



Open  
College  
of the Arts

## Formative feedback

Student name	Wendy Rose	Student number	515908
Course/Unit	Expressing Your Vision	Assignment number	2
Type of tutorial	Written / Audio-Visual		

### Overall Comments

Ambitious and very agreeable stuff, Wendy, and I really like the way that your accompanying text introduces the assignment: highly engaging, personal and extremely thoughtful. The stylistic means through which you've decided to explore and represent 'deafness' are also really interesting and point to someone sufficiently confident in their technical abilities to engage with difficult and emotive issues. Even just *attempting* to represent such a subjective experience is laudable, but there's more than just endeavour to take note of here.

### Assessment potential

#### Assignment 2 Assessment potential

*I understand your aim is to go for the Photography Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback.*

### Feedback on assignment

#### **Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity**

- This assignment underlines that, while related, there's an enormous difference between deafness and silence. Whereas silence might imply tranquility, you've run as far from the 'placid' as possible with this assignment and produced a set that is underpinned by chaos and disorder.

- The photograph of the TV screen is fab, particularly after reading what you've got to say about it in your notes. An assignment within an assignment here, or at least an idea worth exploring?
- I don't think that the image of you with your hands over your ears is needed: in its own right it's ok, but it does seem to add an unnecessary note of melodrama that *potentially* could lead to the set being read as self-parodic. The point that you make with it was adequately covered by the other images in the set, and it's just a little heavy-handed. It seems like you might have had a sudden (and quite unwarranted) lapse of confidence in your ability to express your ideas more subtly.
- The work is clearly, as you comment in your notes, intended to think about anxiety as well as deafness, but I do wonder if anxiety dominates just a little too much. You've certainly represented one side of the experience of deafness, and clearly a particularly challenging one at that, but I think it would be useful to consider how you might show other aspects of the condition. As depicted here, it seems as though to be deaf means to be in a perpetual and very stressful state of 'high alert'. While I don't doubt that stress and anxiety are things that many deaf people will feel, I think it would have made for a slightly more rounded set if you'd considered a wider gamut of experience and situated deafness in more 'mundane' everyday life. Yes, you're aiming to show a particular part of deafness- 'the frustration, the blur, the confusion, and the danger', as you put it- and have largely done an intriguing and very committed job, but what else is there?
- What you've produced here is fascinating, promising, sincere, heartfelt and touching, but a (bit of a devil's advocate!) question that I have to ask is, If someone else had produced the work and you hadn't read the accompanying text, would you necessarily have made the link with deafness? Likewise, while deafness is the focus, I wonder if this project *maybe* says more about your own feelings towards it at this particular point.
- This is ambitious, thoughtful, well-considered and very engaging stuff, and does a very pleasing job as an early assignment. But at the same time, I wonder if it's a start as much as it is an ending- this could well be the first serious fruition of a great idea.

## Research/ Learning Log

### Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Really interesting and engaging stuff. The thinking that's underpinned this assignment is critically engaged and also highly personal, making for a compelling and very readable set of notes. If I were to be a little picky, I'd like to have seen the odd reference or two to wider literature in this field, whether that's a bit of academic research or the testimony of others who experience deafness.

Your research for the assignment includes some really good stuff, but a little bit more in the way of reflection/ depth would be welcome. Also, I'd have liked to see you look at more photographic work that explores deafness/ health conditions that mightn't obviously lend themselves to photography.

## Suggested reading/viewing

### Context

Take a look at Werner Herzog's 1971 documentary *Land of Silence and Darkness*, which explores the world of Fini Straubinger, a deaf person who was also blind. There's a version on Youtube that is in Russian with Spanish subtitles, which on the face of it seems like a bit

of a hassle, but might actually be an appropriate way to watch the film. (it's also available on the BFI's site, which is currently offering a month's free subscription).

## Pointers for the next assignment

These first two assignments point to someone who is extremely dedicated, ambitious and unafraid of taking risks. Both assignments have clearly also come as a result of much sweat and toil, and there is a sense of someone really pushing and exploring here. It's *really* nice to see you investing so much in everything. Keep pushing and taking risks and make sure that *any* research you do is adequately reflected on. Photography is, I guess, ultimately about showing people how we see the world. but it's *vital* that we consider wider viewpoints as we research and prepare any work.

Tutor name	Andrew Conroy
Date	13/11/17
Next assignment due	Tutorial on <b>Weds 24th January at 11am</b>