

FINAL MAJOR PROJECT LOGBOOK

When I first started thinking about my final major project, I knew that I wanted to relate it to current events the reason I wanted to do this is because I makes it more interesting and relatable relating it to covid 19 means everyone can relate the whole world has been affected by it. The idea came up with was the absence of people as everyone has been forced to stay inside because of the pandemic. I did some research before I started. I watched the start of 28 days later where a man has woken up and walking about the abandoned streets of London, play everyone has gone to rapture where you explore and English village, but all the people have disappeared as you have to piece together the things and memories left behind to figure out what happened. It was not until I started that I realised that I was a harder message to get across then I thought it would be if not done right It can be easily mistaken for different things e.g., littering.

I also researched about signifiers I looked at Peirce's Theory of Signs and The Semiotic Perspectives of Peirce and Saussure: A Brief Comparative Study these two write up discussed different views on sign what they are the different class, what defines them and what a sign is. semiotic accounts for everything that can be seen or be interpreted as a sign as postulated by Umberto Eco in his book entitled 'A Theory of Semiotics ' who indicated that 'semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. A sign is everything which can be taken as significantly substituting for something else' (1979; 7). According to Umberto Eco, that 'something else' does not necessarily exist exactly at the same time when the sign represent or replace its position. Therefore, Umberto Eco often refers to it as theory of lie, or deception because it can be used for misleading or deceiving others (1976, p. 6-7).

The first idea I tried was leaving objects and things half done to show the presence of a person but no one is actually there like spot the ball a game In the news paper where they take the ball out off a picture of a football game and have to look at what the players are doing to figure out where it is(another one of my inspirations that I looked at) but I'm doing it the opposite way round, where you have to look at the objects to figure out where the person would be. I set up a bench with props like newspaper, banana, bottle of water and was using these objects to signify a person had been here and used these things. I also did it in the morning during the week to limit the amount of people around.



This is an example of the pictures I took during my first shoot. I felt these images did not get across the idea of absence that well and could easily be mistaken for littering or something else there were no clear signifiers to show that it was showing the absence of people. I had to find something that signified that. Like an action left unfinished. For my first shoot they all revolved around this bench as it was a quite part of the park and benches you associate with people because its primary purpose is for

people to sit on it. It tried many different angles, composition and set the props out in different ways and sometimes taking certain ones out. One of the other pictures has the bottle leaking another has the banana half eaten and one with the newspaper open. But they all lacked something to make the

point clear they did not have the right signifiers to make the view think about the absence of the person. I think if I had put an ongoing action in there like the bottle was being drank from, but no one was there something like that would have helped it. One of the big problems with this one is that it could just be mistaken for someone littering

The second idea that I did was to go through certain point throughout a typical day but have no person there so have a bed but only the pyjamas there no person has a wet towel on the floor next to the bath but no one there. I thought the clothes without the people, or the sight of an action recently being done would get the point across but again it felt like something was missing and did not come across as being about the absence of people. It probably would have worked better if the bath was running or a toothbrush under a tap or a hot cup of tea with steam still rising from it as in media people recently being somewhere but not there anymore is often betrayed by things that are still warm indicating people were recently there, like a recently gone out fire or a warm cup.

Through researching for my project , I came up with the idea to do a before and after pair of photos I looked at some then and now photos and thought that I would be a good way to highlight what was missing if there was some photos with them in then there would be no confusion as to what the pictures and about also the absence has a greater effect if you've seen what it looks like with people. First, I would do a photo of the place with no people and then take a second picture from the same spot but with people in it. This way the photo would easily convey the message I wanted it too while also giving a hopeful feeling to the photo by putting the picture with people in after rather than before it shows people coming out of lockdown showing we are through the worst of it and thing will start to improve again. I took these pictures mainly in Bedworth town centre as that would be the best place to be able to show the difference and show the biggest contrast. For the pictures without people in them I went up to town at 7am on weekdays so that all the shops would be closed and there would be no people or very few that would be easy to work around. Then I would come back around midday time and take pictures of people everywhere as a busy town creating before and after pictures representing lockdown and coming out of lockdown or just the absence of people and people returning. These pictures work so much better than all the other because you have the two photos so you can clearly see the difference, its immediately obvious what has changed in the image. I decided to do all the pictures in Bedworth to make it personal to me and be about my area and also because of lockdowns and restrictions I didn't want to take some pictures in another town and then not be able continue with my pictures there because of some new restriction as a lack foresight is what led to a previous project where I had to use the same place not working out so well. One of the main areas of research that lent itself that sent itself to this final idea is the opening of 28 days later because my absence pictures of the town is similar to the abandoned London scenes and both were shot in the morning to avoid as many people as possible. Some people may argue that putting the people first then the absence works better and is stronger, but I did it the other way around because it seems more positive and there's been too much negativity going on in the world over this past year, I wanted to be hopeful. While I like my final images, they could be approved. One of the things I would do if I was to do this again is show more verity rather than it mainly being photo in the town. I would show different area showing how it effects different parts of the place and people. Maybe showing parts of my life but without me in it. I would have loved to have been able to find a way to incorporate my love for architecture photography in this work but at the time couldn't think of anything.

In conclusion I think that my final images convey the message I set out to achieve and through this project was able to learn how to use signifiers and what they are. I also learnt that message can easily be confused for other things so you have to carefully consider what to use to signify your

message because more often than not your message will be hard to convey then you initially think it will be.