

# ASSIGNMENT 1: PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTO EDITING

CS6041 - INTERACTIVE MEDIA PROJECT

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## PHOTO REFERENCE 01: STREET PERFORMERS OF LIMERICK

Art doesn't give rise to anything in us that isn't already there. It simply stirs our curious consciousness and sparks a fire that illuminates who we have always wanted to be. The attached image shows some street musicians performing at the banks of Shannon River on a fine evening. Street performing has existed for centuries. It has been part of our everyday lives since human society has existed. Street performance has not only been taking place for ages, but has also been occurring in most countries throughout the world. These talented artists were singing some old folk songs and playing some country music to earn a living. I could totally relate the image to the phase of life where some talented artist make their livelihood with their performances.



## TECHNICAL ASPECTS OR METADATA OF THE PHOTO

Camera: Apple iPhone X      Lens: 4-6mm f/1.8-2.4      Mode: Portrait and HDR turned ON

Aperture: 2.4      Shutter Speed: 1/578      ISO: 16      Focal Length: 26mm

## COMPOSITION OF THE PHOTO

The composition technique that I have used over this photo is Rule of thirds placing the Lead singers mic on the corner of the grid. Here the main diversion goes to the person singing and playing the guitar and I have also managed to blur the background of the performers so as to highlight the particular scene. It was really hard to get the shadows falling on the person playing the accordion. But thanks to the perfect lighting conditions by nature and helping me capture this beautiful shot.

## THEME OF THE PHOTO

Their life is totally dependent on the crowd, I could see many cheering up these guys. It was a lovely experience. Street performers is inspiring for some people, especially for the ones who are still seeking their passion, and what they truly want to do in life. I really enjoy talking about personal and career goals with people I meet, and exchange views on those. For all the musicians in street, performing is a consequent part of their revenue and they really enjoy it : it is a life choice ! They believe that they are continuing a tradition that adds something to the life of cities, whether simply through entertainment or 'something stronger'.

## PROCESSING DONE ON THE PHOTO

I have processed the image in Lightroom adjusting the Brightness and contrast. Then once the picture looked satisfying with the highlights I cropped a bit from corners to adjust the entire composition so as to make the entire performers look busy and occupied on the screen. I have also done slight adjustments on the shadows and highlights for making the shadows on the artist look more visible and create the scene. Loaded the image in photoshop to increase the Image Size and resolution as most of the time I find processing on Lightroom compress the quality and size of the Picture itself. So here is the final image after some light tonal adjustments here and there.

## PHOTO REFERENCE 02: THE PICTURESQUE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING

We all know being in the mountains can make life better but what about climbing to the top of those mountains. No landscape inspires quite like the mountains. Mountains just have that alluring quality, and climbing to the top can teach you a lot about life. Whilst you dream of the summit and focus on the success of getting to the top, you realise afterwards that the most profound part was the journey and the effort needed to get to there. Success requires effort, perseverance and a determination to keep pushing yourself, just like climbing a mountain!



## TECHNICAL ASPECTS OR METADATA OF THE PHOTO

Camera: Apple iPhone X

Lens: 4-6mm f/1.8-2.4

Mode: Portrait and HDR turned ON

Aperture: 1.8

Shutter Speed: 1/120

ISO: 20

Focal Length: 26mm

## COMPOSITION OF THE PHOTO

The composition technique that I have used over this photo is to include a much wider shot of the entire visible mountain to show a birds eye view perspective of the mountains. I have captured this image while I was on my journey from India to Ireland. Sometimes for capturing such a stunning picturesque mountains you will have to break the rules and go with a wide angles perspective shot to cover the maximum on screen. I was lucky enough to capture the full glory of the mountains.

## THEME OF THE PHOTO

I could totally relate mountains to our life. If you are someone who likes trekking or hiking then these mountains plays a vital role in your life. The altitude trains your lungs to become stronger and the struggle becomes less and less every time you hike. When you do make it to the peak you can rest assure that you are of the few who make it up there and can revel in the beauty and rarity of such a view. Mountains are so special; they have such magic to them. Maybe it is the fact they are can be so dangerous or maybe it is because they make us feel so small. Even if you don't even climb them they call to you. A gruelling six hours of vertical in the heat and you stop for water break. It will probably be the best water you have ever tasted in your life. We overlook the small things in life that we take for granted, like water

## PROCESSING DONE ON THE PHOTO

Opened the image in Photoshop, and I wasn't quiet happy about the lens glare from the windows of the aeroplane. I had to adjust the highlights, exposure, increase clarity a bit and some gamma correction in order to bring down the blur. I have also increased a bit of Saturation and Vibrance over the image to highlight the lights falling over one side of the mountains. I found that while I was adjusting the overall image the small lake visible on the left hand bottom corner of the image got unnoticed and I created a layered mask over the lake. Selecting the lake using the help of object selection tool in photoshop and adjust the tonal highlights a bit to make it clearly visible. The upper half of the image showed the some blur as I was sitting close to fins. I managed to cover it up using another mask layer on the upper half and filled the layer with a orangish-pink colour. With the help of a brush at zero hardness, was able to bring soft edges to the layer and make it less obvious.



### PHOTO REFERENCE 03: THE MIGHTY SHANNON RIVER

Life is like a river, it is always flowing, it can flow slowly or it can flow quickly, it can change courses but nothing can stop the river from flowing. The same happens with life, there are no external circumstances that can stop it from flowing. No matter what happens in your life, it always goes on. The flowing water, the changing colours of the mighty sky, the formation of clouds taking new shape, new life every now and then with the energy of sunlight.



