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Essay 2

English 1101 (Prof. Scanlan)

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Same Day Different Picture

I have always been a fond of landscape photos and photos of the sky. The way elements of water, land and sky have always fascinated me. Susan Sontags essay on “On Photography” she said, “Photographs are as much an interpretation of the world as paintings and drawings are” (532). In this essay, I will discuss how two photos of the sky compare and contrast with each other. First I will describe the pro-filmic event. Then, I will analyze and describe each picture and finally I will discuss the punctums of each picture and the dominant impression.

The pictures “Trains” and “Flushing Bay” were both taken on the same day, October 14, 2016 at Corona Park, Queens. In John Bergers “Understanding A Photograph” he said, “Thus, in twentieth century terms, photographs are records of things seen”(291). I wanted to show my friends what I saw, through my perspective as I was walking toward the ice skating rink in Corona Park. The images of the sky were astonishing to me. Both images were taken ten minutes apart from each other. The first picture I took was “Trains” as I was walking out of the flushing train station. One would assume that this picture was taken right after the “Flushing Bay” one but, it was before. As I continued walking toward the ice skating rink with my friends we passed the bay and the clear water and the way the sky was looking made me stop to take a picture. Even though they are both landscape picture they are very different.

The picture “Trains” was taken a few minutes after I got off the last stop on the seven train in Queens. I took this picture on my iPhone. In the picture you can see the nine parked trains alongside Citi Field. The sun is reflecting on four of the trains. There are also six parked cars near the trains and you can see eight long light poles. In the back there are trees but they don’t cover much of the picture. In the photo, the sky varies in color. The dark blue color of the sky takes up most of the image of the sky. The rest of the color of the sky is pinkish yellow. Within the pinkish yellow part of the sky you can see the clouds but the clouds don’t look overpowering. The picture was taken around 5:10 P.m. so the sun is not directly above, it looks like it is slowly setting. However, even though this picture shows that the sun is starting to set, the picture “Flushing bay” the sky is completely different even though it was taken only ten minutes after I took the picture of “Train”.

“Flushing Bay” was taken on the same day I took the picture “Trains” around the same time. But, the view of how the sky looked in this image, I found more intriguing. In John Bergers “Understanding A Photograph” he said, “A photograph is a result of the photographers decision that it is worth recording that this particular event or this particular object has been seen”(292).The thing about the picture that caught my attention the most is the water. I really do enjoy taking landscape photos where all three elements can be seen in the photograph. I find them to be extremely beautiful. In the picture what stands out the most is the water, the water looks really clean. There are at least twenty-thirty trees in the picture. You can see the shadows of some of the small trees in the water. In the water, there are also two ducks that are visible towards the back. Right behind the bay there is a small field where you can see a soccer net. There are four long light poles on the soccer field. The sky is blue and clear. However, it’s not one shade of blue it varies from light blue to dark blue. You can see the cirrostratus clouds. Even though you could see the sun in the other image, in this image you can’t see it but it is still daylight. The picture was taken during the evening time on my iPhone. Even though both of these pictures are landscape/sky pictures the feelings I get from both images are the same.

The punctums of both images remind me of more calming days where I didn’t have to worry much about things. It reminds me of times where my family and I used to go to the park in the evening time and watch the sunset together. It brings back great memories of my childhood. The dominant impression of both images are the same too. The mood of both images are calm, relaxing.

Even though both pictures were taken on the same day and around the same time they are very different in the way they look. They both have their own unique quality to it. The only similarities between them are the fact that they both contain the sky and both have the same punctum and dominant impression. The main reason why I took these pictures was because of how the sky looked. In “On Photography” by Susan Sontag she said, “Photography has become of the principal devices for experiencing something, for giving an appearance of participation” (534).

Work Cite:

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

Sontag, Susan. “On Photography” *Essays Of The 1960’s & 70’s,* Ed. David Rieff. New York, The Library Of America, 2013, 531-539. Print