



Open College of the Arts

# Learning Log

## Photography 2

### Documentary



**This is part 6:  
Part Six: Preparing for assessment**

**Student**

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Cover photo  
*Landscape: 50mm, f/16, 1/50s, ISO100 (HDR +- 2 stops)*

# 1. Part Six: Preparing for assessment

## Introduction – 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2017

This document is part six of my learning log which I keep for the course Documentary. This course is part of the BA (hons) Photography degree programme of the Open College of the Arts (see [www.oca-uk.com](http://www.oca-uk.com) for more information). This learning log is like a journal, a logbook, a workbook, or a notebook I created to document my learning.

- This learning log is structured according to the chapters of the course-book (OCA, 2012). Also, each entry in the log is dated and the entries are mostly in chronological order.
- All images in this learning log are my own work (© Maurice Timmermans) unless stated otherwise.
- Focal lengths are always 35mm equivalent focal lengths (efl) unless stated otherwise.

## Reading: *Studio Anywhere* – 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2017

Have been reading the book by Nick Fancher. It is a how-to book. The book is about getting professional results without owning or renting a studio with expensive lighting equipment. All you need is a full frame DSLR, a decent lens and a few speed lights on light stands. A very inspiring book. So I tried some lighting scenario's myself.

Used one speed light zoomed @105mm, ¼ power. Ambient light was changing fast. Made use of the blossom leaves on the ground (looks like pink snow).

IMG\_1840, rating = 5



IMG\_1791, rating = 5



IMG\_1844, rating = 5



IMG\_1836, rating = 4



Single image narrative (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/13-1.3s, ISO100 (unedited files)



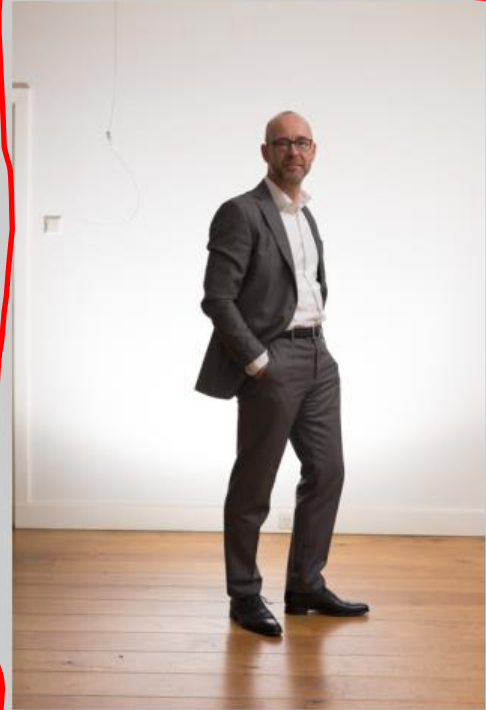


*Single image narrative (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1.3s, ISO100 (edited version)*

IMG\_1912, rating = 3



IMG\_1863, rating = 3



IMG\_1969, rating = 3



IMG\_1899, rating = 3



*Fashion style (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/160s, ISO100-200 (unedited files)*

Two speed lights 1/4-1/2 power. Bare, shoot through umbrella and pointed at the ceiling.

Reflection: the *Studio Anywhere* approach results in a lot of work in post.



*Fashion style (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/160s, ISO200 (edited file)*

This is my favourite of the four portraits.



*Fashion style (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/160s, ISO100 (edited file)*





*Fashion style (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/160s, ISO100 (edited file)*



*Fashion style (self-portrait): 50mm, f5.6, 1/160s, ISO200 (edited file)*

**Practising: Business portrait – 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017**

Made a portrait for business use. Aimed for a friendly, bright and dynamic depiction.



*Business portrait: 50mm, f/8, 1/125s, ISO100*



*Business portrait (bonus image): 50mm, f/8, 1/125s, ISO100*

**Practising: Portraits of Isabelle – 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2017**

Portraits of Isabelle. Tried different styles. Enjoyed working with bare studio light; high contrast which suits the black and white clothing well.



