

**ROBERT BROOKES
AS.PHOTOGRAPHY
UNIT ARTF1/A**

Statement of Intent

I have now completed the second project for my AS level photography course and believe that through my studies so far on the course I am not only building my confidence in using photographic techniques but am also starting to develop my own style and approach to the subject. I have used both 35mm film and digital cameras for my work and am starting to feel more comfortable with the techniques that can be practiced with both (including both the use of darkroom skills when printing an image (such as burning in or dodging) and also the use of developing software such as Photoshop to enhance your images with digital photography)

As I am still only a beginner to the world of photography I have tried to vary the topics I have chosen for my work so far so that I can experiment with (and learn from) the different types of images that can be produced. I have tried to challenge myself with what I have chosen as the themes for my work so that I can develop and progress within the subject. In the first project I concentrated on techniques (such as differential focus and shutter exploitation) and how these are used to enhance a picture. Although this was more of a technical project it helped me understand how images can be improved with certain skills raising them above simple recording shots. In the second I looked at the use of composition and lighting within still life photography and how important they are when creating an image. In contrast to the first project my still life work helped me to understand how important the selection of a subject is in a photograph and how much the final effect of the image rely on precise composition. It also taught me the importance of correct lighting in an image and how (no matter how good the original composition of the piece is) if the lighting is poor it can totally ruin the effect you are trying to create. Although both of my projects were very different I hope that I will be able to bring elements of what I have learned from both into my final exam.

For my exam I have chosen to look at the topic of **connected images** and create a series of photographs that are intended to be viewed as a group rather than on an individual basis. As the main connection for the images I have decided to take night photography as my theme for the work. Although (as I have learned from my second project) the correct lighting is the key to producing effective images I intend to use the minimal lighting, shadows and highlights (from things such as buildings, street lighting and traffic) that there is at night to create the effects I want in my pictures. In night photography there is a greater contrast between the highlights and the shadows and this can be used to great effect within my final pieces. I will look for different subjects for the images (and although they will all be linked through my theme of the night) I will attempt to mix urban landscapes, architecture, people and natural subject matter so the final piece is as varied and interesting as possible. I like the fact that night photography can add a real atmosphere to what would be an ordinary image and I hope that I can express that with this project. I also intend to make use of techniques that I have learned through doing this course (and in particular shutter exploitation (using slower shutter speeds to expose the film to light for longer periods and therefore blur movement)) wherever possible to add even more impact to the final pieces.

In the research for my exam I am going to look at the work of the British photographer Michael Kenna and take his work as the influence for my studies. He has done a large amount of work with dusk and night photography and I hope that through looking into the techniques that he has used I can build a knowledge of how best to approach the subject and how I can enhance my work. Although the majority of Kenna's work is landscape his portfolio shows how much of an impact night photography has (especially when taken in black and white). Kenna's images make strong use shadow and silhouette to add contrast and these are effects I intend to replicate in my own pictures.

As with the first project I intend to take my images using black and white 35mm film. Although I will not dismiss the possibility of utilizing digital imagery I feel that taking them using film wherever possible will mean that the final prints produced will be of a purer quality. Taking the shots in black and white will also hopefully help to add atmosphere to my images as there will be better contrast than with colour. I am also more confident in using darkroom techniques as opposed to the facilities available on Photoshop and want to ensure I maximize my chances of getting quality prints to enter as my final exam.

Although due to the time restrictions upon us when doing the exam I am more apprehensive about this work than I have been on the previous projects I feel that if I can do enough preparation and research beforehand I will be able to create a selection of quality images. I have learned through doing the whole of my AS level Photography course that the more you prepare and plan the photo's you wish to take the better the final results.

Rob Brookes - AS.Photography