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Eng. 1101

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Essay 2

Taxi Empire

People in New York City take photos everyday whether it is to remember a special moment in life or just for the significance of that particular shot and what it means to them. A documentary photograph is a photographic that shows an event in time that isn’t altered and or modified in any unreal aspect to it. An art photograph is a photo that is manipulated to the photographer’s advantage. These Photographs I’ve displayed here can be seen in multiple perspectives but to me they’ve aught my eye in ways any other photo couldn’t. The Dominant Impression these photos give me, they make me feel much smaller than I actually am. The first photograph is of an apartment building and the Empire State Building, this photo is named “Empire,” while the second photo of 32nd street is named “Taxi,” the main focus of this photograph is the yellow cab. I will then examine these photographs in depth detail and explain my reason behind picking the photo; also I will compare and contrast these two photos in order to give the reader a sense of understanding from my point of view as the photographer.

While having a hard list of documentary photos I stumbled upon two in particular, one named “Empire” which was taken while I was shopping on Tuesday, October 27th, 2015 with my iPhone 6 from my point of view of 34th street, downtown Manhattan. By taking this photo of the Empire State Building from this angle from the street, it gave the perception that the building to its right that is located in front of it is seen as a similar size of that of Empire State Building. From this angle it gives the viewer a wide variety of different conceptual ideas on how to portray this photograph. I really enjoy the effect the apartment building in front of the Empire State Building is giving off because it brings into play on how this photo makes me feel, at this instant when I glance at the photo it makes me feel much smaller than what I really am, in reality that building in front of the Empire State Building is nowhere close in comparison to the size of the Empire State Building. I chose to slightly cut the frame of the photo to give it a more focus effect upon the apartment building. The frame plays a huge role in the capturing of a photo like this one in particular, I chose to crop out the people that were swarmed around me to give the vibe of idolization to the buildings, if I were to keep the people in the photo it wouldn’t be seen the same as is it, in fact it would’ve been a completely different photograph. The Profilmic event that was occurring is known to New Yorkers as rush hour. This adds a sense mystery to this photo when I cropped out the people, because if I hadn’t no one could infer the specific time of day, other than it being the afternoon. Describing the time in the photo as rush hour gives the reader some background context to put themselves in my shoes and to imagine the scenery. “Photographs bear witness to a human choice being exercised in a given situation.” This means that every photo has a background meaning on how and why it was taken, and is never just a random shot whether you like it or not.

The second photograph “Taxi” I captured was on 32nd street, around the same time I took the photo of the Empire State Building, that afternoon of October 27th, 2015. I happen to come across this bridge I spotted while crossing the street, this bridge wasn’t any ordinary bridge it was a crosswalk from building to building, designed with an elegant 1950’s look. When I was crossing the street I had to stop and take this photo because it absolutely seemed like the perfect time to capture this shot, then after I took the shot didn’t really like it because of the cars driving by and all the people around the street. I then took another look and went into in depth analysis and realized the main purpose of the picture is the yellow taxi it adds an effect of city life while the people are just going about in there lives. While the bridge was my main purpose in taking this photo, it hadn’t been the outcome to this intriguing photo. Frame in this photo would have been as big factor but the fact that the yellow cab caught my eye it gave the photo a completely different meaning. I am part of the city and I’m a New Yorker no shame in cropping that out of the frame. I see a reflection on the building adjacent to the bridge that gives out a rainy day vibe even though it wasn’t at that time. I chose to put a filter on this photo because on this particular day it was very clouding with a very bright white sky and I wanted the photo to focus more upon the content in the photo such as the taxi and the bridge crossway. This photo makes me feel as if New York City is endless in the sense of architectural designs, this goes to show that New York City is a ‘Big Apple’ in fact, and there’s a photo waiting to be taken around each corner of the city. “The true content of a photograph is invisible, for it derives from a play, not with a form, but with time.” To me this means that photos never reveal there contents because it all depends on timing, this relates to “Taxi,” because the main focus was created through perfect timing which captured that taxi in motion.

These two photos can be seen in multiple different perspectives, although the profilmic event is the same, doesn’t mean it is seen and interpreted as the same image because they hold different contents. The first photo of the Empire State Building with the apartment building in front has 1 main impact on me that in which perception comes into play. While the other image gives off a small glimpse of city life, the first image doesn’t quite show that because of the frame while the second image portrays vehicles and people on the foreground of the image. Both photos share in common a similar setting and color to them, just as the yellow cab makes the second photo stand out the apartment building in the first image makes it stand out. The frames on these images basically make up the image in this case because if I were to reverse the effects of the frame to the opposite photograph each photo would yet have a different perspective. The two photos could be compared with buildings and scenery in these two images you see downtown streets while they were only taken two blocks in distance away from each other.

While comparing these two images, it opened my eyes to even more details in these photos that I hadn’t come across before, giving me a better view of the photograph and opening new doorways to people’s minds and how they process images. The two pictures dictated in this essay show in depth analysis of my own opinion of these to photos, this gives you’re a sense of where my mind is set in examining these photos. These photos could also be expressed in many different ways, shape, or form. For instance like the “Taxi” much more than the other, while others might think differently of each photo and what potential they hold in being called artistic or even to be considered a good photo.

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Word Cited:

According to Berger, John, “Photographs bear witness to a human choice being exercised in a given situation” (292).

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