

Tutor Report

Student Name: Robert Burton

Student Number: 498099

Course: The Art of Photography

Assignment Number: 3

My Student responses to Klaus' Report are written in blue, as per Assignment 1&2

27th January 2010

The main points for learning from assignment 2 included

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

Dear Robert,

Congratulations for the submission of your third assignment.

It is great to see how your photography skills continue to progress – as is evident by this series of images!

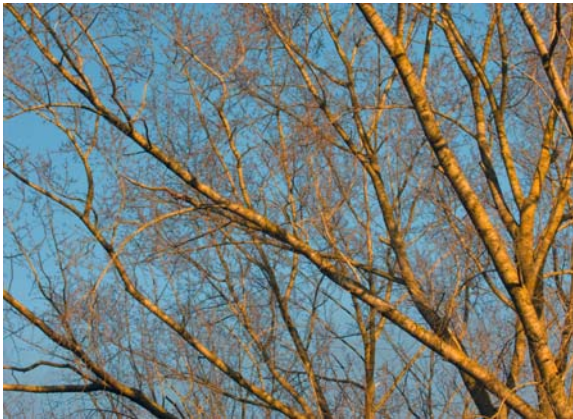
Many thanks for taking on board my suggestion to submit jpgs which gives me a much better image quality to look at. There are no annotations to images and the images don't have recognisable titles, nor do I know if they are meant to be in a specific sequence, so I will describe them so you know which one I talk about.

1/ DSC_5371_Window_light



The close up of the chestnuts is a beautiful image. It works through your crop into the clutter of nuts and you placed the one that shows its upper side just to the right of the centre. Which gives accent to an otherwise even pattern, thus makes a well balanced composition. The soft lighting and warm tone of the image go well together in modelling the shapes of the nuts.

2/ DSC_5566_cool_colour_temp



The image of the trees against the blue sky works well through the contrast between the warm red-orange against the colder blue of the sky. Again your composition works through a simple crop into a pattern of multiple objects in this case tree branches. It's a nice image but this is a case where you could have been more experimental with your camera and still catch the contrast red against blue, i.e.

through a closer crop or a lower or wonky angle or the use of distortion through a wide-angle etc.

Attempt made to do a closer crop and produced as follows with stronger diagonals.



Another alternative response with a wide-angle shot demonstrates Klaus' point and is produced here:



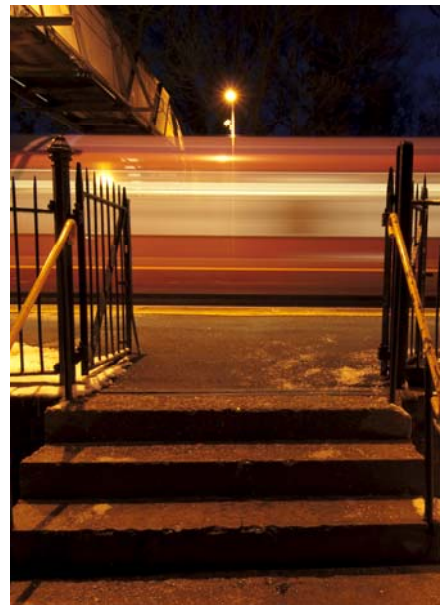
3/ DSC_5781_Pine



The close up on the snow-covered fir tree branch with the sunlight hotspot is very beautiful. Could be a nice postcard or even Christmas card? It is technically well accomplished as you caught the highlight well and all the other areas of the image are also well exposed. Apart from the light, the low depth of field sets the branch off against the background very well.

4/ DSC_5757_Ambient

The train going through the station is a very nice image. To me, it evokes winter evening commutes... I like the symmetrical set-up and the orange/red tone together with the visible remnants of snow give a 'wintery' feeling. The colour cast could be reduced slightly but I personally also like as it is. The motion blur gives a good feeling of speed.

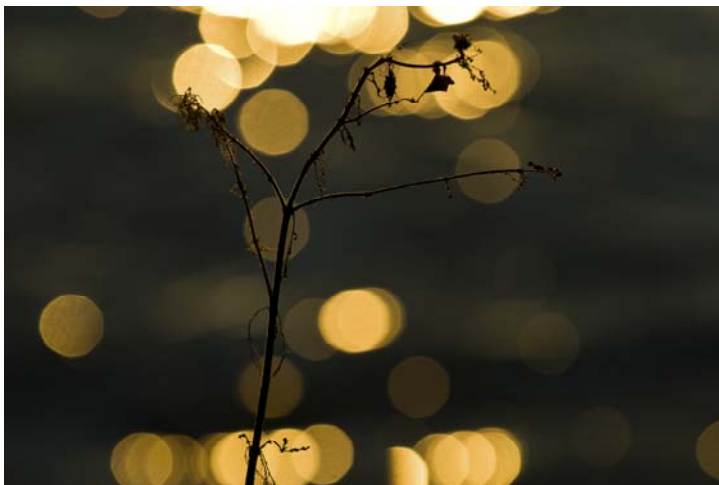


5/ DSC_5807_Leaf



The image of a thin twig with one wilted leaf is great and one of my favourites from this submission. I like this type of simple images, which focus on small detail, making it the main subject of a beautiful image. That is one of photography's specialities. The image works so well through the out of focus background and also the back lighting that illuminates and gives glow to the leaf and the drops and which gives rim light around the twig's outline. In view of image content it is also nice to have sprouts on the same branch as the dead leaf.

