

SNAPSHOT

BITE SIZE PHOTOGRAPHY TUTORIALS

BY CAROLINE DYAL

Artist Research - Image Deconstruction



Artist Research Image Deconstruction

Relevant artist research relating to your 1st
Photo shoot Links Visually / Technically / Conceptionally



Photographer's Quote:

"I have always been fascinated by the poetic condition of twilight and it's transformative quality. It has the power of turning the ordinary into something magical and otherworldly. My wish is for the narrative in the pictures to work within that circumstance. It is that sense of in-between-ness that interests me." <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/gregory-crewson/>



Gregory Crewdson Context:

Crewdson's work draws the viewer into this surreal twilight world where there is a feeling of suspense and anticipation. His work combines his childhood memories with his passion for sci-fi films. He elaborately creates large scale movie sets to produce an everyday scene of American homes and neighbourhoods and then transforms these mundane homes into surreal and cinematic narratives. Crewdson's work inspires me to create a feeling of anticipation and tension within my own work.



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Content:

The genre is tableau photography. Crewdson has taken the portrait of a model lying in a flooded lounge. The location looks like a suburban home however the image looks carefully staged and lit like a studio set-up. He has taken the image for aesthetic qualities and borrowed the composition from Millais's painting *Ophelia*, 1851-52.

The image is surreal and subjective inviting the viewer to create their own story and ideas behind the image.

IMAGE DECONSTRUCTION

Gregory Crewdson, *Untitled (Ophelia)*, 2001



Form:

The dominate formal elements are line showing the structure of the stairs in the centre of the image. The colour is strong showing the reflection of the room in the water and the light shining through the windows.

The focal point is the model lying in the centre of the image your eyes then are led to the stairs leading up into the left top corner.

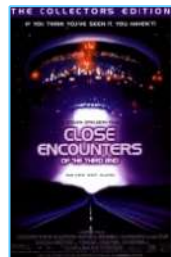
The image has carefully been framed and constructed. The image looks like a film still taking out of the context of a movie.

The vantage point is taken from above the model, looking down so she looks vulnerable.

Inspiration:



Composition borrowed from Millais's painting *Ophelia*, 1851-52



Cinematic images that strongly reference TV programmes such as The Twilight Zone or films such as Close Encounters of the Third Kind

Mood:

The composition is borrowed from the classical painting by Millais's called *Ophelia*, 1851-52. The lighting creates a surreal twilight mood. The image explores the relationship between the domestic and fantasy. The carefully constructed scene and lighting creates this other worldly feel to the image. The overall mood to the image is cold, anxiety and isolation.

Process:

The photograph has been taken in a studio built room using studio light. As it was taken under studio lighting made to look like it is twilight time, the magical hour.

Crewdson has constructed the scene carefully so that he gets everything correct in the shot and does little editing and processing after the image is taken.

He spends weeks planning and complicated, behind-the-scenes production.

Elaborately staged film set.

He uses a large format camera 10x8 to capture maximum detail and quality sets the camera to a large depth of field, linking to F64's group ethos.

Response and Connection:

Gregory Crewdson's work has inspired me through is elaborate and carefully framed compositions. I particularly like the element of suspense he creates within his images alluding to a story behind the image. I plan to take a new shoot at twilight to use the magical hour to create eerie and surreal images.