

Photography Essay

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The first photographs that I have looked at are photographs 8 and 9. Both of these photographs are very similar in various ways. In both photographs the men are the main focus. There is no background in either photograph and the subjects take up the majority of the frame. This makes you notice the subjects of the photograph more than if they only took up a small section of the frame.

Another similarity in these two photographs is the way both men are looking into the camera. In photograph 8 Clint Eastwood is staring into the camera in a similar way to James Dean in photograph 9. This gives the effect that the two men are looking at you, which makes you notice the photograph more than you would usually.

These two photographs are also linked in the sense that both men are famous film stars. The photographs are shot in the way they are because of the fame of the two actors. If they were just two unknown people, the photographs would not mean as much.

The two photographs also show a sense of loneliness. Both men are by themselves in the photographs and there is no one else around. Also the backgrounds in the two photographs are completely blank and there is no landscape. This gives a sense of loneliness and portrays the idea, that even though they are famous they are still lonely.

Another similarity in the two photographs is the way the subjects of the photographs stand out against the background. In photograph 8, Clint Eastwood stands out because he is dressed in white and is set against a dark background. In photograph 9 James Dean is dressed completely in black and set against a white background. These two colour contrasts makes the subjects stand out much better than if they were wearing the same colours as the backgrounds.

As well as these similarities there are also a number of differences in the two photographs. In photograph 8 there is a black border around the frame of the photograph. This makes this photograph stand out more than number 9. With the border it draws your attention to the photograph 8 quicker than photograph 9.

Another difference in these two photographs is the different poses of the two men. In photograph 8, Clint Eastwood is pointing at the camera and is squinting his eyes. This is a very aggressive pose compared to James Dean's pose in photograph 9. In photograph 9 James Dean is just looking into the camera with no expression on his face. This is much less aggressive. Clint Eastwood's pose is very aggressive in the way he seems to be pointing right at you. It makes the photograph stand out. The photograph is shot in this way, because of the reputation of Clint Eastwood. In most of his films, Clint Eastwood plays an aggressive character and this is portrayed in his photograph. However, James Dean's photograph is less aggressive, because James Dean did not have the reputation of being aggressive in his films. Despite of this, James Dean's photograph is no less striking as he takes up more of the photograph than Clint Eastwood does.

I believe that photograph 2 is very similar to photographs 8 and 9. Photograph 2 is of Princess Diana on the front cover of Vogue Magazine.

The photograph shows Diana, wearing a black dress and jewellery. She is resting her head on one of her hands and is looking into the camera smiling.

The main similarity in this photograph is the subject against the background. The background of this photograph is white and Diana is wearing a black dress. This makes her stand out on the page and it would draw your attention to the magazine.

The photograph is also similar in the way that Diana takes up the majority of the page. In photographs 8 and 9, the subjects also take up most of the page. This effect makes you notice the subject much more as they stand out better than if they only took up a small section of the page.

The fact that Diana is also famous, is another link to photographs 8 and 9. If this photograph was of someone unknown, then it would not mean as much to people. This is the same with photographs 8 and 9, If Clint Eastwood and James Dean were not famous then no one would look twice at the photographs.

The way in which Diana is looking into the camera on this photograph is also very similar to photographs 8 and 9. This photograph is more similar to photograph 9 with James Dean, because they are both looking into the camera in a none threatening way. They both look happy in the photographs, and they seem friendly. Photograph 8 is the opposite of this, as Clint Eastwood is squinting and pointing right into the camera, in a threatening way.

Another link between these photographs is the sense of loneliness. In photograph 2 Diana is completely by herself. There is no landscape in the background or even any objects or colour. This gives the feeling that she is entirely by herself. This is the same in photographs 8 and 9. In photograph 8, Clint Eastwood is stood alone and there is nothing in the background. The same can be seen in photograph 9 with James Dean, as there seems to be no objects or landscape in the background.

As well as the photograph 2, I also believe that photograph 5 can be linked to photographs 8 and 9. Photograph 2 shows a naked woman in an advert for Calvin Klein. The background of the photograph is entirely black with no other objects visible. There is also text in this photograph. At the top of the photograph, it says 'Obsession'. This is in large print and is in white so that it stands out against the black background. Beneath this is smaller text, which is also in white and at the bottom of the photograph there is more white text, which says 'Calvin Klein'.

The main similarity in this photograph is the subject against the background. The background is totally black and the woman stands out clearly against this. This grabs your attention, in a similar way to photographs 2, 8 and 9. The difference in this photograph is that the woman is not wearing clothes. This makes people notice the photograph more because it is shocking.

As well as in photographs 2, 8 and 9, this photograph shows the subject looking in right into the camera. This is also done to make you notice the photograph. It works because it looks as though she is looking at you. If she was not looking into the camera, it might seem as though she was looking at something else, and you would be less interested. The woman is looking into the camera in a non-threatening way. This is very similar to photographs 2 and 9, with Princess Diana and James Dean.

The main difference in this photograph compared to the others is that the woman is not famous. However, the fact that she has no clothes on makes people notice the photograph in the same way as if she was famous. The fact that this is an advert also explains why she isn't famous, because often unknown people or models are used.