



Open College of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Jonathan Kiernan	Student number	517418
Course/Unit	EYV	Assignment	5
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Notes for video tutorial		

Feedback notes

My initial feeling was though the subject matter is clear, the series doesn't seem to have a centre or a narrative. I mean, it doesn't develop with a defined visual strategy or build on a theme. Plus it doesn't seem to have a developing idea, however simple that may be. What is it about other than 'pictures of an allotment'? Did you approach this project in a documentary or journalistic way?

Apart from that, there are some good pictures here which could solve this problem. Fig.7 Abandoned, is a good example of a picture of the character of place. It has a clear central object (the hut) and the surrounding paraphernalia add to the viewer's imaginative interpretation of the place.

Although Fig. 8 is a 'detail', it strikes me as an interesting one. Why red? It stands out and asks a question. There is something peculiar about them because they look like a conspicuous art piece.

Fig.11 is really good because it's really about how allotments 'fit in' on the edges of society. They are pretty messy looking next to a shiny Lidl store but they are part of the fabric of community which takes people back through history, to their roots in basic needs.

Fig.13 is a nice still life study that says something of the make-shift construction of allotments. This shows that people are trying to survive with what they've got and don't throw anything away without asking whether it may be useful.

The other photos look more like 'prep' photos that are incomplete or express too little or are just too descriptive.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Some really strong and studious work done with conviction. The portrait of the old lady in her bed is powerful.

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Your research seems to have gone quote deeply into the phenomenon of allotments. Good background work.

Learning Log

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Summarize how you have applied what you've learned from the course to your assignment photographs. Also note down what you've learned from other photographers in executing the assignment.

Looks fine. Your writing is always good.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

Jem Southam does seem to be a good connection, given the nature seeking theme. I also thought of Justine Kurland who made staged images with quasi-utopian communities in America. Maybe a book like 'Diggers and Dreamers' or Rebecca Solnit's 'A field guide to getting lost', would give you more access to the mentality of breaking away from the structures of civilisation.

Pointers for the next assignment

This could be a solid project to work on over a longer period of time. Try to take these points on board and nail your centre. This assignment could develop in either of these directions over the next months before the assessment. Build on it. But then...you're developing a few of these long term projects!

Summary

Strengths	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some promising individual images with layered content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">These were not developed.

Please inform me of how you would like your feedback for the next assignment: written or video/audio.

Tutor name	Robert Enoch
Date	19th Feb. 2020