FIN 201 VIDEO + SOUND 2

Independent Project Critique

Constructively Critique your Colleagues’ Artwork

**Student Name (conducting critique): Joslin Sanger**

1. DESCRIPTION

* Title of the work: All With Time
* Artist’s name: Nathan Fontaine
* Medium and duration of the piece: video, 1.58 min.
* Basic technique(s) applied:

Green screen, single channel video

1. Describe the subject matter (3-6 sentences).

This video shows an Oma and Opa (grandparents) with several clocks ticking within changing scenes. It tells the story of the past by using pictures of the subjects then takes us into the present with their hands on the bible, hands adjusting the clock, writing on a napkin and dressing. The story of this video leads the watcher to understand the effect that time is having on this couple. Although there is a steady ticking of a clock in the sound effects, towards the end the ticks grow faster as perhaps time is getting closer to the end of the grandparents’ story.

1. Describe the 3 main elements that stand out in the work and how they are functioning

*(ELEMENTS: line, color, space, light, shape, framing, camera angle, timing or rhythm, composition)* (5-8 sentences)

The rhythm of the ticking clock is very prominent throughout this video and functions to set the mood and also to allow for the story of aging to come through. The clocks create unity in shape and also allow for the story to progress. The round shapes of the clock faces and the round clock attachments all create this unity.

Light is used effectively through its reflection off the old pictures, clock faces, and the use of the faded background that mirrors the image in the video. Light helps to lift the images which are mostly dark but in each scene there is light to shine through.

Space is used to bring all the items together to help tell the story of the past and the present. In some scenes, many objects are together, such as clocks, photographs, while in other scenes there is only one main object focused upon, such as the bible. This functions to give variety and pulls the eye in many directions, then in only one.

1. ANALYZE
2. Analyze how these main elements are functioning, what moods they evoke, what story they are telling (3-6 sentences).

The mood of the story is nostalgic as well as sad. It evokes these modes through the images of the past, sound and images of the many clocks, and the grandmother and grandfather in the video. The story it is telling is that time is moving from the youth of the couple to the golden years. The ticking clock brings with it the sadness that time is limited yet the viewer understands many of the moments in their lives with just a brief video (for example, the bible indicating religion, the picture of the young couple together showing love, the war picture).

1. Identify the point(s) of focus of the work (3-6 sentences).

Most of the attention in this piece comes from the images that are created in mini vignettes showing the life of the grandparents, with the images of clocks unifying the focus throughout. The moving parts of the clock and the sounds are emphasized along with the brief shots of the present moments of the older couple doing everyday things such as drinking tea, reading the bible, dressing. The camera often closely focuses then fades with background shots superimposed. The eye is drawn towards each of these shots as they move quickly to tell a story of a long life. These are meant to capture attention for these short moments, then move on to other scenes.

1. Look for themes in the work (3-6 sentences). What type of symbolism or signifiers are utilized to portray a message or mood. What are the repeating images or motifs within the work.

The clocks are symbolic of life and the ticking of time as humans age. They are repeated throughout the video by short repetitions with sounds of ticking and images of various clocks. They help to create this nostalgic mood and give both happiness for a life well lived and sadness for the time that may be left.

3. INTERPRETATION

1. Try to identify the purpose of the work (3-6 sentences). The artist is trying to say that time does not stand still. I feel the artist created this work to give homage to his opa and oma (as dedicated in the final message). I feel that the artist wished to show the life that they have made together. The message is that we must appreciate life in all the different times and live our lives to the fullest. We should appreciate it for ourselves and also for our loved ones.

4. EVALUATION

1. What qualities of the work are successful? (3-6 sentences) Explain your positive evaluation, point out the specific strengths and include

The work was very successful in its flow that was able to tell a story through images and sound in a short time. The different scenes were beautifully filmed to create a motion between each shot. The use of faded backgrounds added to the mood and created interest to the viewer. The different clocks also added much interest as they were all woven together to link the past to the present. The use of light lifted the work that could have been much sadder and instead made it more hopeful and reflective.

1. What elements of the work could be improved? Offer feedback on what can be enhanced in the work, give specific (and kind) reason (3-6 sentences).

The scenes were quite quick which in most cases helped to move the film forward successfully but the scene with the napkin and the writing was too quick and difficult to understand what she was writing and why. Perhaps that was intentional to make the viewer more curious. The quick scene of the house by the ocean seemed somewhat out of place and could have been tied into the story by having one of the grandparents outside.

Overall the pace of the work and the beautiful imagery created a very successful work that was greatly enjoyed.

…..and always end with a kind and positive endnote:)