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Module: Digital Photography

Project Title: Night time strolls on an empty street

Artist's Statement.

How?

All the pictures were taken using my Canon EOS Rebel T2i DSLR camera. Since all the pictures were taken in low-light situations, a tripod was used to stabilise the camera for long exposure shots. Manual mode was used to take each picture. The pictures were also edited using Camera Raw.

What?

The aim of the project is to convey a sense of loneliness through the images taken. This was primarily done through taking pictures of places that are usually packed with people but are empty.

Why?

The motivation for this piece of work stemmed from my sense of loneliness that I usually experience and a will to take pictures during night-time. People aren't around during the night-time, so I thought of playing with that to convey that lonely feeling through the photos. Dim photos make for more sad and calm photos.

“Passing Lights”

2" f7.1 ISO100 28.0mm



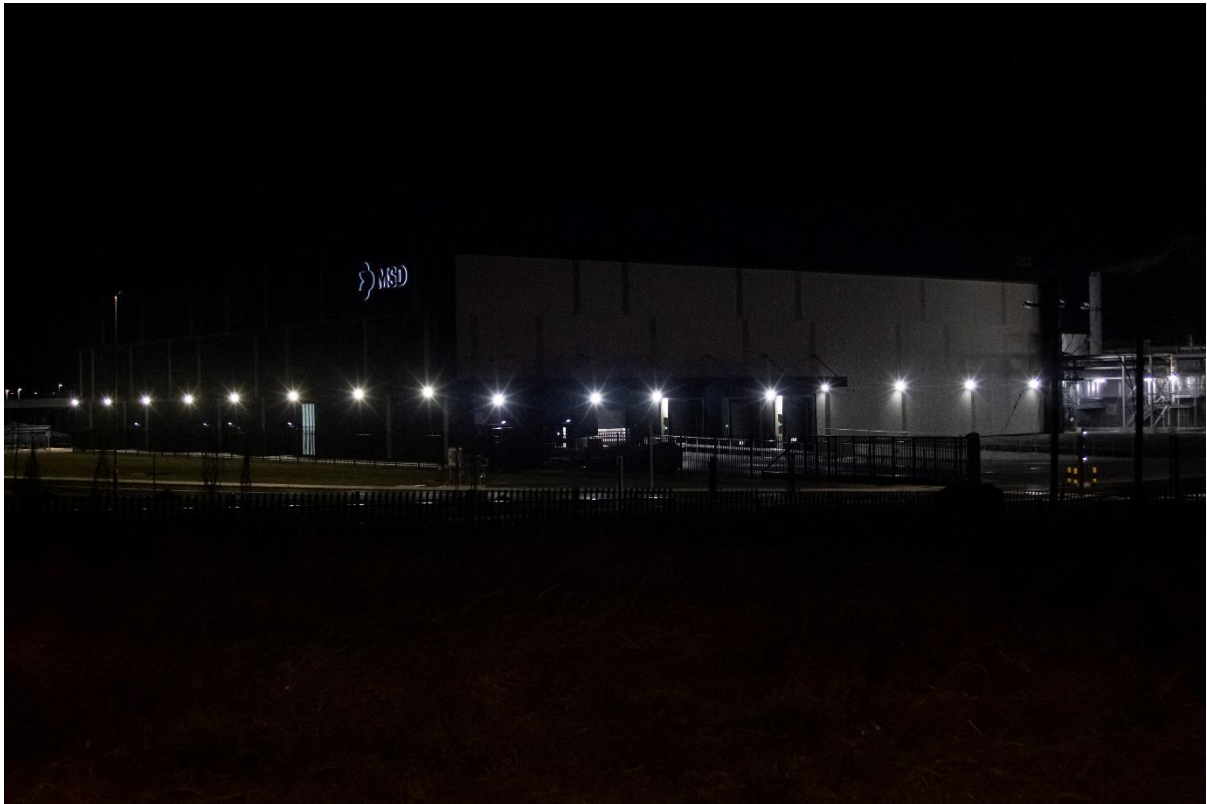
Nighttime. The only time in the day where people deem it reasonable to let go of the façade.

Everyone goes their separate ways. People dashing home to go lay in their comfort space, leaving nothing but a brief trail of light behind them.

It's not like I don't mind that however. People should be able to be left to their own devices.

“Trail of Light”

