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Sustaining Your Practice

Assignment 1

Asking for Feedback

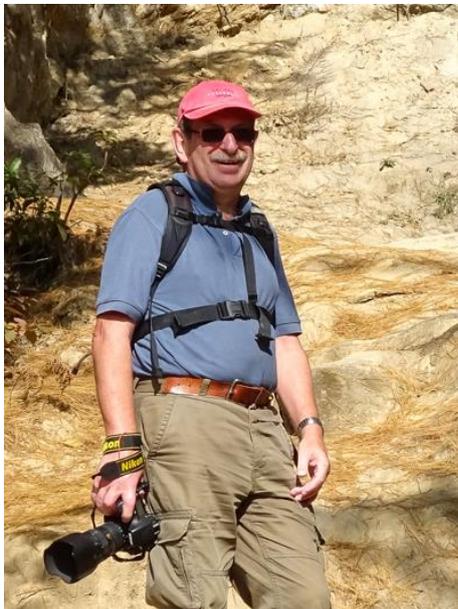
Sustaining Your Practice – Assignment 1

The brief asks for a Biography and an Artist's statement which I've included here as they're relevant to the process of asking for feedback.. It also suggests a CV but, as described in my blog, I'm not sure of the need at this point. Particularly as I'm so used to writing a CV and would never use a "one size fits all" CV, instead tailoring it from a library of elements or paragraphs to create a CV more suited to the requirement at that time.

Towards the end of the module, once my direction becomes clearer, I'll probably include such a generic CV on my website. The issue of CV, Bio and Statement is discussed in more detail on my blog at www.gaslight.me.uk.

There's obviously a link between the Bio and the [About Page](#) on a website, both of which state the same facts but in a subtly different way. As a result, I've included a copy of my [About Page](#) here first thought it can be accessed on my website by clicking the links above which gives better formatting results.

About page



Gaz Williams is a nature photographer based in Windsor, Berkshire. His early life in North Wales, living next to the sea but with access to the forests, rivers and rugged mountains of the area inspired in him a love of nature. Avoiding the crowds led him to develop a love of exploring, of leaving the beaten path inhabited by the many, and discovering those hidden areas, accessible only to the adventurous.

His prize-winning work has twice been exhibited at the Joe Cornish Gallery in Northallerton, Yorkshire and full-page commercial images have appeared in the Guardian Magazine, the Observer, Country Life and other magazines. His travel photography has taken pride of place on the brochures of companies to highlight travel to those out of the way places, away from the crowds.

His first solo exhibition, featuring the hidden areas of Windsor Great Park, will be held late 2018

From that I constructed my Biography:

Biography

Growing up in the busy coastal area of North Wales I soon discovered the joys of leaving the tourist trails and exploring the beaten track, discovering the wildlife, forests and rugged beauty of Snowdonia. Moving down to the South East I thought that I'd lost the opportunity but I discovered that Windsor Great Park afforded the chance to explore in a similar, but more cultivated, way whilst photography trips to Africa and Asia only increased my love of wildlife and nature.

Retirement afforded the opportunity to explore, both locally and abroad and I came to enjoy the tranquillity and serenity of these extremes. On the one hand was the Park, home to the Kings and Queens of England whilst, on the other hand, was the wilderness and vast open expanse of Africa. During this period, I started studying for a BA Photography degree to help capture these beautiful environments and pass that beauty on to others.

My work has since been featured in the Guardian Magazine, the Observer, Country Life and other magazines and I've been fortunate enough to have two prize-winning images exhibited at the Joe Cornish Gallery in Yorkshire.

A love of all things Italian, including the language, fills what little time I have left during the day.

The final element of the background material is the Artist's statement. Obviously, there are two forms to this. The first being a statement which covers an artist or photographer's entire work or a subset of it. Currently, I don't think that's relevant though I'll need it at some stage and, at the moment, I don't have enough portfolios to create a linking Artist' Statement.