*Isabelle: 50mm, f/8, 1/125s, ISO100*







*Isabelle: 50mm, f/5.6-f7.1, 1/125s, ISO100*

The above images were made with a studio light with a shoot through umbrella.

**Practising: Landscape – 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2017**

Reference to Andreas Gursky (Germany, 1955).



*Landscape: 50mm, f/16, 1/50s, ISO100 (HDR +- 2 stops)*



Reflection:

- Aim was to produce a minimalist landscape image. Creating a meta-structure, a composition in which the viewer can see details (if the image is displayed on a large format). The image is about the horizontal lines in the landscape created by the freshly cut grass left to dry on the land.
- There was an annoying gradient in the sky from left to right (darker on the right) which was at first difficult to remove in post. Method: Select, Color Range...



*Abstract Landscape*

Using the same image, selecting a column 200-300 pixels wide from the image which has been motion blurred (15 px). Then stretching these pixels to 2.39:1.

Reflection: the above image only shows the meta-structure, but the viewer will still try to “see” details in order to make meaning.

### **Status update on assignments – 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2017**

As a preparation for assessment I made this status update of assignments 1-5 together with a description of my ideas for how to submit for assessment.

For assessment I want to submit a variety of techniques; I want to show the assessors images I have printed and matted myself and books which I design myself (producing a pdf) but have it printed and bound elsewhere. There are some prerequisites: limited budget and the work must be suitable for sending to the UK by mail. For me preparing for assessment already was part of the assignments and this work was logged and documented in the learning logs for parts 1-5.

#### *Assignment 1*

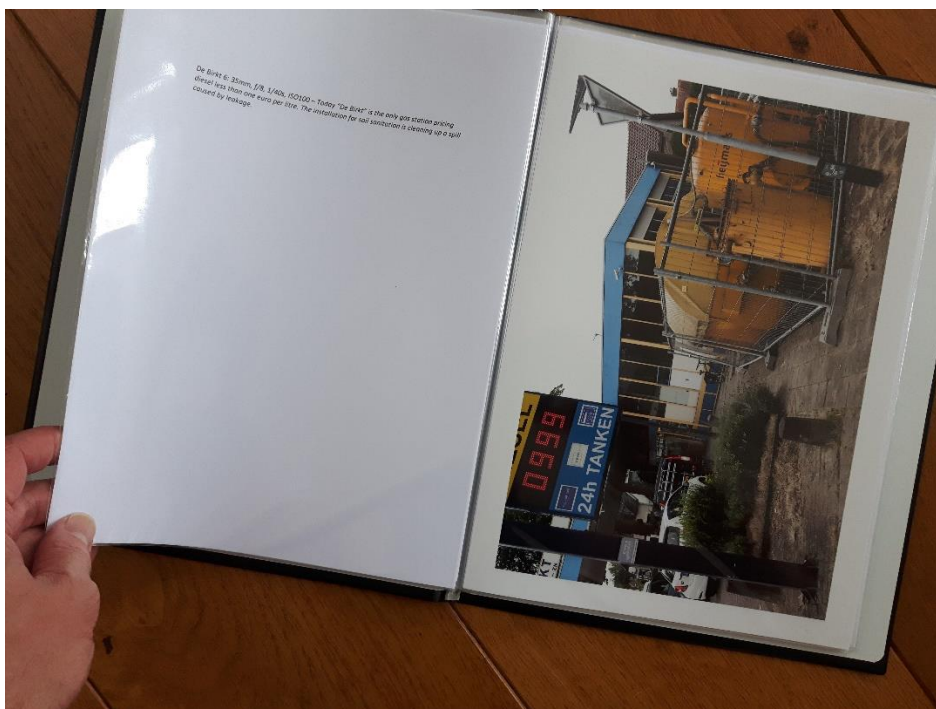
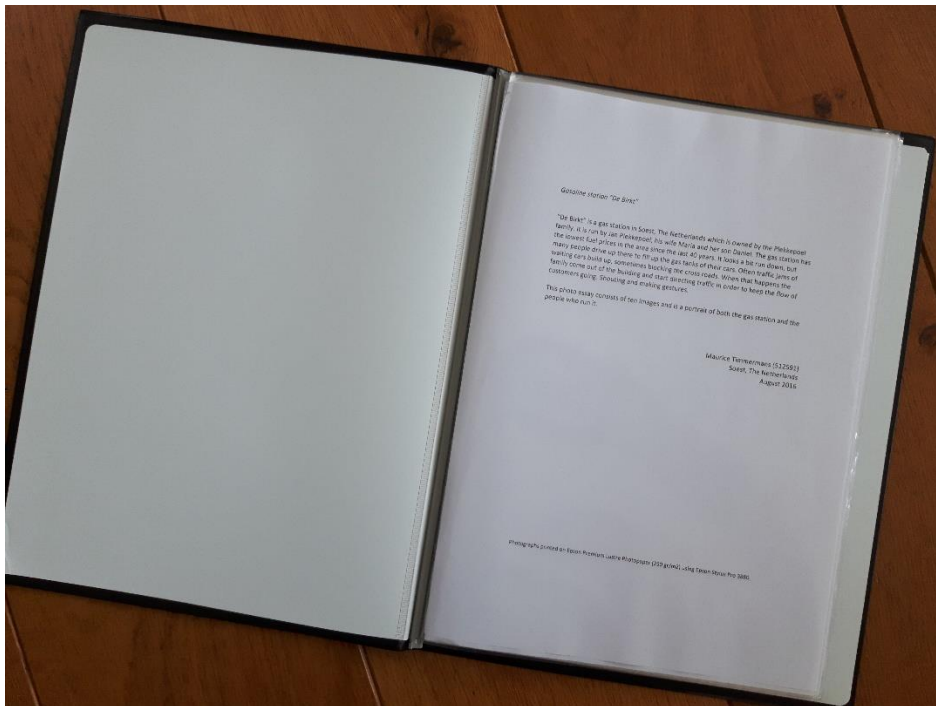
You can see the work here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.wordpress.com/portfolio/assignment-1-fillingstation-de-birkt/>

