

## CEP 882 - Module 1 Photography Assignment



My inspiration for this photo is nature and my love of flowers. People that know me well know that if I were extremely wealthy the one thing that I would have delivered to my home everyday would be fresh flowers. I don't really like fake flowers that much, but I found this vase and flowers over Christmas and decided to buy them for myself. My outside interest is to decorate my house and make it more homey and inviting. While taking photos (my chosen form), of my subject I was trying to get my viewers to focus in on the simple things in the photo (Orwig). I have surprised myself because over the last month I have come to like my fake flower arrangement. I like the red colors of

the flowers mixed with the green leaves and I like the contrast they add to my family room. I also like that they make a very nice Christmas decoration.

The first photo is a simple Christmas vase with a fake flower arrangement, standing by a typical stairway. I believe the vertical lines of the stairs, the thick line of the newel, and the lines on the flower arrangement all represent a consistency in the photo. The steps create lines (horizontal) in the opposite direction. I believe the lines create a balance effect that with the colors (greens, reds, blue, and browns) all create a pleasing visual aesthetic appeal/function (Eisner, p. 26, 29). Another aesthetic appeal is the desire to create beauty in ones' environment. Also, the patterns of the flowers and lines are supposed to create a dynamic effect (Guidelines for Better Photographic Composition). Using the rule of thirds, I shot the flowers off centered.

For the second photo my motivation is to create a more stimulating effect for the viewer. I isolated the flower vase (my primary subject), from the background by using shallow depth-of-field, also call the bokeh effect. Also, the depth of field I used reduces the clutter (Orwig). I attempted to focus on just the on the flower vase and the arrangement and vertical lines of the stairs and newel. For me the aesthetic value of the subject created by using bokeh creates a more meaningful experience. Though the experience is more meaningful, it is also simpler. By focusing only on the subject, the viewer hopefully has a new way of "seeing" the flowers. This new way may bring back memories of their past or a desire to spend more time with nature. It could also help one to recall flower or Christmas scents that they have not recalled in a long time. As Eisner said, "The

aesthetic is one important source of stimulation.” (p. 29). Perhaps that is why at my family Christmas party, two people commented on how pretty my flowers were.

### Works Cited

"Creating Compelling Photographs | Peachpit." *Peachpit: Publishers of technology books, eBooks, and videos for creative people*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jan. 2014.

Eisner, Elliot. "Aesthetic Modes of Knowing." 23-36. Print.

"Guidelines for Better Photographic Composition." *Photography Composition Articles Library*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jan. 2014.