

PHMD 201 - Photography I: View Camera, Fall 2013
Writing Prompt No. 5

Answer the following questions with regards to the "ordinary moments" assignment:

1. How might you distinguish from an insignificant ordinary moment and a significant ordinary moment? What makes the moment worth sharing?
2. What is the value in making photographs with a view camera that don't look like they were made with a view camera?

"Ordinary moments are the main events throughout the day that make up our lives. Those that are significant are the ones that are common, that happen often, but they are the aspects that make our lives worthwhile and special. Perhaps the reason they are worth photographing is the genuine emotion they create. Insignificant moments are those that pass without us even noticing, so mundane that we don't even react to them anymore.

The benefit of a photograph that does not appear to be made with a view camera is one that holds a sense of spontaneity within it. View camera photographs are often well composed and very deliberate. A picture can often hold a great deal of value in the unconscious emotion captured by a split-second decision of the photographer taking the shot. It is often difficult to capture the same effect with a view camera."

"I think that the difference between an insignificant ordinary moment and a significant ordinary moment would be that a significant ordinary moment holds meaning in it, that any viewer can understand. An ordinary moment captured will be universal to any viewer while an insignificant ordinary moment will be confusing to the viewer, it will seem foreign. They say that the feeling of déjà vu comes from the brain feeling comfortable in a situation, therefore making you feel like you've dreamed the situation. I think a significant ordinary moment would have the same effect on a viewer, give them a familiar or comfortable feeling.

We've been learning how to slow down and have patience with our photography this semester but photography itself is still about "the decisive moment." I think that taking a photo that doesn't look like it came from a view camera resonates with the photographer's instinct to capture a moment as soon as you can. A photo that looks so casual will give a casual feel to the viewer. "

"I think the an insignificant ordinary moment is hard for the viewer to understand. The significant ordinary moment however Should be relateable so that when it is viewed people can associate it with something from their own lives making it a shared moment.

But i also think that the sharing of that moment takes the ordinariness out of the image. Maybe this is why we take pictures of everyday things is because we as people long the share these moments. Most of all i think we just want ordinary to seem extraordinary and that the is beauty in our every day lives."

"To distinguish an insignificant ordinary moment from a significant ordinary moment, you have to think about multiple things. One, you have to consider the subject of the photograph; how significant is the scenario to the audience? Is it relatable? But also, it is displayed in an interesting way? I think with our ordinary moment assignment, it is important to show insight to our own personal ordinary moments. The insignificant ones are the ones that everyone sees/does everyday. For example, a picture of a person reaching into a fridge is terribly insignificant. Most everyone has the same view in front of their

eyes everyday, without the need for a photo. But if you take the scene, zoom it out, and show us a landscape of a kitchen we've never seen and can observe, that is displaying it in an interesting way.

I think the value of taking these "non-view camera photos" with a view camera mainly helps us develop as photographers. It forces us to look for the beauty in the small things, rather than going through the process only for the most beautiful or extraordinary things out there."

"The difference between a significant ordinary moment and an insignificant ordinary moment is how much the viewer is going to understand it. If the viewer can connect with the moment you have portrayed, that is a successful ordinary moment. If the viewer does not know what they are looking at and they don't get it, that it is an insignificant ordinary moment. In photography, we want to be able to portray something that the viewer is going to emotionally attach to the subject and their surroundings.

Using a view camera to make a shot that does not look like a view camera did it is important because we want the shot to look natural and casual but with purpose. With a view camera we can alter the image but an SLR does not do the same things. With a view camera we set up the shot with intent and purpose. Using a view camera for this shot is interesting because we set up a typical snapshot."

"In my opinion, an insignificant moment might be something that a person does on a day-to-day basis and don't take much thought or thinking behind it, while a significant moment might be something that is very personal or memorable towards that specific person. A significant moment might also be something that is life-changing or motivating to an individual.

I think that making an image with a view camera and making it look as if it wasn't provides us students with a perspective on that it's not necessarily important what specific camera a photographer used to create an image. What was important was what the actual image was. An image can be made with any camera, it just depends on how the photographer chooses to use it to create what they want."

"I believe the difference between an insignificant ordinary moment and a significant ordinary moment would rely solely on the fact that you as the viewer can see yourself in the image. This would resonate with the viewer because it would be something that they have seen or been through. It is an ordinary moment, something that has been seen by everyone. A moment worth sharing is important in different ways for each and every viewer. So there is no definite answer because we are all so complex.

Making images with a view camera that don't look like they are produced with said camera can be important because if you are in love with producing long exposure images or movement images you can easily produce these with long shutter speeds but it also seems as if it isn't made with a large format camera."

"The difference between an insignificant ordinary moment and a significant ordinary moment lies within the feelings brought on by the people in the given situation. If the feelings are genuine and meaningful, whether happy, sad, or mad, they then create a memory. Memories can be dreaded or cherished, but the fact that they are stuck there in our minds signifies the authenticity of the moment. This is what then matters to a photographer who should then be observant, maybe even empathic, to his or her subject's moment, and continue to capture and create a record of the new memory just made.

There are many values to making photographs with the view camera that appear to have been made with other cameras. These range from showing skill and knowledge of the camera, to using the camera to take pictures replicating pictures that were made using expensive technology. The view camera's unique movements can do a lot more than a normal point-and-shoot camera, but it can also do relatively simple movements that produce incredible quality."

“The difference between a significant ordinary and an insignificant ordinary moment is the emotion that we would attach to that moment. Photographs of significant moments in our daily lives should be relateable to people, but be able to elicit an emotional feeling that would connect the viewer to the photographer. More thought is required to make a photograph of something significant, and the photographer should think about what feelings others would get from viewing the photograph.

I think that the value of making a photograph look like it didn't come from a view camera would give the feeling of actually being in that moment. With the view camera you can achieve things such as long exposures, tilted focus, and straight lines. Using these techniques paired with a spontaneous shot can give the viewer a greater feeling of being in the image.”

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