

Momentarily meaningful units - reflections on sequence and temporal contextualisation

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A photographic sequence emphasizes continuity and flow rather than singular episodes or events. As such it can be seen as a way of looking at time. A sequence can refer to an experience of a phenomenon but also to experience of time, not as information or measurement of time but in an abstract or a-temporal sense as visualization of continuity.

According to dictionary.com, a phrase in a rhetoric sense refers to: 'a word or group of spoken words that the mind focuses on momentarily as a meaningful unit and is preceded and followed by pauses'. In terms of communication, this definition is comparable to a photographic sequence. A sequence could be seen as something momentarily meaningful or representative. In my work I use repetition to critically reflect on representation. To repeat an image, through pattern or sequence, offers a way for image to contextualise itself. Exploring applications of sequence can render reflections on time, space, and limits of perception.

My background is within pattern design. Photography in my present work is a raw material for visual thinking. It is not visualized verbal thinking, rather it is thinking addressing meaning and communication in a non-verbal way.

As a practice based artistic researcher my work is concerned with exploring how repetition can challenge interpretation of image. I consider sequence a version of repetition as it consists of repetitive elements. Combining photography and repetition enables a narrative beyond content of separate images. Through repetition, elements of both generalization and intensification are revealed. As abstraction, repetition enables layers of parallel readings and interpretations. As a variation of repetition, a sequence represents multiple slightly different versions of a theme or phenomenon. It gives a spectrum of visual experience, informing about non absoluteness, shifts, glitches, and relativity.

Drawing from examples from previous artistic projects, this talk will reflect on how photographic sequences can inform about narrative beyond content of individual images.