



Open  
College  
of the Arts

Student name	<b>Debra Flynn</b>	Student number	<b>517222</b>
Course/Unit	<b>PH/Context and Narrative</b>	Assignment number	<b>4</b>
Type of tutorial	Audio-Visual		

### Overall Comments

A thoughtful , well written essay that requires a few tweaks.

### Feedback on assignment

**Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome,  
Demonstration of Creativity**

To use your personal response to this photograph is fine but it makes sense to be critical using Barthes in particular.

But using Barthes would suggest that identify your *punctum* - if you have one.

Bitton has indeed layered the image with *studium* however more analysis of each detail that builds toward – what you believe is - her intended meaning would be useful.

Separate her intent from your reaction. Is she successful? Use Barthes.

It's possibly better to use denotation and connotation – you begin this process but I think it would be simpler to “say what you see”, then ask what each detail and the whole makes you think of. David Bate’s *Key Concepts* is good for this.

I think there is a crucial detail that you have not engaged with. We discussed this at length in the tutorial.

Be careful of the use of ‘the genre of fine art photography’, this often seems to be a cover for aestheticised folk images with high production values. Ask yourself where you would place this image (and indeed practitioner) within Charlotte Cotton’s *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*.

She has ‘followers’ but what part does she play in the contemporary photography world?

Through our discussions I mentioned my photograph and subsequent ethical dilemma with 'Alice'. I'll attach an image of the photo in the book of the project.

Have a look at Sally Mann's *Immediate Family* and its reception in light of Bitton's work.

We discussed how work like this is situated culturally, it appears in other works she is referencing Jodie Foster's character in Scorsese's *Mean Streets*, which is problematical.

Take some time to reorder your essay and include further referencing.

Overall the structure is fine, you have been careful to use ideas such as bringing our selves to images but you still need to attempt a view that encompasses other perspectives.

## **Coursework**

### **Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity**

Good evidence of working through the exercises.

## **Research**

### **Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis**

Good to see you react to this image and then research appropriately.

## **Learning Log**

### **Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis**

Your blog is well written and continues to be a useful reflective tool.

## **Suggested reading/viewing**

### **Context**

Again looking at Bate/Bull/Clarke/Cotton/Jeffrey/Wells will really help you articulate your ideas.

## **Summary**

Strengths	Areas for development
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoughtful writing</li> <li>• Some pertinent research</li> <li>• Well written</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look again at <i>punctum</i> and to a lesser extent <i>studium</i></li> <li>• Expand to include what you believe her aim is</li> <li>• Contextualise this work within wider culture and contemporary photography</li> </ul>
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Tutor name	Les Monaghan
Date	01/11/19
Next assignment due	01/02/20