

**Tutor Report**

**Student Name:** Robert Burton  
**Course:** The Art of Photography

**Student Number:** 498099  
**Assignment Number:** 2

*My Student responses to Klaus' Report are written in blue, as per Assignment 1*

9<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Robert,

Congratulations for the submission of your second assignment.

Firstly, apologies for the delay in my reply. As I am a MAC user, I couldn't open your disc until I found some access to a PC and could print out the document. If you are planning to use a Word document again, I actually prefer it if you would also additionally supply Jpgs of the images in case I would like to have a closer look, as pictures once imported into Word are very small and compressed.

Altogether your submission is very good and you have created a very neat and thorough piece with very good and useful annotations and sketches.

Picture 1 is a great, simple yet effective, classic close up on a petal. The complementary colours are beautifully sumptuous, the focus spot on and your composition, using the golden section, adds to the success of the image.

*Noting focus spot on from assignment 1*

Example 2 is also a fine image without any technical flaws. The entire rose stands out nicely crisp against the electric blue background. In fact, the crispness of the rose combined with this perfectly even background make it look quite artificial a bit like a

photo montage – at least on the printout that I have. Your annotations are saying everything else that is worth mentioning – I have nothing to add. It's a very nice photo and fulfils the colour brief perfectly well.

*Noting that the rose looked like a montage, I want to ensure that it really wasn't. Further positive comment about sharpness and the magnifier purchased for the viewfinder really is working and has helped improve tremendously.*

### Example 3

This image looks a lot more natural than the last. The beautiful flower head stands out fantastically against the dark background, which has nice some structure to it, appearing to be blurred petals. The flower head itself is super sharp throughout and has wonderfully rich colours that stand out against the dark background. Your description and diagram of the composition explains the well balanced composition very well. This is my favourite image so far. What I like about it is that the subtle detail in the background and also the cropped flower in the foreground loosen the composition and remove it from a visible studio set-up. The lighting on the flower also creates areas of slightly lighter and darker areas – increasing the natural feeling of the image.

*Noting the improvement from assignment 1 in depth of field.*

Example 4 is very similar in its set-up to the image 2, but you have chosen a more close-up view of the rose. The lighting on the rose is very even and the whole flower is in crisp focus. The contrast between rich orange and the blue is a very distinct feature of the image. Again it looks quite artificial to me – but that is not a flaw!

## Colour Harmony though Similar Colours

Example 1 is a very successful colour composition for this brief. I like the diagonal dynamic across the image as described very well by you. The image is technically flawless with all fruit being in sharp focus apart from the courgette at the bottom. Well framed and composed.

Example 2 is a very nice close crop of two roses. I like the fact that you used a lower depth of field – in fact for my taste it could be an even narrower depth of field, leaving the back flower even more blurred. The colour brief is corresponded to very well. Your crop created a well-balanced composition as described by yourself. The soft lighting matches the soft curviness of the petals.

*Noting whilst I have been concentrating on the focus and depth of field this type of image would have been better as Klaus describes with the background flower being more blurred and less intrusive. The colour would have then played a larger part.*

Example 3 is a nice composition due to your crop into the foliage with the diagonal line of the main branch going through the shot. The colour brief is served very well. Your annotations and sketch say it all.

Example 4 is really a fantastic catch! You caught the bee on the flower head just at a right moment. I very much like the low depth of field which leaves both foreground and background out of focus yet the entire main flower and the bee are wonderfully crisp. The colour brief is served very well, the image has a neutral tone and the colours are rich. Cropping the image to square format definitely makes for a balance composition, which has an element of symmetry, yet I wouldn't call this a

‘symmetrical composition’ as one of the main subjects, the bee, is placed sideways on one side of the image. A very nice shot!

*Noting the comment on ‘symmetrical composition, I have fully understood the comment from Klaus and in future will be mindful of a composition that has a symmetrical element as apposed to being fully symmetrical.*

Colour Contrast through contrasting colours:

Example 1

As you point out yourself, the set up is very similar to some of the images before. It’s a nice image with colour contrast, which is as strong as it can be! The effect of the light green stem against the dark green background also adds to the success of the shot and maybe it is this similar colour relationship that makes this shot look much less artificial than the ones against the blue background.

Example 2 is also a very similar set up. Your composition is simple and well balanced. The colour brief is definitely responded to very well due to the contrast between orange and the green. Remarkable, how the veins of the leaves seem to have the same orange colour than the background.

Example 3 is a successfully set-up arrangement for the colour brief, well photographed without technical flaws. In fact the arrangement here is really the main ‘star’ of the image, the camera has added nothing such as blurred, out of focus areas or noticeable camera angles. It’s a good response to the colour task but as an image, for my taste, I find it a bit bland and ‘over-arranged’ and would almost like to see a ‘messy’ alternative with the string and the scissors thrown in a pile on the coloured background trying out different close up crops.

*Noted comments*

**Alterations Made and subject re-photographed:**

Content now dropped on to backdrop, literally! As ‘messy’ as I could, different close ups produced using a close up B&W glass filter. I think Klaus is spot on and perfectly right, these two are in response.



#### Example 4

This image is definitely too dark. I can barely distinguish the features as you describe them on screen.

*Noted: apologies but the image file was corrupted on the disc provided! I do not know why this happened and it is a technical fault I could not rectify. It was too late for this assignment. I will triple check this in the future, however I will not be submitting work in this format as Klaus obviously has difficulty accessing it.*

*This was how it was meant to look:*



Colour accent using any of the above.

Example 1 is a very nice find, well-spotted for this occasion. I like the natural feel of the image and the low depth of field works successfully. The berries make a great colour accent.

The same goes for the next image, example 2. You spotted a very nice scene for this brief and it is photographed technically flawlessly. I like the soft lighting and the way you framed it makes a well-balanced composition.

Example 3 is also a nice response to the colour brief, very well executed and composed with rich colours.

Very well done altogether and congratulations again!

Apart from the image that is too dark, all your images are technically very well accomplished and the images show that you have a good sense of composition. Some of your images, I personally find a bit over composed resulting in quite lifeless images, for example the scissors still life and also the last image. These very same subjects could also be photographed in a different more dynamic way, for example through more close-up macro views or low depth of field or unusual camera angles. You obviously have a good grasp over technical issues – now you might want to be more experimental and adventurous with your camera!

*Noted comments and in the following projects and assignment on Neighbourhoods I tried to do just that.*

However, as said above, it's a great submission as it is and I look forward to seeing your next set of images. Let's set 10<sup>th</sup> January or earlier as the deadline for the next assignment. A very happy Christmas season to you and a happy New Year!

Klaus.

**The main points for learning from assignment 1 included**

- **attention to format and cropping - this time around improved**
- **depth of field control – many comments by Klaus on the improvements but be cautious about some subjects that don't need front to back sharpness, it depends on the story being told.**

**The main points from this assignment were:**

- **find more dynamic ways, different angles and be more adventurous.**
- **Check files don't corrupt.**
- **Don't over arrange and try to make subjects more natural.**
- **Watch terminology i.e. symmetrical composition as apposed to symmetrical element in the composition.**