Digital Imagery in Human-Computer Interaction Design

Project 5.A/B  Digital Imagery as Agency of or Documentary about Diversity

Thursday March 10\textsuperscript{th} 2010

Eli Blevis, Associate Professor of Informatics

**Project**

Create an image or set or sequence of images using digital photographic means that are implicated as agency of diversity in some highly salient sense. You may modify your images in Adobe Photoshop or similar software. This is a design concept project—I am interested in your original images you have taken yourself. A fair bit of latitude in possible interpretations is both permitted and encouraged.

Be prepared to explain how your images relate to interactivity with the materials of digital technologies. For this project, you should contribute an image or images that show life at the margins of society, contexts of inclusion or contrasting contexts of exclusion. Think about how the juxtaposition of more than one photograph with another can change the meanings of photographs as a collection. Think about how the context of digital imagery changes when distributed by digital means.

**Format:**

Your project must be presented on three and only three landscape mode pages in pdf format. The first page should be a sketch, the second page should be your final research or concept, and the third page should be your primary and secondary attributions lists, as in the example/model solution that follows. Upload your work to oncourse, as instructed in class. Be certain to reference all of your sources accurately and completely.

The example on the pages that follow gives an idea of what a design research project could look like for the purposes of this class project. The example is by no means the most ideal project—yours should not be longer, but it can and ideally should be more compelling and interesting. Note that I have not provided a sketch this week, but rather two different “final” pages. You may do this too this week, or provide a “sketch” and a “final” according your preference.

Note also that this week, the notion of research/concept projects has changed—that is, I am asking you to start with documentary images as a form of primary research. In the next project, expect to show how your images or your reflections on digital imagery as agency of or documentary about diversity relate to or inspire concepts relating to interactivity with the materials of digital technologies.

**DUE Thursday March 25\textsuperscript{th} no later than 9:00 AM**

A FINAL form completed project.
Town & Gown

A father proudly poses with his son at the State Fair, Bloomington IN (left). The vehicle in the image is used in “demolition derby racing.”

Faculty attend a dinner honoring a colleague, also in Bloomington IN (above).

The photographs show the very different contexts of University town society that have often been referred to in Bloomington as the contrast of “town and gown.” [1]
Contexts of Youth: The images are: A man and his son, State Fair, Bloomington IN (a); A woman and a young child, State Fair, Bloomington IN (b); A nearly identically dressed teenage couple, Kirkwood Ave, Bloomington IN (c); Young women and children, St. Louis, MO (d), and; Three young flower girls navigating Devon Ave, Chicago, IL (e). To those who would say that notions of merit need to be balanced against notions of diversity, I would say that the varying contexts of youth and the lack of a level playing field are evidence that it is the notion of merit that does not itself have traction. To make matters even more complex, being marginalized in some way is not just a function of socio-economic status or even external forces—everyone has something with which she or he is dealing.
Primary Attributions
All images by the author. Images (d) and (e) are digitally scanned from film negatives. All others are taken with digital sensors.

Secondary Attributions
[1] For notions of “town and gown,” see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town_and_gown accessed @ 3.11.2010

For notions of “town and gown” specifically in the context of Bloomington IN, see:


Cronin, B. (2007). *Bloomington Daze: More Town and Gown in Middle America*. AuthorHouse: Bloomington, IN USA.