

The two photographers that I have chosen to study, in detail, are: Olivia Parker and Josef Sudek. The two photographers vary in the way that they compose their photographs and the intentions of their pieces work. For one example Olivia Parker works with simple everyday objects in simple environments such as plain white backgrounds or blurry images backgrounds. Josef Sudek on the other hand seems to prefer working in composed environments such as household or similar environments. A similarity in which the two photographers share is the fact that they both work with simple objects that are often seen and unnoticed for example egg shells and drinks glasses.

Olivia Parker, a previous painter from America, focuses her work on basic objects such as apples, books, dice and peapods. Her projects "signs of life" had a few photographs of peapods in rows. The photograph "dance" in particular seems to have great intention. The image shows a row of peapods, lined up on a plain white background with a sort of fancy shelf below them. There is one peapod that is anomalous compared to the other three pods. This pod seems to be jumping and appears to have a mind of its own. I believe that this was intended to show how the conformity of a line of peapods, can be distorted by one individual, out of line, pod. The other photographs that were similar to this one include "pods of chance" and "shell beans". Pods of chance, although having a similar feel about it and would appear to have a very similar intention, the image is not as vibrant as "dance" and doesn't get across the message or show a blatant intention. This is the same for "shell beans". In "dance", even the 3 pods that are in linear order have individual differences, which could have been because of the similar intention of pointing out that although they are alike in structure, they can still have individuality, and personal characteristics. This same point can most definitely be used to describe human nature.

In the photograph "dance", light seems to be coming in from above the pointy part of the pod. The shadows that this angle of lighting casts, show the boldness of the individual peas, in each pod, and makes it easier to distinguish the differences and individuality of each pod. In fact the lighting is very similar to the lighting that would be cast from a light bulb from above, on 4 people standing in a row in a room. This may also be an intention of Olivia, to show how alike humans are to simple things such as pea pods.

The photograph is black and white; this could have been on purpose, possibly to hide similarities in the colour of the pods. The reason why the similar colour of the pods may have been a problem is that if she intended for this photograph to show how the pods differentiate, a similarity in colour would decrease the presence of individuality within the pods. By decreasing saturation in the image, the focus of the viewer is shifted onto other details in the image such as the peas inside the pod.

The photo is quite obviously composed and arranged, as it is unlikely for 4 pea pods to be aligned on a plain white background like this naturally. The way she has chosen to use a plain white background is clever as this draws attention away from possible distractions behind the focus of the image, there is more to the image than the four pods and white background. There is a sort of mantelpiece beneath the pods; the intention of this may also be to show conformity within the pods, for example, if it were to be 4 pods on a plain white background, the image would be, bland, and would just show a few pods layed down on a white surface. The mantelpiece gives the image a simple environment, and along with the lighting gives the effect that the pods are standing up, and the one on the far right appears to be suspended in air.

Josef Sudek, a Czech photographer, is probably best known for his nightscapes of Prague, is also well known for his still life shots of everyday objects in composed environments and backgrounds, such as eggs, glasses, vases and so on. His photograph of an egg behind a glass of water doesn't appear to have any particular intention, well at least not an obvious one. The one thing that stands out in this picture is that it is an egg, just an ordinary egg and an ordinary vase but when the egg is placed behind the glass the egg is seen from a completely different perspective, as the light/ image is refracted in the water and glass. There is also another egg in front of the glass; this is likely intended for the viewer of this image to compare the egg in front of the glass, that isn't refracted, to the one behind the glass that has been refracted. This makes it easier to see the effect of refraction in more detail, therefore hopefully encouraging the viewer to appreciate the visual effects more.

Josef has done similar pieces of work with glasses and eggs, but hasn't used the same effect of refraction, for example the image of the egg and the plate with a glass behind it. This has a very similar feel about it and both may have a similar intention, just that the egg behind a glass picture takes a more interesting and different approach.

The background of the egg behind a glass image seems to be like a household. The image has been composed by the photographer to look rather natural and like a regular home, whilst also not wanting to distract the viewer with things lingering behind the focus point. The background is also quite dark; this also influences the viewer to focus on the egg and the glass, the brighter part of the image.

The intention of this photograph could be to try and influence people to look at things from a different perspective. It could be that Sudek is saying, look at this egg on the right, it is a normal egg right? But look at it when it is refracted through glass and water, it is completely different. It is highly possible that he was trying to say that, we take things for granted, a normal egg, big deal, but when placed in a different situation, its beauty shines through. This could also be used to describe aspects of human nature.

The lighting in this image is concentrated on the egg behind the glass. The egg in front of the glass is rather dark, there may be intention behind this, Sudek may have been trying to draw focus to the more interesting egg, trying to get people to realize its beauty. There isn't much light in the background, again this could be to draw attention to the egg, but the egg behind the glass and the glass itself are quite bright.

There isn't any colour in this image as Josef Sudek would have taken this photo in the 1920s or 1930s. The low saturation in this photograph could be an advantage, as this dulls the photo, making it look plainer and duller, whilst still maintaining interest of the viewer.

The background of the image is out of focus; again this draws attention away from things around the outside of the center of focus.

Olivia Parker and Josef Sudek's work is rather different, although there are similarities that could be accumulated from the two photographs, "Dance" and Josef Sudek's image of the egg behind the glass. Both photographs could have a similar intention, as "Dance" would appear to be trying to say that although things of the same kind are similar in structure, they still have differences, whilst Josef Sudek's image of an egg behind a glass appears to be trying to get people to look at things we take for granted, and look at them in a different perspective. Both photographs could be trying to get people to realize differences in things that we take for granted everyday, including humans. Both images are in black and white, and this effect does help the viewer concentrate on the things that matter in the image, helping the viewer realize the intention, possibly.

I would like to work with the idea of most of Josef Sudeks work, as he works a lot with areas that are rather isolated, and alone, whilst still maintaining action that just isn't apparent to the eye alone. Also I wouldn't mind working with simple objects, and arranging them in a manner that actually might mean something and get across a message. There are other things that I would like to do also that aren't really related to either of these photographers work, but to start off with I will begin making similar still life photographs, and build on that, incorporating ideas that have inspired me along the way.