

Paige Quinn: Visual Essay

Project Summary

Music Visually: Word and Song Association to an Image

Every aspect of artistry goes hand in hand. For my visual essay, I chose to examine the association between photography and music. Audibly or visually, both of these mediums provoke the same sensations or feelings to their audience. In photography, there are visual principles in which help establish a meaning to an image. For example, a shot taken at a higher level conveys the notion of power. This is because the viewer feels larger than the subject being photographed. Similarly, music and songs have the same effect. When you hear an upbeat song with encouraging words, you feel empowered. This is because it is targeting you and imitates your emotions. Thus, for each image I have taken, the photo's title is a song. The meaning conveyed through the camera position or space used in the image, is matched to the meaning of the song. Music is one of the most impactful things on an individual's emotions. Whatever you are feeling, there is a song for it. It is not as apparent, but an image can impact a person's emotions as well. Say you are feeling down, and you see a photo of a cute dog by Elliot Erwitt. Chances are, you will feel slightly better. I think this makes my visual essay more interesting as it brings awareness to the psychology behind photography and the effects it has on its viewers. I think this topic is relevant because we are living in a digital, social media age right now. Applications such as Instagram or Snapchat, have allowed individuals to post whatever they desire. While this can be a good platform to have a voice and be creative, it also provokes issues like cyber bullying. By knowing the impacts an image can have, users can now become more aware of the way images can make people think and feel. This will avoid offensive content and teach us to be more attentive. I think my topic original because I am using my favourite songs that provoke the feelings described in each image. This makes it extremely personal and specialized to me. However, I hope my visual essay enables its viewers to observe these feelings portrayed and connect them to music that resonates with them, to help create a better understanding of the images.

Camera:

- Canon EOS Rebel SL1
- iPhone 11 (used for image 05 only, to capture a more 'worms eye view')

"Charlie's Whales"



01: Linear Hallway. Deep Space/One-Point Perspective (Block, 14-18), Low Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 188-190)

I use the song *Charlie's Whales* by *HM Surf* to study. This is because it is extremely calming and makes me think in one perspective. My mind stays in one place.

"Electroman Adventures"



02: Statue on Geometric Table. Flat Space (Block 43-44)

The song *Electroman Adventures* by *Waterflame* is from the popular game *Geometry Dash*. The song is very simplistic, geometric, and two dimensional just as the image appears on the screen.

"Chicken Soup"



03: Mother Peeking Around Corner. Limited Space (Block, 52-54), Medium Close Up (Bordwell and Thompson, 189)

The song *Chicken Soup* by *Skrillex* starts off with a fast upbeat rhythm that quickly turns into an intense, electronic beat drop. This relates to the idea of 'peaking around the corner' and not knowing what you will find. The difference between the middle ground and foreground in the image represents the clear separation between the beginning and the rest of the song.

"Yes I'm Changing"



04: Man Running Through Life-Size Cage. Ambiguous Space (55-57), Medium Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189)

The song *Yes I'm Changing* by *Tame Impala* is a psychedelic song. In the song, the image and through ambiguous space, it gives the illusion of the distortion of reality.

"Bohemian Rhapsody"



05: Deep Space/Three Point Perspective (Block, 22-23)

This three-point perspective image represents the many directions in which the song *Bohemian Rhapsody* by *Queen* takes. It makes me feel indecisive and all over the place, in the most beautiful way.

"High on Life"



06: Man Walking in Open Field. Extreme Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189-190)

Walking in a large, open field provokes the feeling of freeness. The song *High on Life* by *Martin Garrix* does the same for me.

"La Vie En Rose"



07: My Dad. Close Up (Bordwell and Thompson, 189)

The close-up camera decision conveys closeness. The song *La Vie En Rose* by *Louis Armstrong* is one of my father's favorite songs, in which I hold dear to my heart.

"Roar"



08: Man Looking Up from Under the Stairs. High Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 188-190), Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189)

The high angle in this image depicts the idea of empowerment, as do the lyrics in the song *Roar* by Katy Perry.

"When the Party's Over"



09: Man Doing Handstand on Structure. Low Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 188-190), Medium Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189)

The low angle of this image makes the viewer feel vulnerable, as does the song *When the Party's Over* by *Billie Eilish*. When I listen to this song, I feel sad and weaker. The stance in which the man in the image is in, also makes me feel uneasy.

"Pursuit of Happiness"



10: Mother Looking Down at Me. Tilted or Canted Shot/ Dutch Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 189), Low Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 188-190)

The strange beats during the song *Pursuit of Happiness (Nightmare)* by *Kid Kudi* make me feel disoriented and unsettled. Much how the titled shot does as well.