

Photography three - Sustaining Your Practice
Evaluation – Reflection

Student - Kieren Welch

At the start of this course my goals were to improve and expand my body of work and to develop as a practising artist. I planned to disseminate my hugely improved body of work by establishing relationships and networks in the art world. Creative decisions regarding the presentation of this work while engaging a public audience would have to be carefully researched and considered. I also planned to improve my business and interpersonal skills so that I could eventually make the transition from a student to professional practicing artist.

My tutor Clive was keen on me to continue making new work. I thought it was a good idea and a slight change in direction gave me more creative options and installed a renewed enthusiasm for my project. By the end of the course my project had changed considerably only keeping three of my original photographs (enhanced in Photoshop to a much higher standard). Here are some examples of my enhanced photographs made at murder sites in my local area.



A 27 year old man was shot and killed in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire on 28th September 1990.



A teenage girl was murdered in Midsummer Common, Cambridge on 24th August 1876.



78 unnamed people died in a barn fire in Burwell, Cambridgeshire on 8th September 1727.



An unknown number of tribesmen were killed during the Battle of Wheathampstead in 54 BC. It's thought British losses would have been significant as it led to the surrender of the Celtic tribes in Britain to Julius Caesar (Gallic Wars).

The newer images stayed faithful to my central concept of traumatised landscapes but now included historical battlefields. I switched to digital capture to give myself greater flexibility with equipment and lenses (a new wide-angle lens proved to be outstanding). Here is some of my recent work. My style has evolved with natural beauty and abstraction starting to become more prominent. I feel like my original portfolio was heavily influenced by the New Topographics.



Hundreds of Vikings were slaughtered including King Guthrum II (King of the Danes) during the Battle of Tempsford in 917 AD (Britons, Saxons and Vikings).



An unknown number of soldiers and civilians were killed during the The Siege of Hertford Castle between the 12th November – 6th December 1216 (First Barons War).

I continued to build my knowledge of professional contexts relevant to my practice and explored ways to enhance my development as an artist. I visited photography exhibitions and looked at many books.

Throughout the course my tutors' feedback helped me immensely. I would consider it and then make changes to improve my work for each assignment. To evidence this I always post my original work and then the improved work for the relevant assignment blog post.

I considered all my options for producing a publication, should I make a book, project specific website, or put on an exhibition? In the end I did all three. I think this came about due to the enthusiasm I have for my new work. I created a physical book and then also published it digitally online using IMag. My project specific website is now online and features a gallery of my work and information relevant to the project. The address is www.conflictmemorylandscape.com.

