs represent specific moments that I have experienced. Some photographs show myself engaging in various childhood activities. Other photographs show me during my early childhood. These photos that capture and record my image at various point in my life. My photos of the library show characteristic of studium photo, whenever I look at them, I strive to understand what aspects the individuals that I took them meant to show. These two types of photos in my perspective focus on the documentary photo and decisive moment in that they show specific actions of the people that are engaged in activities, meanwhile when I was studying in the library. On numerous occasions, I have gone to many libraries in New York City and taken various photographs. To exercise my photography skills, I recently took two sets of photographs which were taken in New York public library located at 476 5th avenue in 42nd street near Byrne Park. Besides describing “decorative wooden” and “impressive art” this paper highlights significant differences characterizing these two images and understanding the importance of its visual. While some photographs focus mostly on studium and punctum, I believe my photographs focuses on documentary photo and decisive moment as well as framing.

According to Susan Sontag “as Photographs give people an imaginary possession of a past that is unreal, they also help people to take possession of a past space in which they are insecure.” (Sontag 533), Susan Sontag explains anything we capture whether it’s unreal becomes a memory of our past and gives meaning, its power is not a constant which is something we can see before actually experiencing it. This relates to one my first photo regarding description, photo one shows a group of people who are seated at single room in the library. These people are engaging in study activities. It is not possible to tell whether this photo was taken at night or during the day, however, I can observe that it was captured during evening time in the cold day because people are dressed warmly. Considering that library is lit that is overhead lights and those lights are entering through the windows. For instance, all the individuals are seated on setting in on “decorative wooden,” chairs in front of a wooden desk. At that moment, I was busy capturing photos without experiencing my feelings about the wooden chair. In the meantime, none of the shown individuals were paying attention to me because each of them was focused more on their respective study such as reading books, playing their laptops, talking to their friends, and some of them were listening to the music while multitasking with their studies. In the background, there were a bunch of different types of books filled in the shelf with different colors.

In the second photo, the term that best describes this photo is a documentary photo. The reason why I say this is because all people were active and alive. I believe that photographs should not consider as a work of art because it’s a function based on the documentary and the recording of a moment in time. According to John Berger “Every photograph is in fact means of testing, confirming and constructing a total view of reality” (Berger 294). Furthermore, PBL was made over 150 years the free public library had educated every American and Americanized the immigrants, inspired artist and shaped our democracy. Additionally, on the documentary photo showed that all people are not school children or soldiers, policepersons, or clergy yet, they are ordinary people. Also, this photo presents decisive moment event because as I can see the action and mood of the library, walls made of stone that has been painted and design with architecture.

With regard to the comparison, whereas the windows in photo one is on the right side, the windows in photo two are on the left side. This scenario underlines that I “decided that seeing this is worth recording” as quoted by John Berger (292). In other words, I considered that it would be beneficial for viewers to perceive the windows on opposite sides in both photos. Nevertheless, even though my first photo shows a whole window and a small fraction of the second window, my second photo illustrates an entire window and one half of the other window. While “decorative wooden,” photo depicts 4 chandeliers arranged into two rows, “impressive art” photo shows two chandeliers organized into a single row. In these two photos regard to the comparison, I decided to use frame because I was capturing the corner of the library in both sides, however, I was in the middle of the library while taking one shot from the right and another shot from left. As seen in the photos that edges are cut off from the first photo compare to my second photo, we can see and observe sealing are painted by a professional artist.

Overall, two of my photos feature interesting differences that are based on specific choices I made. This analysis has shown that it is possible in my photography to create different photographs from same scenes

Works Cited

Berger, John. “Understanding a Photograph.” *Classic Essays on Photography*. Ed. Alan Trachtenberg. New Haven: Leete’s Island Books, 1980. 291-294. Print.

Sontag, Susan. “On Photography.” *Essays of the 1960s and 70s*. Ed. David Rieff. New York: The Library of America, 2013. 531-539. Print.