

Personal Study Plan

Define the objective or focus of the essay:

"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for." ~ Georgia O'Keeffe. I will analyse how through the composition of my photographs and watercolour paint I can close borders between plants and humans conveying the significance of both life forms.

The relationship between the practical work and the focus of the study:

I am planning to photograph natural forms, such as flowers and leaves. I plan to explore how colour can be manipulated and how natural forms can be symbolic anatomically and convey desperate meanings. I will look at how Karl Blossfeldt focused on textural and contrasting details in his magnified, monochromatic photographs of plants and flowers, to reveal their intricacy and 'architectural' qualities. I will also look at Imogen Cunningham's botanical photographs; however, she focuses on the abstract beauty of the flowers, revealing a layer of intimacy from the proximity between the lens and the flowers. Painter Georgia o Keefe draws on female anatomy in her close-up paintings of flowers, which I will evaluate by paint and colour in the practical project. For example, in my practical work, I will transform the original photographs from colour to black and white, and level the contrast, print and tear a piece of the photograph, and paint the missing fragment of the flower/plant in its original colour. By doing this I want to explore a variety of plants and relate them anatomically to humans (veins in a leaf/veins in a hand), and close the border between nature and humanity, while also exploring how colour is representative of life, which by painting fragments of the photographs, I am bringing them to life through my eyes. I will draw inspiration from photographer ... whilst photographing different body parts such as hands and eyes.

Sources to be used:

Books (at least THREE):

Karl Blossfeldt: The Alphabet of Plants.

Georgia O Keefe: a hundred flowers

Robert Mapplethorpe: Flowers

Karl Blossfeldt's Urformen der Kunst (1928)

Websites:

Imogen Cunningham's sublime close-up botanical photos from the 1920s and 30s
<https://flashbak.com/imogen-cunninghams-sublime-close-up-botanical-photos-from-the-1920s-and-30s-433347/>

Karl Blossfeldt – why his flower photography still matters.
<https://theshelfist.com/karl-blossfeldt-why-his-flower-photography-matters/>

<https://www.georgiaokeeffe.net/flower-of-life-ii.jsp>

Other sources:

...

List the pieces of work that you will analyse in the study. Identify reasons for choosing these particular pieces and points that may be highlighted in the analysis. Mark the primary source/s with *

Name of piece:	Reasons for choice/Points to be raised:
Flower of Life II, 1918 by Georgia O'Keeffe	Art style / relation between the flower and female anatomy conveying deeper meaning. Multiple interpretations of the painting.
Acanthus mollis, 1928" by Karl Blossfeldt	Close up, intricacy of the photograph, all details visible. Sharp contrast and magnified image. Used as scientific research.
Magnolia Blossomc, 1925 by Imogen Cunningham	Mirrors human anatomy, conveyed through the proximity of the photograph. Natural lighting used to create contrast
Visit/s made/to be made: ...	
Possible conclusion/s to the study:	

In conclusion I will evaluate the validity of the statement, "I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for." I will look at how Karl Blossfeldt used contrast and light in his photos to convey the structural elements of natural forms, which I will relate to the structure of the human body, and how Imogen Cunningham and Georgia o Keefe tried conveying deeper, symbolical meanings through the composition and colours of their photographs/paintings, which I will evaluate through watercolour painting.