

Thames Valley Group meeting Saturday 17th November 2018 - notes

Open Arts Collective Exhibition

An update on preparations for the exhibition was given by the working group. Specific points to bear in mind in the run-up to it are:

- Captions, hanging and statements will be handled by the gallery.
- For those showing work who haven't already done so please send Monica a short bio, a square portrait, a sample work image and a link to a personal website if desired. She will also be producing an eflyer.
- The gallery does not charge commission on any sales made. It's important to price the work as this is required for insurance purposes even if the work isn't planned to be sale.
- Catherine was thanked for all her work with setting up and organising.



Student work discussion, with tutor Jayne Taylor

Barry

Barry is making work for I&P about photographing an unfamiliar community and has chosen the circus. We discussed whether to choose colour or black and white, if a mix of landscape and portrait orientation is fine if it's considered and done for a reason. It was suggested that he think about working with just one of the communities he has photographed, e.g. audience or performers or make diptychs pairing the different communities.

Keith

Keith is working on a commission documenting the transformation of the Victorian Toynbee Hall, considering the conflict between making documentary photography and making art photography. Discussion around the ways in which it could be both.

Holly

Holly is working with five generations of her family archive, combining this with paper structures, specifically working with volvelles and the way they conceal/reveal up to six images per structure. We considered if it worked, the use of transparent gaps, the use of text, the similarity of the volvelle to the camera shutter, the tactile nature of the work and whether the work is photography or fine art (and whether that distinction matters).

David

David bought his fabulous *100 Women* blurb book and talked about the work and the forthcoming exhibition. He has photographed 100 women with an object of their choice, and each woman wrote 100 words about her object. We also looked at his work in progress - a series of portraits about oversharing on social media.

Monica

Monica is now on the Vis Comms pathway studying Illustration. She brought illustrations that she had made inspired by Edward Bawden and Katie Scott. It was interesting to see her use of Photoshop for illustrations. Also a very honest greetings card that was an exercise to introduce herself to her tutor.



Kevin

Kevin is working on his self-portrait rework for assessment. He asked whether we preferred an “authentically inauthentic” typology of himself doing various jobs and a motion blurred head and shoulders series. Consensus was that both series were strong but the first series was more finished.

Dawn

Dawn is considering the afterlife, the traces we leave and the relationship between creativity and death. Tactile work again and we actively search for fragments that we recognise, the need to identify what we see (Jayne). Second conversation about her next choice of Level 2 course and whether landscape could fit with her practice, given that she feels that she is now a digital artist rather than a photographer.

Theresa

Theresa discussed her problems getting an A2 sized print that she was happy with. The printers Peak, Bayeux and Loxley were suggested.

Richard

Richard discussed his progress on Turning Point, how the work had changed after tutor feedback. He’s now working with film rather than digital and being a little more flexible on the selection and framing of each image. There’s the possibility of using text from the accompanying journal to caption the images.



Kate

Sought feedback on the quality of some printed images for assessment and was reassured that it was of sufficient quality.

General discussion

Jayne commented that those providing end of course feedback might consider providing it directly to Gina as well as via any questionnaires.

There was a brief discussion about the Brighton visit.

- Well organised
- Built on feedback from 2016
- Theme “Photography changes everything”
- Add reading lists to OCA Study Visits group on the discussion board

There’s a Dianne Arbus show opening at the Heywood and a talk on the Feminist Gaze on 29/11

HW – ask Michelle Whiting to talk to the group about curation/showing an exhibition

Discussion around comms:

- Question about whether TVG is active on the discussion forum too rather than being confined to Facebook, the answer is yes, people can interact with the group on the forum if wished.
- Social media presents a diversity of places to find information.
- There have been some laudable high level objectives within the OCA recently but it would be good to see some focus on lower-level improvements too.
- Jayne wondered if there was scope for making more use of tutors and their skills.
- Dawn talked about the need for the website to be more visual and more accessible.