

Diary of AJ Owen-Jones
for Assignments
Still Life
Local Environment
Colour



Still life

For this assignment I was quite limited in space for my subject so I had to work with quite small subjects. Since they were still I didn't have to worry about them moving so I was able to use a low iso quite weak light and long exposure times. This also let me manipulate the light on my subject.

My camera a Pentax K5 aps-c was set close to the level of my subject and mounted on a tripod with a 2 second delay. I chose to use a Tamron SP90mm Macro Lens with the field of view of 135mm. Exif information is limited and a little wrong Pentax allow me to enter a focal length the closest being 85mm not 90mm and it doesn't know the aperture used.

This lens is fully manual and my camera had to be on manual exposure. With Green button metering I could get an initial exposure but after examining the histogram found it wasn't giving me a suitable exposure so I increased the exposure time to use the full tonal width available to me. I experimented with 1 and 2 light setups and the use of reflectors. All photographs were shot in raw to give me maximum use of my exposures.

The Rabbit was lit from the front right with a single LED Lamp slightly above and at around a 45 degree angle on the left I used a reflective gray card to bounce some light back on to my subject and help separate it from the background which was a green paper backdrop placed far enough back so it was out of focus.

The way the rabbit is designed its most appealing angle was with my camera above and looking down. I didn't like the white balance in colour and decided it worked best in black & white for a silver subject. I experimented with different angles on the subject and this I thought was most appealing.



SL1 Tamron SP90mm lens 6 seconds iso 80 f2.8

The Penguin

This was a fun subject to shoot I have been a Linux user for many years and Tux the penguin is the official Linux mascot.

For a penguin the natural backdrop is snow so I improvised with a fake fur throw to provide a setting and back drop.

This was lit similarly to the rabbit with a reflector used to light the left hand side. It was necessary to clone out a few spots and unwanted highlights on this photograph.



sl2 Tamron SP90mm lens 3 seconds iso 80 f2.8

Canon EOS 600

This Subject followed on from the Penguin shot and I used the same backdrop

This time I used two led lamps at around a 45 degree Angle either side. Because of the larger subject size I increased the depth of field in order to try and keep all the text in reasonable focus.



sl3 Tamron SP90mm lens 8 seconds iso 80 f5.6

Brass Holder

For this shot I originally had it lit from the right but I found it didn't illuminate the subject well so I used a second light from the front.

I wanted to capture the reflection in the granite top and used a dark red cushion to act as a backdrop to the rear. I darkened the exposure by 1 stop in post.

As I had 4 seconds for the exposure I decided to try some light painting with a small led laser which you can see on the flower on the front surface. I tried to create a rich feel to the image which I think the dark red backdrop and polished tabletop contribute to.



The Local Environment.



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/350th iso 80



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/750th iso 80 -2EV



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/750th iso 80 -2EV



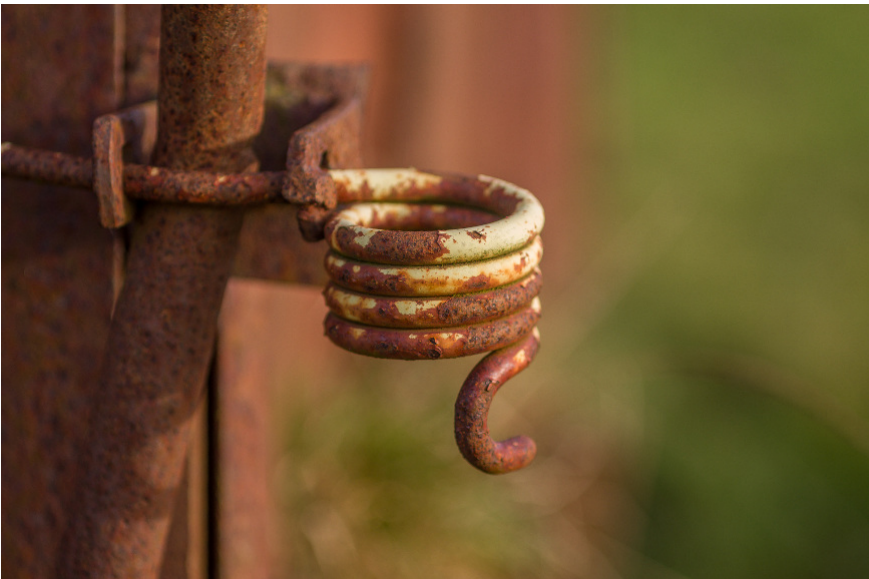
Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/500th iso 80 -2EV



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/125th iso 80 -2EV

Living in a rather rural part of Ireland my Local Environment is more natural than man made.

I decided to feature a trailer of indeterminate age which is in a field behind my cottage. I hope I've chosen some interesting perspectives.



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/350th iso 80

The Theme of Colour

This was a hard assignment for me it is so broad with so many images that could fit into a narrative of colour.

When I was wondering which way to take this I had recently been reading about William Eggleston, often referred to as the father of colour photography. His work is interesting, some of it quite ugly and raw.

He always had colour as a strong component of his work and he also developed a 3 dimensional look with the Eggleston Corner. I didn't want to copy his style but I wanted images where the colour was essential to the image.

This was one of the first that attracted me the fiery orange of the dawn makes this for me.



C1 Pentax 18-55mm @ 55mm f8 iso 80 1/125th -2EV

This next photograph it was the golden dawn light



C2 Pentax 18-55mm @ 28mm f8 iso 200 1/90th

One of my first images I took was of the surf shop in Tramore I

liked the strong bold colours and the bit of mystery about what was within the dark doorway.



C3 Pentax Da 18-55mm at 35mm F5.6 1/2000 -1ev

My camera is quite iso invariant and low noise this lets me shoot at base iso with a couple of stops under exposure this helps ensure I keep my highlights knowing I can bring up the shadow detail from raw.

William Eggleston was also in mind when I took this photograph of a run down playground, it was early morning and no one around. Which is just as well since people tend to be suspicious especially when there are young children around.



C4 Pentax Da 18-55mm at 35mm F5.6 1/1500 -2ev



When I saw this bicycle rack in its yellow and red and green colours I knew that this would be good for the colour theme project

C5 Pentax 18-55mm @ 20mm F11 iso 80 1/1000th -2EV

With this Photograph I decided to try something a little different. I used camera flash to bring up the intensity of the sign.



C6 Pentax 18-55mm @ 40mm f9.5 iso 80 1/180th with Flash

With this shot the blue slab was making the colour statement.



C7 Pentax 18-55mm @ 40mm f9.5 iso 80 1/250th

This used the same flash technique as with the previous sign there was a little rain as I took this photograph.



C8 Pentax 18-55mm @ 35mm f32 iso 80 1/60th

This was so close to being two colours with the blue of the sky contrasting the green Towers.



C9 Pentax 18-55mm @ 38mm f8 iso 80 1/350th

The biggest colours of all must be flowers



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/90th iso 80 -2EV



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/60th iso 80 -2EV

The final image is that trailer again where the wall lent itself to black & white
The Earthy tones of rust demand colour.



Tamron SP90 90mm F2.5 1/350th iso 80

The Rejects