And the learning log here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/learning-log-maurice-timmermans-512591-documentary-part-1-of-5.pdf>

This work needs accompanying text for each image. I decided to submit this work for assessment in the same form as I sent it to my tutor. The images are printed on A4 Epson Premium Luster 250 gr/m2 using my Epson Pro 3880. The images are bound in plastic folders in a black A4 size "book".



*Presentation of A1 result*

Ideally I would envision this work to be presented as prints on a gallery wall. For assessment this is an OK alternative which enables the assessors to review my colour management and printing skills.

## Assignment 2

You can see the work here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.wordpress.com/portfolio/assignment-2-fatherhood/>

And the learning log here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/learning-log-maurice-timmermans-512591-documentary-part-2-of-5.pdf>

The assignment was to present the result on a website. For assessment I also want to submit the work printed in a large format (as large as is practical in the mail). I decided for prints matted in 40x50cm. This presentation is appropriate for single image narratives because each image is viewed separately. I will submit the eight matted images without the aluminium frame in the image below.



*Presentation of A2 result*



### Assignment 3

You can see the work here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.wordpress.com/portfolio/the-surveillance-of-mrs-t/>

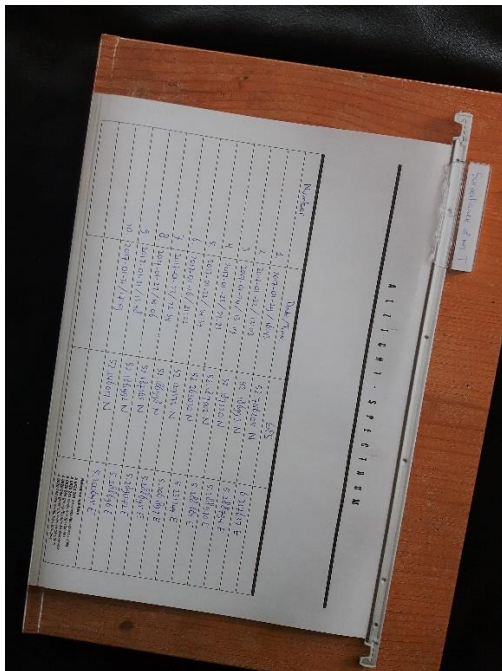
And the learning log here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/learning-log-maurice-timmermans-512591-documentary-part-3-of-5.pdf>