1/60 f4.5 ISO3200 28.0mm



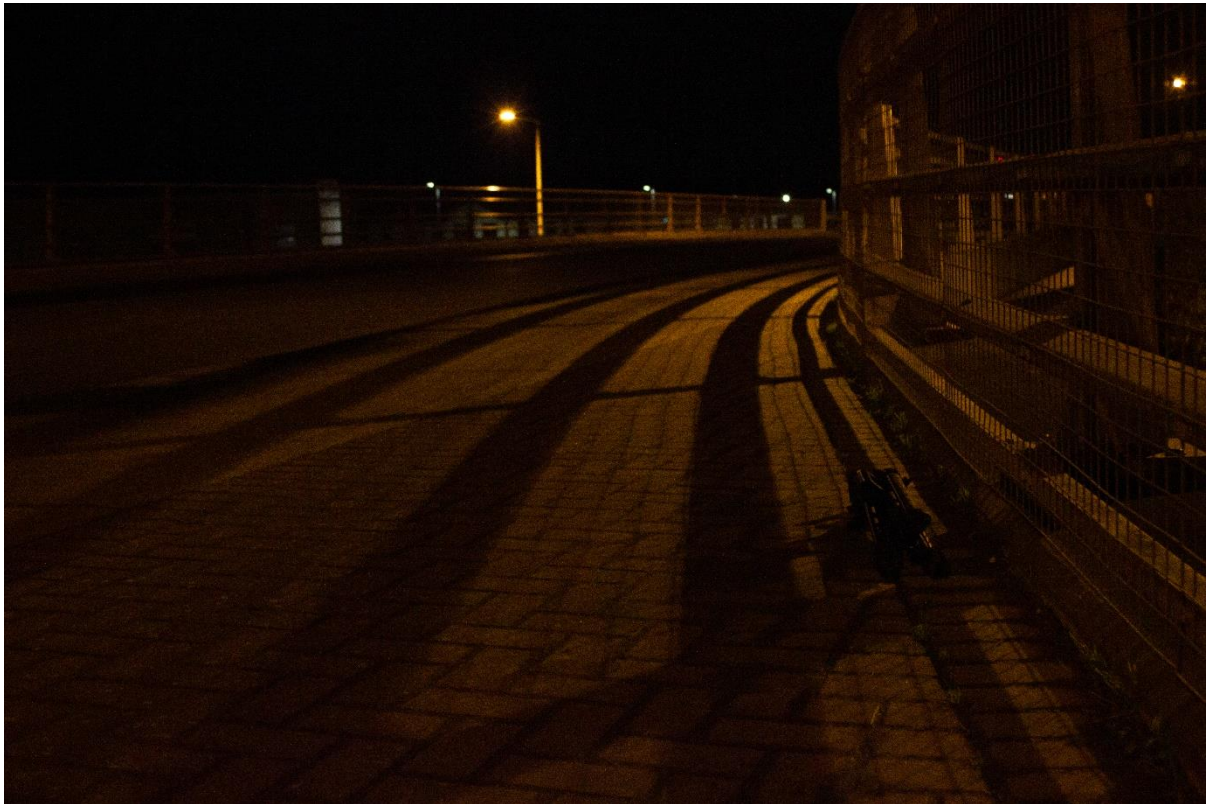
Workplaces close. What they leave behind is an empty shell. A dead, abandoned looking piece of land.

Artificial light shows the workers the way home. Is that it's only job? To guide people into isolation? A runway into Lonely airport.

I stand there and wonder if I too have been guided by the very same lights. I'm however unable to come to a conclusion, and move on, move forward.

“Covering up”

1/60 f4.5 ISO3200 28.0mm



Crossing bridges. There may be a busy road underneath, but on the surface, everything is calm and empty.

There may be cars rushing home underneath the road. All that matters is that up above, on that bridge, it appears to be calm, normal looking.

...

I'm comparing myself to the scenery around me again. I should go home already. Thinking too much is bad for you.

“Localised Thoughts”

A1/40 f3.5 ISO6400 28.0mm



Bus stops. They're packed during the morning commute.

This graffiti reminds me of how not everything is not as it seems.

Professional transport contrasted by some poor graffiti.

It reminds me that other people do exist in this world. If their actions affected me right now, then have my actions ever effected anyone else?

Has anyone seen me? That I don't know.

I dodge the question and continue forward.

“Empty Sights-1”

1/100 f5.6 ISO3200 28.0mm



Everyone's gone, which is not surprising. This place had a line so big you would see it from a helicopter, since the pandemic closed it and people needed things.

Now it is just like everything else. Just another empty place.

The Christmas lights only add to the loneliness.

“Empty Sights-2”

1/100 f5.6 ISO6400 28.0mm



Like the previous place, this also had a massive line. Hardware stores are really popular during a lockdown. To be honest, the shop itself looks like it's locked down. Abandoned. Like every other store.

Just another empty space.

You know, it sure is a shame I didn't take part though. What was I even doing that day? I don't remember.

I leave the place and continue forward.

“Highway to Nothing”

1/100 f5.6 ISO6400 28.0mm



Empty roads. Even the main roads look dead.

Is this what I look like to other people? Empty? Even though the road is usually filled with traffic? Full, bursting, yest everything is gone. It's creepy.

Ah. I did it again.

Old habits die hard, I guess.

I leave the road back to it's nothingness.

"A Safe Space among darkness"

1/80 f5.6 ISO3200 28.0mm



To my left is a shopping center. The only sign of life is the empty washing machine station.

It reminds me of a campfire in a dark forest. That one symbol of warmth and safety. The only thing giving you direction.

I see myself in that. An object that contrasts the scene it's in. Sticks out like a sore thumb. Yet I never get to look this welcoming.

Maybe I'm the problem?

“Morning Street”

1/80 f5.6 ISO6400 28.0mm



Empty roads.

I'm almost at my end.

The light still guides me, showing me the path forward. Just like the cars in the morning.

Why can't I do that?

“A Final Corner to the Finish Line”

1/30 f3.5 ISO3200 28.0mm



The last road home.

I'm almost there. At my own safe space, guided by the same lights that everyone else was.

In the end, the lights echo throughout my vision. A mocking act.

They know I need them, yet they mock me for it. So what that I am alone? I can deal with that just fine.

I can guide myself into the daylight.

Eventually.

Fin.

Critical Evaluation.

I tried to convey my inner emotions in this project using the scenery I'd usually see on my way home from work. I do think that I achieved that goal. The images that I took do indeed convey that feeling thanks to the composure and the post editing process. Those type of landscape shots are my kind of bread and butter, so I knew what I wanted to make of them.

Some of the criticism I can give myself is that only started working on the project in the last week of the deadline. That wasn't very clever, and is an example of how I should time manage better. The pictures could have also used a lower iso setting to reduce the noise in the images.

Besides that, I think that I showed off my ability to compose an image really well. The rule of thirds really did help me out in the image taking process. I had an image showing off how I could make a DOF photo but it didn't make it into the final 10 images.