Simone Graham

Essay#2

English 1101 (prod. Scanlan)

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Life in the out takes

Photography is a non-verbal expression of emotions and understanding; “photography could reach eternity through the moment”, said by Teju Cole explores the depths of descriptions through imagery. Taking the time to explore photography a new concept is grasped and ideas formed. Every memory looked back upon creates a new understanding and warps our point-of-view, evolving our creative minds on different levels. Between a city and a shore line the thought would provoke two different descriptions but the deeper you dig the more similarities and meanings begin to pose the same scenarios.

“Precise organization” as told by Teju Cole to show the “idea of the decisive moment”, is the turning point of all photographers. Grasping a photograph in the right moment is the difference between a simple photo and capturing the angle of a more precise, and in depth story being told. Two totally different photos can tell a similar story and evoke feelings of like emotions. One photo taken of a Manhattan city line at night brings peace and a sense of calmness to a big, fast paced city, just like that of city beach in the island of Barbados. Both bringing the same emotional nostalgia to the photographer.

The first photo was taken Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 11:23am at Warrens beach, Barbados. The second photo was taken on Sunday, March 19, 2016 at 8:05 pm on the IKEA Bus in Red Hook Brooklyn. Both photos share a common viewpoint of a calm setting in a city. The background is dark except for the lighting of the middle ground, illuminating the nights sky. Although the canisters, trucks, and boats are lined off in the photo they still relay a message of movement that is usually seen during the day at this dock. The picture is dark but still gives an overall sense of a calm evening though the portrayal through objects in the photo.

The second photo of the beach right off the back would embody the vision of a peaceful afternoon. Unless you knew that this beach is in the city you wouldn't see the full diversity of this picture. At this particular moment this photo is the definition of a serene and relaxing setting, where you can just kick up your feet and just enjoy your day. The water is calm and relaxing the color tones bring about a sense of coolness and refreshing feelings. The trees show the movement of the wind although slightly calm, and the sky shows the bright beautiful weather being experienced throughly the day. The people lounging show happiness and friendship and the gathering of people and personal enjoyment. I love the contrast of the ideas of beauty between each scene.

Each scene can be judged differently amongst the masses of different opinions. Because I am the photographer my nostalgic definitions of each photo is not that of someone viewing my photo so my descriptions are very important to raise points that aren't clearly seen visually. Unless someone was to see things for themselves or experience it in the moment it is up to a description to bring all the pieces together. The dominant impression of both photos is a calm afternoon and evening in a quiet scenery, but in retrospect although they are both located in a city though they are two different physical settings. Being that one is on a beach, and the other is on a bus crossing under a bridge the tones set are completely different.

Both photos can be considered as both a documentary and art photo. They can be considered documentary because the portray a significant event of everyday life, although amaturely taken they depict the emotion set for display in opposite forms. These pictures can also be described as art photography due to the creative visions and gestures used by the photographer and the tone that was the meaning behind it all.

Color is a big play on both photographs showing the difference between warm tones and cool tones to describe the mood and feelings going on on the photo. The beach scenery has more warm tones providing a more descriptive idea into a warmer climate, then giving suggestion that it may be a tropical area. Colors such as browns, whites, and some greens stand out more and give that inviting feeling, whereas more blues, purples, and blacks can show forms of peace, depth, darkness and coldness. Pictures split in different sections pull different emotions and ideas in different viewers. The background automatically shows you a time of day or weather, so for the city it is dark but clear skies, yet at the beach it was bright blue skies yet cloudy. The middle ground tells you what your looking at such as the city line or the homes along the shore separating it from the foreground. The foreground then shows you the movement in the photos such and the sand where people walk and the waves in the water, or the vehicles parked at the dock. Each photo captures a certain focal point in frame to depict a certain idea or specific movement that is the main point of the photo. Keeping the shoreline and city in frame and within the rule of thirds gives viewers the opportunity to understand the photos much clearer and more precisely to what the real meaning of the photo is showing from the photographers perspective.

These photos generate a simple sense of calm settings. Although it can be argued as two completely different photos they share a common meaning behind them. Being able to capture a beautiful day at a beach in a crowded city during work hours when it is not so busy, viewing a city line at night clashes when it comes to the vibes they give off, showing that they can be different yet the same and have a common sense of beauty and peace in everything. The city at night looks so beautiful with the quietness and the bright lights illuminating buildings and bridges. Both photos are sceneries we may not get to see all the time and we take its beauty for granted.

Depending where our views on photography and life are based the sceneries and places we visit change based on our experiences and locations at any given time. Photography is a way to interlock all viewpoints and emotions and capture them in one place, it is nostalgic yet descriptive and evokes both personal and impersonal feelings of one specific moment frozen in time. Every time we look back on the memory a photo has created we see a different point of view, things that we may not have been able to see before come to life, making the story more in-depth and realistic, giving a personal look into our everyday lives.