

	Open College of the Arts
	Tutor report

Student name	Keith Greenough	Student number	416177
Course/Module	YOP	Assignment number	1

Overall Comments

Thanks Keith for assignment 1. Well done for being ahead of schedule already – I take that as a good sign that inspiration is striking!

Assessment potential

I understand your aim is to go for the Photography Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, and providing you commit yourself to the course, I suggest that you are likely to be successful in the assessment.

Feedback on assignment

Critical Review Proposal

I wonder if you could make it a question or a statement rather than a title? I'd like to know from the title what it is about documentary or context and meaning that you would like to compare. It's hard to distill I know but often when you can get it into a workable title / first sentence it actually really helps the rest of the essay to flow and stand up to its declared purpose.

Good to see you move the thinking on to say that this idea is generally accepted now – I wonder if you need to make a case for the other earlier viewpoint that photographs were fixed in order to flesh this out.

I really like the idea of comparing your chosen 3 works. I think this will be very interesting and they are good choices in their differences as well as all coming in some way under the term documentary. Perhaps you could define context and meaning and look at the history of what that has meant in photography. Have you got Ian Jeffrey's Critical History of Photography? That might be useful if you do want to write about the trajectory of those ideas.

You may also want to use Barthes terms icon, index and symbol to help differentiate between different types of image use.

Major Project Proposal

Your imagery is very striking and the idea of this being a final project is very exciting to me. The combination of history and present is great, especially for the medium of photography, which is so often (arguably always) linked to the past.

Open dialogue... can you say more about what you understand an open dialogue to be and why and how that is important to your work? (Umberto Eco and Barthes are key writers on the Open Work, Barthes refers to it at Text.)

Love the Umbra Sumus reference. Beautiful use of technique to match metaphor. I wonder if you could use it as a title? I realize you haven't kept the Always follow your dreams which I think is a good move. Allow the work to evolve first.

I think Paul Seawright and Taryn Simon are also good references for this.

Gestalt Assignment

Good examples of gestalt. I think they are successful. As in the techniques applied do help me see the unified whole which at the same time drawing me through the picture. If I was being picky I would argue that the clouds could tell me anything and your red circle tells me more... but I am not one for being pedantic!

Another Hawaii

What a beautiful series.

Could you flesh out an introduction? I like that it is a different view on Hawaii than the brochures but what stance are you taking? It might be helpful for you to put this into words as well as images. Also can you expand upon what it owes to Stephen Shore aside from 'something'?! ;)

Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays (*Context*)

The depth of research and engagement you show in your log is exemplary. It is great to see how tuned in you are not only to your own ideas but those of other students and professionals. Continue with this ☺

To be honest I would find it easier (as would assessors) if you had some headings on your blog for assignments, reading, exhibitions, thoughts...

Suggested reading/viewing (*Context*)

Looking at the work of other photographers and visual artists will open-up greater creative responses within your own practice.

Taryn Simon – The innocents
Paul Seawright – Sectarian Murders

Umberto Eco – The Open Work
Roland Barthes – From Work to Text

Conclusions / Pointers for the next assignment

For more on landscape photographers – can you do a little more research into why you feel the Nochlin article is relevant for photographers – (childcare? Discrimination? Drive? Etc) and also why particularly landscape photographers? (Are they more reclusive?) What is it that makes you think this are is under-represented by women?

Let me know if you want to chat about any of this or anything else...

Tutor name:	Sharon Boothroyd
Date	4 Dec 2013
Next assignment due	April 2014