TECHNICAL ASPECTS OR METADATA OF THE PHOTO

Camera: Apple iPhone X

Lens: 4-6mm f/1.8-2.4

Mode: HDR turned ON

Aperture: 1.8

Shutter Speed: 1/4367

ISO: 25

Focal Length: 26 mm

### COMPOSITION OF THE PHOTO

The composition technique use in this particular HDR image shot, has guiding lines of the banks of the river following till the centre of the image where you can see the giant wheel of Arthurs Quay. I have also managed to separate the upper half and the lower half with respect to the horizon, as supposed to form a straight line through the centre of the image. The image also acts as division between the upper half having the clouds filled with drama and the lower half with the flowing river creating a unique textures of water flow.

### THEME OF THE PHOTO

Each element of the picture seems to be dancing on the rhythm of the music played by the nature. Depicting movement, flow of energy from one form to another. Energy that create life, nurture life. Sometimes in the most silent way as the dried river or the still sky as if they are not alive and sometimes in the most revealing way. Shannon river also support lives of various Flora and Fauna. The Shannon also provides a habitat for a variety of birdlife.

### PROCESSING DONE ON THE PHOTO

Processed using lightroom. With the HDR turned ON the image was quite dark due to the cloudy evening. Flicked some adjustments for Brightness contrast and highlights to bring up more detail in the image. Once the image was looking fair enough, Opened it image in photoshop. Cropped the Image so as to fit in the frame showing some symmetry in the image adjusting a bit to bring it in the centre. I have also added a gradient layer on the upper half of the image with the gradient tool and managed to create a layer, creating more drama and details to the cloud pattern highlighted in the image. Also highlighted the blues and hues with a bit of blue tint given to the image. Also fixed the image to carefully drive you through the banks of Shannon river to reach the centre of the image creating a different perspective for the viewer.

#### PHOTO REFERENCE 4: EXPLANATION - STREET SHOP VENDORS IN INDIA

In India, millions of self-employed workers, use the street to earn a living. Some sell goods, such as sweets or vegetables, tea or toys. In the months leading up to festivals, many make kites or sculpt votive images of gods and goddesses on the sidewalk. Then there are the poorest of them all: the laborers. With neither capital nor skills, they sell the sweat of their brow. I have taken this image, while I was exploring the street life in India. The picture is a candid shot of a random sweets seller on the street.



#### TECHNICAL ASPECTS OR METADATA OF THE PHOTO

Camera: Canon EOS M50

Lens: Canon EF-50mm f/1.8 STM

Aperture: 1.8

Shutter Speed: 1/80

ISO: 1000

Focal Length: 50mm

### COMPOSITION OF THE PHOTO

The composition technique that I have used over this photo is Rule of thirds placing fire of the cigarette on the corner of the grid. Managed to keep the subject and the action performed by the subject to be in focus. The surrounding objects are blurred so as to keep the focus on the subject, thanks to 50mm lens from Canon for the portrait images in street photography. Had to wait for the right moment to capture the shot as it was a candid unplanned shot.

### THEME OF THE PHOTO

I think the street belongs to all of us because we all use it. Don't people buy vegetables from outdoor markets? And people eat at roadside restaurants all over the city. All we are doing is living and working here. India, as perhaps in other parts of the world, the city street can be considered an urban commons, a place where people buy, sell, socialize, congregate, celebrate, and rest. Here the boundaries between work and home, public and private, formal and informal are blurred. Street Photography in itself depicts the life of different people. If you manage to capture at the right moment, you will nail the shot.

### PROCESSING DONE ON THE PHOTO

Since this image was well planned before clicking I didn't have to do much post-processing on the image. The warm lights and the shade from the yellow roof made a perfect balance on the image, contrasting the warm colour of the fire. Have made some adjustments in Lightroom, tweaking the brightness and adjusting the exposure of the image. Increased the saturation a bit for highlighting the warm mood of the image to a further level. Have used healing brush here and there to remove few unwanted spots on the image, keeping it crisp and clear.



## PHOTO REFERENCE 05: THE PAINTED STORKS

Birds are some of the most beautiful and inspiring animals that inhabit our planet. Whether you enjoy owning pet birds or observing these feathered creatures in the wild. Birds maintain the delicate balance between plant and herbivore, predator and prey. From the technology of flight, to the invention of zippers modelled on the barbules of feathers, humans have drawn inspiration from birds.



TECHNICAL ASPECTS OR METADATA OF THE PHOTO

Camera: Canon EOS M50

Lens: Canon EF-M15-45mm f/3.5-6.3 IS STM

Aperture: 10

Shutter Speed: 1/125

ISO: 100

Focal Length: 45mm

### COMPOSITION OF THE PHOTO

The composition technique really used over here is to keep the subject in the centre of the image while keeping the eye of the stork in the grid. It really gives a distinctive looks since I had to go close to the subject to capture as I was using a 45mm max focal length lens. Used a wider aperture of 10 to capture the nest and both the birds to be kept focused in the frame. The picture is well composed keeping the subject well in the centre of the canvas.

### THEME OF THE PHOTO

The theme of the photo is to bring out the life element of the bird through the photography. Bird photography itself is considered to be a vast topic covering various points to capture the right sight of flight. Birds maintain the delicate balance between plant and herbivore, predator and prey. From the technology of flight, to the invention of zippers modelled on the barbules of feathers, humans have drawn inspiration from birds. Birds are linked to human life in many ways to. They are an essential part in the universe.

### PROCESSING DONE ON THE PHOTO

The images was processed using the photoshop. I had cropped a bit at the edges to removes some excess disturbing shadows. In order to boost up the detailing I had to bring the image size up to show the full glory. There has been a little touch ups on the overall adjustment layers to keep the sky blue while handling the saturation of the entire image. Have also used the content aware cropping on few of the irregular tree leaves, just to blend in with the blue sky.