The final result (book) can be seen here:

<https://www.fotofabriek.nl/preview/?id=30B058FC71C4008E0FF94F0E5A5A1CD1>

The final result was realised after extensive rework of the book design and re-shooting the folder.



(Cover)



Presentation of A3 result

#### *Assignment 4*

You can read the essay here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/timmermans-512591-documentary-part-4-of-5-essay-version-3-0.pdf>

And the learning log here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/learning-log-maurice-timmermans-512591-documentary-part-4-of-5.pdf>

I will submit the essay for assessment in the form as required by OCA (all annotated versions printed and as Word-files).

#### *Assignment 5*

You can see the work here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.wordpress.com/portfolio/assignment-5-you-cannot-not-communicate/>

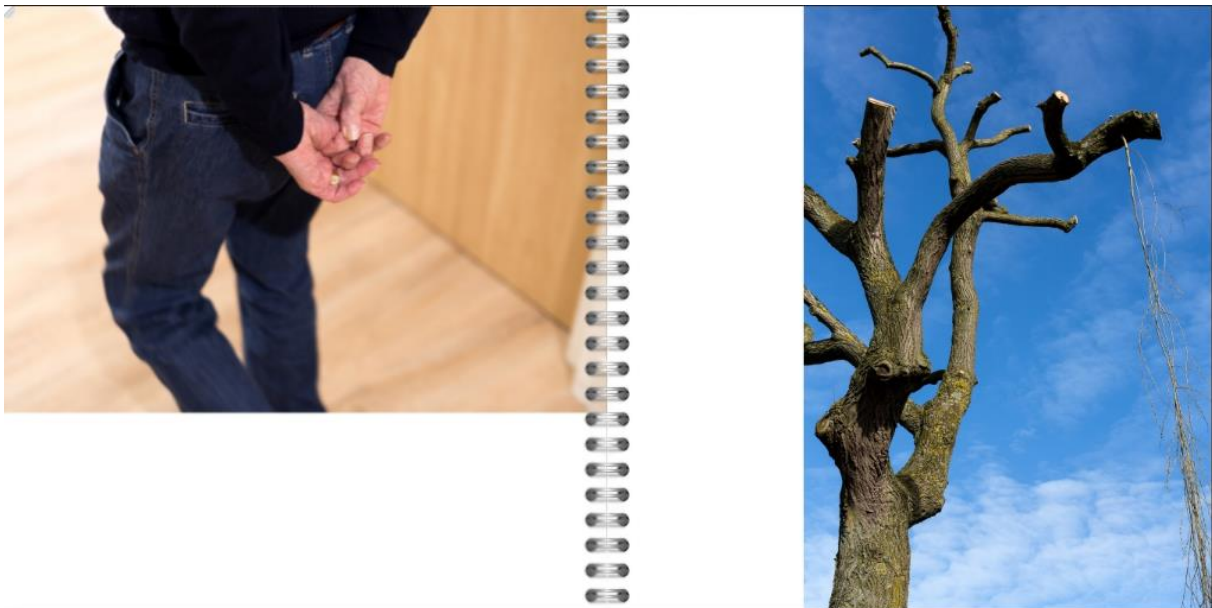
And the learning log here:

<https://ocadocumentarymauricetimmermans512591.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/learning-log-maurice-timmermans-512591-documentary-part-5-of-5.pdf>

The final result (book) can be seen here:

<https://www.fotofabriek.nl/preview/?id=5F8ABAC049549B9EAE087BCA9B0FD8A>

I ordered the book from fotofabriek.nl today, which I will submit for the November assessment.



