

Martin Parr—Artist study

Martin Parr is a British documentary photographer. He is also a photojournalist and a photo book collector as well. Parr started the professional photography work in the mid 1970's. Parr was first recognised for his black-and-white photography in the north of England, *Bad Weather* in 1982 and *A Fair Day* in 1984, but decided to switch to colour photography in 1984.

Artist quotes.

“I go straight in very close to people and I do that because it's the only way you can get the picture. You go right up to them. Even now, I don't find it easy. I don't announce it. I pretend to be focusing elsewhere. If you take someone's photograph it is very difficult not to look at them just after. But it's the one thing that gives the game away. I don't try and hide what I'm doing - that would be folly”. - Martin Parr - *British Journal of Photography* interview, 1989

“If you photograph for a long time, you get to understand such things as body language. I often do not look at people I photograph, especially afterwards. Also when I want a photo, I become somewhat fearless, and this helps a lot. There will always be someone who objects to being photographed, and when this happens you move on”. - Martin Parr - On the question: "How do you get so close to people?"

The techniques and processes that Martin Parr uses in his work.

Martin said to focus more on the set, not on individual images. The techniques he said was to be obsessive and to think outside the box. Martin also said not to let people smile and to exaggerate the photography to make seem more realistic and to be more creative.

A description of 'The Last Resort'

Martin Parr's *The Last Resort* in hardcover a couple of years ago. *The Last Resort* is arguably Parr's best book, arguably his most important book, but indisputably his most influential and important early book. And Parr has since grown to be a leading voice in British photography, primarily as a photographer, but also as a critic, commentator, educator, and author.

Analysing 3 images from 'The Last Resort'



I like this image just because it's a Landscape image but Martin isn't concentrating on the children as much, although he has used the rule of thirds, which is a good thing.



In this image Martin is concentrating more on the people rather than a landscape photo. He is concentrating on what they are eating rather than what they are doing. He has also got the bins and the food on the floor in the photograph too.



Martin Parr likes to take things that are very British as you can see here with a cup of tea. This connotes a British culture and suggests Britain.

My own Images:

The concept of Martin Parr photography is that he is bonkers. He likes to take images of British Things and food.

The equipment that I'm going to be using is my canon camera.

A shot list:

I will be walking around Poole shopping centre and taking lots of different images of the food shops, coffee shops and the bakeries as I want my images to link to Martin Parr's photos.

Here are a couple of photos I took of when I went to Poole shopping centre of bakeries, food shops and coffee shops



What was the original intention of the shot?

The original intention of the shot was to take images at a shopping centre in my local area. I went to Poole shopping centre to take images of the coffee shops, bakeries and food shops.

What technical settings and equipment did you use?

The equipment that I used was my canon and the settings I had it on was on auto. I didn't really have to zoom in as much as I thought. I took some photos of the same shop about 2-3 times, just to get different angles to give it a good effect.

Did your concept change as you did the shoot?

Throughout the process of doing the shot my concept did not change at all.

How does your shoot link to your artist research?

The shoot links to the artist research by taking images of food or the shop itself. It also links to the artist work by keeping it plain and simple and not going over the top by editing it.

What was successful?

The things that were successful were that the images came out clear. Some of which had a theme and some images only stuck to 2- 3 colours.

If I was to do this shot again I would spend more time taking these images rather than rushing to get it finished. I would also take the images at different angles and do different camera angles too, for example doing close up and extreme close ups, and wide angle shots too.