6/ DSC_6216_Silhouette



Another image shows a dead twig against a very blurred background showing the typical circles left by light spots in areas very much out of focus. Again you have a very nice rim light on the twig, which is otherwise mostly a very dark silhouette, which works very nice in this image, yet the twig does not stand out quite as distinctly as in the previous image.

Noted and I fully respect the tutor's comments

The next time I see this opportunity I will try taking a number of frames to get more of the bright light spots, where these occur it seems to make the twig stand out more as apposed to the areas where there is a darker background.

7/ DSC_6506_mixed_colour_temp

The next image shows a row of trees with the hill behind, separating an expansive open field from the sky.



It's a wonderful and very clean landscape composition, which roughly corresponds to the rule of thirds, meaning that your horizon line divides the composition into an area that is split $2/3$ to $1/3$.

The orange/red colour on the trees and hill stand out fantastically. The clouds make a beautiful and dramatic sky. A very nice landscape image.

8/ DSC_6503_dawn



Another landscape view shows a silhouetted hill and trees against a red sky. This is another great landscape view, despite the horizon line not being straight, the image also roughly corresponds to the rule of thirds. The dramatic sky shows great gradient from red glow to blue. The fact that the trees are silhouetted works as beautiful contrast to the glow of the sky.

Noted: The comments made twice now about my horizon lines in landscape images not being straight and once more Klaus the tutor could not be more accurate. I am aware of this problem and I have been for some time. I have tried spirit levels on the camera which help, but for some reason I find it very hard to see in the viewfinder. I will work on this further.

9/ DSC_6627_contrast_light

Once more, you managed to catch the breakthrough of the sun in a very successful way in the next image, which shows the sun behind snow-covered trees with a fence in the foreground.



Student comment: This is evidence of a change in my image capture where I have taken on board the tutor comments and tried to be more adventurous from assignment 2. Here with a lower camera position and turned 45 degrees using a wide angle lens. The sun deliberately placed behind the barbed wire.

Tutor comment continued: The image is well exposed and the way the sun hits the bits of snow on the fence is a great addition to the shot. Your wonky angle contributes in a major way to the success of the composition.

10/ DSC_6562_hot_Colour_temp



... and one more time you caught the sun bursting through, in the next image, which shows a snow covered landscape in an all over great, cool blue tone. The patterns of light on the snowy ground and also the position of the clouds almost suggest 'rays' going round the sun. Again, the trees that cover the sun are showing as silhouettes, which works fine as a contrast against the brightness of the sky.

11/ DSC_6812_Shade_and_colour

The next image shows a small section featuring the door of a blue and red train in the distance of a beautiful snow-covered landscape. Very well spotted and caught! The snow covered trees look sensational and the blue sky amazing. The section of the train provides an effective colour accent in this otherwise delightfully monochrome setting. The horizon line runs more in the middle of the frame in this image and whilst I definitely don't think one should stick to composition rules at all times, I wonder if it would have been better to lay it just a bit lower and get a bit more height

into the shot? However, the scene really is a great find and well caught in the photograph.



Alternative Image re tried post the tutor comments with more height and horizon lower, it certainly adds more to the picture.



12/ DSC_6781_side_light



The last image shows snow covered trees against a blue sky with some nice white clouds. The portrait format here works well in depicting a feeling of height and the tree on the right is specifically well illuminated through sunlight. The fact that you cropped the tree with the image frame contributes to the success of the composition.

Congratulations once more. Very well done altogether. This is a great series of images and you very successfully made use of the spectacular winter weather conditions. As before, your images show a good sense of composition and a good eye for spotting photo opportunities.

What I meant with exploring your camera is that you can use it even more for creating more interesting views, such as in the image of the fence where your image is spiced up through the camera angle. As I said last time, the same subjects can always be photographed in different ways, for example through close up macro views or low depth of field or unusual camera angles.

I look forward to receiving your next assignment. Let's set the 22 February as the next deadline.

All the best and much fun with the continuation,

Klaus

Learning points

The main points for learning from assignment 2 included

- **Find more dynamic ways, different angles and be more adventurous using the camera. – Evidence of learning was in image 9 above with the fence, but as Klaus the tutor points out with image 2 I could have tried different angles and lenses. I will continue to work on this.**
- **Check files don't corrupt. – Image 3 corrupted in producing this work and I have checked and amended it.**
- **Don't over compose and try to make subjects more natural. All the images here I have tried to be more careful with composition and image 5 The leaf goes some way towards that natural look.**
- **Watch terminology i.e. symmetrical composition as apposed to symmetrical element in the composition.**

The main points for learning from assignment 3 to take forward include obviously the points the tutor has made to me in assignments 1 and 2, but also:

- Pay attention to horizons – I know this problem and will try to pay more attention.**
- With the silhouetted images of the twig against the sun reflecting in the water behind I will be more aware of the need to make the subject stand out against the light spots more as apposed to letting the subject blend too much into the back ground.**