*Presentation of A5 result*



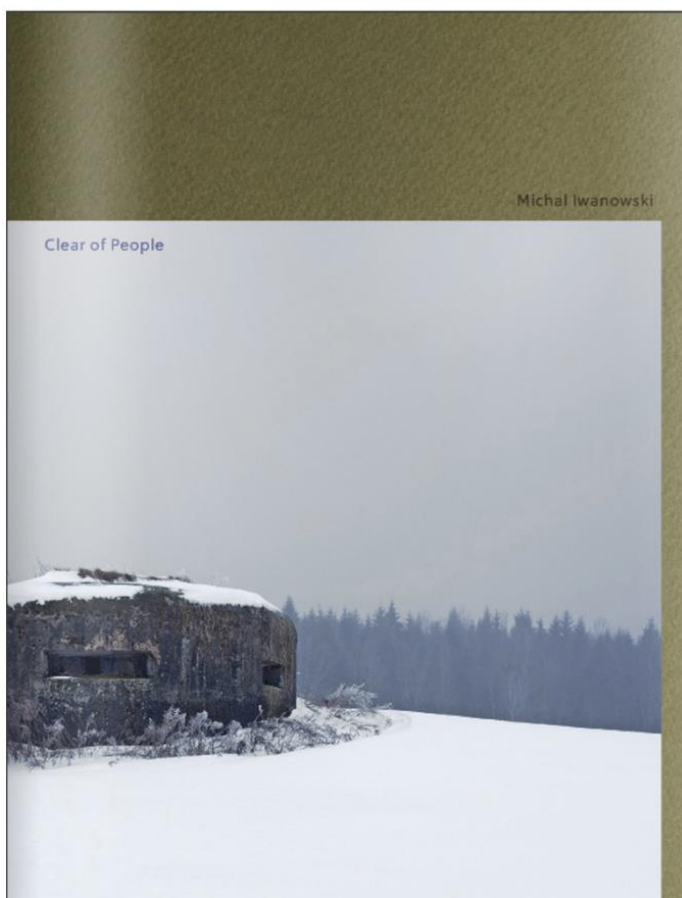
### Reflection on tutor report – 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2017

I want to say thank you to my tutor for her report. These are my reactions / conclusions / what I learned from the tutor report.

- Thanks for the compliments in “Overall comments” and in “Pointers for the next assignment / assessment”.
- I have added the word “rework” in the subheadings of the learning logs for part 3-5 as suggested by the tutor. Furthermore I have made references in earlier entries to the rework section at the end of the learning log (as suggested).
- Thanks for the suggestion of using portfolio boxes and protective print sleeves. I will keep that in mind for future projects (for example Body of Work).
- When doing level 3 courses I will remember to do elaborate image analysis and elaborate reflection on work of contemporary photographers (as suggested by my tutor).
- I have studied and will continue to study the design of photobooks. Thanks for the suggestions in the tutor feedback. I have studied them and have taken some ideas for possible use in future projects.

The *Fotofestival Naarden* earlier this year awarded the Dutch Photobook Prize. The submitted books and the nominated books were on display. I studied the design of different photobooks when I visited the festival.

- I very much enjoyed this course and I plan to do documentary / portraiture for the course Body of Work. I have already started my level 3 courses and the online version of the learning logs can be seen here: [www.ocaphotographylevel3.mauricetimmermans.studio](http://www.ocaphotographylevel3.mauricetimmermans.studio).



*Example of a book design suggested by tutor to be studied*

## 2. Reference list

- OCA Course-book (2012) *Documentary*. Document Control Number: PH2doc050213. Barnsley (UK): Open College of the Arts
- Fancher, Nick (2015) *Studio Anywhere: A Photographer's Guide to Shooting in Unconventional Locations*. San Francisco (USA): Peachpit Press. ISBN 978-0-134-08417-6