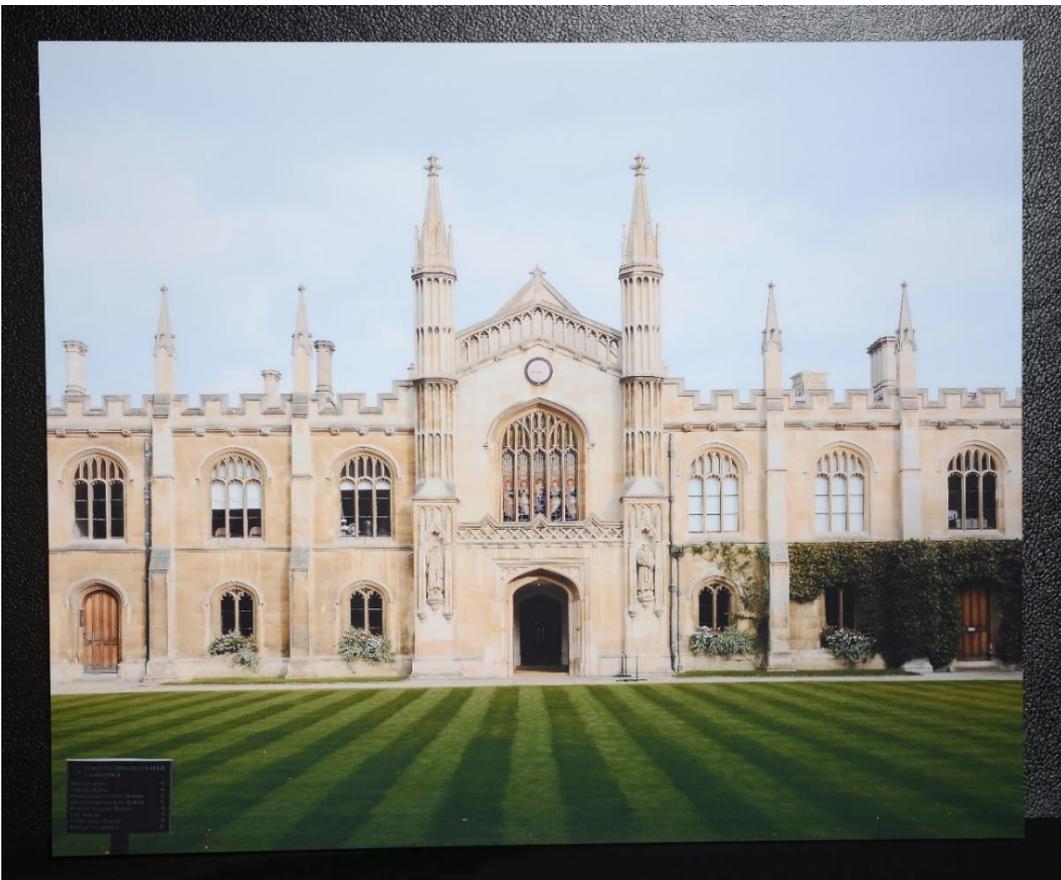
Organising a public exhibition was much harder than I anticipated. Trying to find the right venue that was available and willing to show my work was a massive challenge for me. Several possible locations had to be abandoned for various reasons. I managed to overcome these hurdles and my exhibition was successfully held at a local library. It gave me the opportunity to make some big mounted prints. Viewing the larger physical prints gave me great pleasure. They were 24" x 20" inches in size and printed on Fuji Velvet [flat matt] c-type photographic paper. They were mounted on 3mm foam board and displayed without frames. I was incredibly happy with how they looked and felt confident to show them in public (the first time I had showed my work in public). I was disappointed that I would not be able to show these finished prints to assessors as they show a marked improvement in the quality of my work. Here are some examples of the finished and mounted prints.



An unknown number of soldiers and civilians were killed during The Siege of Hertford Castle between the 12th November – 6th December 1216 (First Barons War).



More than 3000 men were killed or injured during the Battle of Northampton on 10th July 1460 (Wars of the Roses).



On 15th June 1381, Corpus Christi College in Cambridge was attacked. The college itself was burned and many royal officials were killed. (The Peasants Revolt, 1381)

After successfully completing my publication, I am now looking at another newer display option, the virtual art gallery. A German website www.kunstmatrix.com appears to offer a platform that allows you to display work in a three-dimensional virtual gallery setting. I believe this is an exciting opportunity to publish my work online in these difficult times. As with everything this takes time so I will complete the assessment requirements before starting this new project. I am always looking for opportunities to show my physical work publicly and I already have a talk and presentation booked for next year at a local museum.

This course has helped me to consider and implement creative ideas to improve the presentation, marketing, and dissemination of my art works. It has given me the confidence to transition from student to professional artist. I now feel fully prepared to establish myself as a professional working artist in the wider world.

To finish I would like to show three more of my finished images. Assessors will be able to get an idea of the quality of my prints here but please refer to my digital images on my blog and submitted for assessment to get an idea of the clarity, sharpness and technical quality that I have attained throughout this course.



Hundreds of Vikings were slaughtered including King Guthrum II (King of the Danes) during the Battle of Tempsford in 917 AD (Britons, Saxons and Vikings).



6000 men were killed or injured during the 2nd Battle of St Albans on 17th February 1461 (Wars of the Roses).



More than 3000 men were killed or injured during the Battle of Northampton on 10th July 1460 (Wars of the Roses).

Word count (minus titles) - 771