

First impressions:

I wanted to go back to my childhood and the characters and buildings where I lived then. This being impossible I had to adopt a different approach. Now living in an untidy 1970's council estate I struggled to find inspiration. Rather than try and find the good I decided to show the ugly!

Inspiring practitioners:

I was attracted to [Tom Hunter's *Persons Unknown*](#) and [The Ghetto' Street](#) collections where he invites people to look at life from the outside in. See more in [Future Development](#) below.

[Gawain Barnard](#)'s [Journey by Train](#) shows skill, luck and well planned/precise timing capturing images taken from the inside of a train travelling at speed. He's given thought to framing and shutter speed prior to discovering his subjects.

[Tina Barney](#) creates documentary images of her family and friends living a wealthy, luxurious life (compared to Tom Hunter's poorer subjects). The mix of high colour and rich surroundings were inviting even though the faces of most subjects were expressionless! I read an interesting interview with BOMB Magazine which can be seen in my [Learning Log](#).

I looked at fellow OCA students, discovering [Jodie Taylor](#), Level 3 BA (Hons) Photography student. Jodie became my greatest inspiration for this assignment. Her [Memories of Childhood](#) proved you don't need to photograph the 'good' and get perfect images to produce credible work.

Technical approach

I used a Canon 6D with 100-300mm or 55-200mm lens or a Canon 1000D with 18-135mm lens. More details are provided below, under each picture. Not all of my images were taken on auto since I started Project 1 before the Exercises, realizing too late that auto was preferred.

On this occasion I chose not to edit my images, but frame them with a border. I wanted them to remain raw in keeping with the nature of the ugly/abandoned story I have tried to tell.

Review:

Once I'd decided what I wanted to photograph the worrying bit for me was putting it together. In the end I decided to do it my way and await feedback from my tutor that I can learn from for future work.

Images 6&7 were better composed but the sun was strong that day, streaming across the frame. Struggling to focus on auto I was tempted to go to manual but remembering the brief repositioned myself. On reflection I should have changed the settings and captured the image with the light (as I saw it in my mind's eye).

Future Development:

I liked the way Tom Hunter puts himself in the frame in "The Ghetto" street. His 3D model is built with images shot at dusk looking into neighbour's homes. Members of the public and media don't need a permit to film or photograph in public places in the UK so it's not illegal to shoot from outside in without the permission of the resident. I am hopeful to apply this style in a future assignment.



1. Pillar of the Community
Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 135.00mm
1/60, f/5.6, ISO200



2. Pedal Power
Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 135.00mm
1/60, f/5.6, ISO200



3. Not the Centre of attention
Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 135.00mm
1/80, f/5.6, ISO200



4. Feline Friend
Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 126.00mm
1/200, f/8, ISO200



5. Cat Shelter

*Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 60.00mm
1/200, f/10, ISO200*



6. For recycling

*Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 135.00mm
1/60, f/5.6, ISO100*



7. Take me to the tip

*Canon EOS 1000D, EF-S18-135mm lens, focal length 135.00mm
1/125, f/7.1, ISO100*



8. Travelling Den

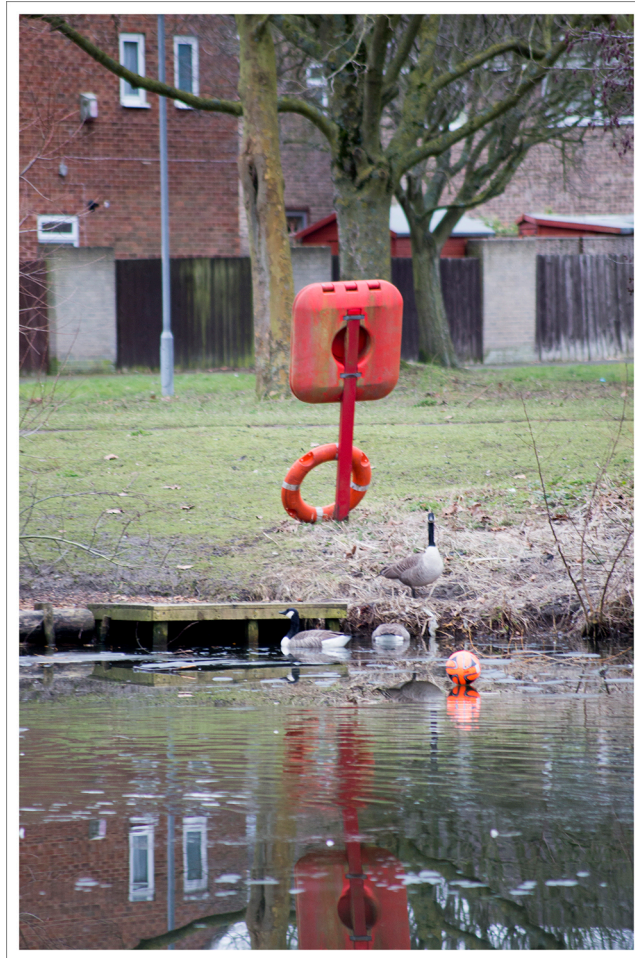
*Canon EOS 6D, 55-200mm, focal length 55.0mm
1/125, f/4.0, ISO800*



9. This trolley can't swim!
Canon EOS 6D, 55-200mm, focal length 55.0mm
1/125, f/4.0, ISO400



10. Morrison's special
Canon EOS 6D, 55-200mm, focal length 200.0mm
1/125, f/5.6, ISO800



11. Goose Game
Canon EOS 6D, EF100-300mm, focal length 300.0mm
1/160, f/5.6, ISO640



12. Freeze Frame
Canon EOS 6D, EF100-300mm, focal length 200.0mm
1/125, f/5.6, ISO640

Please see my [learning log](#) in support of this project.