As a result, I'm taking the second approach for this assignment and ensuring that I have a Statement that's applicable to the work that I intend to publish at the end of this module.

Since that work is the Body of work portfolio, albeit it might change, I'll continue with the Statement that I included as part of my assessment and the last assignment of BoW. Particularly since neither my tutor nor the assessors made any negative comment about it.

Artist's Statement

The majority of visitors to Windsor Great Park follow the same routes as their predecessors, constrained by their own preconceptions of the area, afraid to leave the beaten path and create their own experience. These preconceptions have been created by images and text in magazines and social media, an imagined geography that develops the Tourism Space that is Windsor Great Park and is then itself modified by that Tourism Space.

In my exploration of the Park I've come to love those other areas, the ones that lie outside of this predefined space requiring the visitor to step off the beaten path and explore.

Each of these images shows a glimpse of that "other side", accessible to those who would leave the beaten path and discover their own world, treating the rabbit hole as a portal rather than as a barrier.

Asking for Feedback

The next part of this assignment is, obviously, look for feedback from the industry. Due to feedback already received, particularly from assessors for BoW (see blog entry "[feedback to date](#)") I might change the images to be reviewed. I'll decide that whilst awaiting feedback on this assignment, particularly on the list of contacts and PDF format.

Proposed Reviewers

Note that I don't expect to approach all these reviewers at the same time but will approach them incrementally after digesting earlier feedback.

Laura Noble

I was particularly impressed by Laura Noble's articles and even more impressed by the feedback from fellow students, so I intend to use her as one of my reviewers.

<http://www.lauraannoble.com/portfolio-reviews/>

LensCulture

In a similar vein I will upload a portfolio for LensCulture's online review process after being impressed with their responses and the simplicity of the process.

<https://www.lensculture.com/online-project-review-gallery-focus>

Gill Aspel

Because of the local nature of my portfolio I really want some professional reviews from this area, from people who know the location of my portfolio. Gill is a professional photographer, an official photographer for the borough of Windsor as well as running her own photography business.

<https://www.gtp.photography/>

and the gallery that she uses to exhibit her work

<http://www.thegalleryatice.co.uk/gill-aspel-2/>

Salli Woods – Rhubarb & Custard Gallery

Continuing with the local theme I'll also use Salli at the Rhubarb and Custard Art Gallery as a reviewer, partly because I might use the gallery for my exhibition at the end of this module.

<https://www.rhubarbandcustard.com/>

David Williams

An off the wall inclusion here is David Williams (no relation) who is Head of Photography at a private school. He teaches A level students and has offered to review my portfolio. In addition, he has offered to share it with his students which might be very interesting!

Gallery@Ice

Finally, I'll be hoping to use Tiffany from the local Art Gallery Gallery@Ice. They don't normally take submissions but, through a common contact, I believe that they'll be willing to review my portfolio.

<http://www.thegalleryatice.co.uk/>

An additional element

My favourite subject has always been wildlife, so I intend to create a second PDF to ask for feedback on my wildlife images. I appreciate that this might not be the normal way of working but I asked my tutor for BoW if it was possible I did not get a negative response. As a result, I'll go ahead with this secondary approach.

My two, intended reviewers are:

Andy Skillen

Andy is a well known wildlife photographer with an impressive list of awards. I've met him once and he indicated that he would be amenable to having a look at my work. This was a couple of years ago so he might have forgotten but I can but try.

<http://www.faunavista.com/>

Janette Hill

Janette is the owner of Natural Wonders Photography and is a widely published wildlife photographer. I've met her on a couple of occasions and she is willing to review my wildlife portfolio.

<http://www.naturalwondersphotography.co.uk/>

Finally

I've kept the PDFs simple, with links back to the website where the larger images are available for study. A minor issue I have is that if I link the thumbnail to the full-size image it's difficult to tab to the next image. The alternative which involves sending the viewer to the whole portfolio whichever image is clicked seems cumbersome.

As a compromise I've included a link to the portfolio underneath the thumbnail array – Does this work?