

Personal Study Plan

Define the objective or focus of the essay:

“Portraiture through History” Looking and analysing at how the photography of people has changed through time from the Victorian black and white to today’s selfies on our phones. Starting with Nadar’s work from 1850s with the black and white film with stiff faces to Cindy Shermans incredible modern self-portraits with bright colours and varied expressions.

The relationship between the practical work and the focus of the study:

For my project, I am planning to explore portraiture, with a specific interest in different expressions and poses. I believe researching and analysing at how portraits have changed through time and looking at different artists that I may not have heard-of or seen the work of will be inspiring for development stages within my project and will inspire me to take in account different ideas of expressions and poses to use during my own photoshoots. I want to look at how portraits from the 19th century with such serious and stiff photographs differ from today’s phones having over a thousand pictures in our gallery in so my different situations, expressions and environments. Therefore, the focus of this study heavily relates to my project and will make my work for developed and inspired.

Sources to be used:

Books (at least THREE):

“Portraits in Series – A century of Photographs” – Kerber

“Portraits” – Steve McCurry

“The Dramatic Portrait: The art of crafting Light and Shadow” – Chris Knight

The Theatre of the Face: Portrait Photography

Websites:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/about/photographs-collection>

<https://www.travelphotographyguru.com/travel-blogs/portrait-photos-why-make-them-and-why-are-they-so-important>

<https://independent-photo.com/news/the-best-portrait-photographers/>

<https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/1045A6#full-artwork-details>

Other sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziPd2rOdNYo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xodchi64IGs>

List the pieces of work that you will analyse in the study. Identify reasons for choosing these particular pieces and points that may be highlighted in the analysis. Mark the primary source/s with *

Name of piece:

Reasons for choice/Points to be raised:



Nadar's Portraits

Nadar is one of the most well-known early portraiture photographers taking old black and white pictures with his models look serious and stiff as these pictures were often very rare and professional thing. That was seen as a picture of identification more than artwork.



Rory Lewis Headshots

Rory Lewis is recognised for his head shot pictures and portraits of celebrities, politicians and the military. He uses a dark background often with a vignette and a very well-lit studio. He uses different poses and still quite serious professional expressions during his shoots.



Cindy Sherman

Sherman is known for her abstract self-portraits, where she investigates themes of pop art and layering onto her photographs. A huge contrast to Nadar's portraits as well as Rory Lewis

Visit/s made/to be made:

Photographers Gallery - London

Possible conclusion/s to the study:

In conclusion, I believe that portraits have changed drastically through time from stiff posture and serious faces to experimental abstract artwork with bright colours and unusual expressions. The art of portraiture is so different from what was because of our new technology and how used we have gotten to having a portable camera in our pocket. Photography is no longer always professional now we use it to document our lives and store our favorite memories.