Tutor report

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<th>Student name</th>
<th>Simon Allard</th>
<th>Student number</th>
<th>487150</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course/Module</td>
<td>Printmaking 2</td>
<td>Assignment number</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Type of tutorial</td>
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**Overall Comments**

Dear Simon,

Thank you for sending me your fourth assignment in the post.

I note that you have slightly missed your original deadline of January, as discussed. I am also aware that you wanted to meet deadlines due to your course end date pending, so please try not to let deadlines slip at this stage as you have done so well to meet them with all the other assignments and there are only two to go.

All prints were well organized and easy to navigate through your labelling system.

I enjoyed reading your learning log which was very humorous in places, particularly surrounding the selfies, your own identity, how you are perceived and how you would like to be perceived. Your description of yourself rather reminded me of the character Mr Pooter in Diary of a Nobody (no offence).

The prints show a great deal of experimentation and creativity. The hand-coloured etchings are really quite striking. You have really pushed yourself out of your comfort zone learning the new technique of etching and this has paid off due to building on your skills in drawing and painting.

_I understand your aim is to go for the Creative Arts Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback._
Feedback on assignment

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity

Project 1 - Portrait of a friend

A lot of preliminary work done in the run-up to your friend’s portrait. Interesting to read that you asked his permission to use the photographs found on the Internet. More importantly, did you ask the photographer who took the portraits?

The final print certainly gives off an air of a friendly, happy person and so it is good to read that your friend is like that in real life. I can see that you have also captured the identity of celebrity in this image, as you have embedded this aspect within the conversational text. You have added an air of intrigue, as you do not reveal his name in the image, but get the message across that the friendship is more important than the celebrity status and something to be cherished.

Project 2 – Self portrait

This set of prints did not come across as experimental as your previous project above, however, it was still very well executed. I am also noticing a very strong consistency throughout all of your etchings which shows how much you have improved over the course of the assignments to date. Border spacing and ink consistency are strong and print 2/8 (etching) has a lovely softness to it which matches the facial expression.

The aquatints are exceptionally good for someone who has never tried this technique before. That you are doing all of this from scratch at home is also commendable and you have adhered to health and safety advice throughout.

Print ¼ really shows off your skills and the work you have done regarding chiaroscuro. There are some beautiful textures here. It is a shame that ¾ is not quite as strong as the first two although as you say, it is unpredictable and this is what can make it so challenging.

The final set of aquatints were well rescued! I really liked the approach of having one clear, piercing eye and the rest of the portrait very vague. I think this image has great potential and one to consider in future assignments.

You comment on the size of the prints (approx. A6) due to the size of the materials purchased and the size of your printing press. I once had a student who based the size of her images on how many she could fit under her bed in her flat. So please, consider the size which is relevant to the meaning behind your prints. I thought that it was wonderful that you had carefully packaged up each set of prints in its own little cover and that you had added a preciousness about the prints by placing them all in borders. This, to me is the version of events I perceived, much like the gallery exhibition you attended.
whereby you saw the irregular shape of the print complimenting the nature of being washed up on a beach.

**Assignment 4 – Portraits**

The final set of eight, consistent etchings really shows how far you have come in confidence in the process and technical skill in a short space of time. Also a huge amount of experimentation within your preparatory work in the lead-up to this.

The first print is a bit lop-sided so more registration is needed. How can you achieve this more effectively, which will also help speed up the process a little? Lovely consistent deckled edges.

Print no. 7 is the strongest as it is nice to have pure black. I used to leave my work in the acid bath for as long as possible to get deep, more exaggerated lines, which also worked particularly well for blind-embossing.

Regarding soaking paper, I just soak each sheet in a tray of water before printing and unfortunately it means I have to time each sheet so I can work out which timing works best and this also depends on the weather and how warm or cold it is in the studio! Not easy!

**Sketchbooks**

*Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity*

You have sent me samples of sketches from your sketchbooks and I am pleased this is progressing well, showing a lot of practice, care and attention to detail, whilst also focusing on one or two artists who have influenced you and enabling you to begin to develop your own style.

**Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays**

*Context*

It is interesting that you have written about Tracey Emin in such a positive manner when I usually get the opposite from people. I am a big fan of Emin, especially seeing her *Bed* ‘live’ in the Saatchi. I had seen it and read about it on-line but it wasn’t until I saw it for myself in the gallery that I understood how unbelievably shocking it was and how I would be horrified at putting my own (neat and tidy) bed in a public setting, never mind one in this state! People can say what they like about Emin, however, she is very brave at revealing her own identity and the stories in her life. I also think the same of Richard Billingham who photographed his alcoholic father and abusive mother.

To reveal oneself / one’s family secrets to the world is not easy. I therefore applaud you for tentatively revealing yourself in the project on your friend’s portrait and the Emin-inspired writing which works very well in conjunction with the image.
However, consider if perhaps your writings could have been more revealing / shocking / sad / tragic / bitter / humorous? It would be worth reading up on creative writing styles (OCA does a course and may have some samples online as a starting point).

So, in an age of celebrity culture, do you think that you could have come up with several different versions of the text before making a final decision on the one you have chosen? With your clever and witty writing style, I would like to have seen what you could have come up with regarding yourself as the envious friend of someone who is so ‘jammy’? (Apologies if you have already done different versions in your sketchbook which I have not seen).

Suggested reading/viewing

**Context**
You have plenty of contextual analysis throughout your learning log which is all relevant to your work. I am pleased you are visiting some excellent exhibitions but don’t forget the little ones too!

I will be exhibiting at Bishop’s Manor, Howden on 24 - 25 March, if you are Up North!

https://en-gb.facebook.com/events/663353760516267/

Regarding comments on creative writing and in light of the next assignment which may contain narrative, you may be interested in visiting a book fair:

International Artists’ Book Fair, The Tetley, Leeds 3 – 4 March


**Pointers for the next assignment / assessment**

- Consider what does style mean and how do you define it? What is your style?
- More experimentation with the aquatint as this is developing well
- Consider output size based on meaning, not practicality

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<th>Tutor name:</th>
<th>Katrina Whitehead</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>25.02.18</td>
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<td>Next assignment due</td>
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