

University of Westminster

Center of Communication and Information Studies

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Subject: The construction of Narrative in Landscape Photography

Questionnaire I

Please complete the following questions

Name: Gender: Male / Female Age: Nationality:

Education: Primary Secondary Higher

Profession/ occupation: Email:

Place of origin: Urban / Rural Place of living: Urban / Rural

How often do you visit the countryside? Please circle one the following categories.

Hardly Ever Very rare (1-2 times per year) Rare (3-6 times per year)

Often (7-12 times per year) Very Often (more than 12 per year) Every week

Preface

This questionnaire is created in order to investigate the audience response to landscape images. It is part of a photographic research, which explores the construction of narrative in landscape photography. The specific type of landscape that is being explored is the vernacular rural landscape, in which evidence of a political organization of space are largely or entirely absent, according to J.B. Jackson's definition. It is both this state of evidence plus the indirect human presence which work as triggers for the narrative potential and that formulates the challenge of this research.

The *specific characteristics* of the survey are:

- The population sample: the survey embodies different disciplines dealing with the concept of landscape such as farmers, artists, scientists (biologists, archeologists, architects, agronomists, topographers), 'naturalists' (weekend naturalists, mountaineers, climbers, cyclists, etc.) and children at the end of primary education. The survey will take place in Greece where all (except two images) the photographs were taken and the population sample is familiar with the specific landscape imagery.
- The urban and rural origin of the population in order to indicate if there is a substantial differentiation in the approach of each group.
- The use of images makes the construction of the questionnaire more complicated in terms of production, distribution, and communication of the audience.

The *aims* of this questionnaire are:

1. To see if and to what extent text affects and advances the construction of narrative. [Q1]
2. To indicate if and to what extent people from different relationships to landscape prefer related interpretations. [Q2]
3. To investigate if the number of compositional elements is crucial in the construction of narratives. [Q3]
4. To see how we perceived and value elements (water) under different concepts. [Q4]
5. To examine the narrative potential of mid-distance and abstract landscape. [Q5]
6. To examine the narrative potential of a single image. [Q6]
7. To examine if human presence in a landscape is crucial in the construction of the narrative potential. [Q7]
8. To explore to what extent photographic characteristics may be used as narrative tools. [Q8-Q11]

Acknowledging that intertextuality, both in image and text, as crucial factor in this questionnaire it is inevitable to have any kind of recalls. Considering also the role of the symbolic value of the elements in the narrative potential, their choice has been according to the needs of the specific question. It is inevitable to have both of these factors in the reading process of each image from the viewer and to accept the subjectivity of the answers.

The copyrights of photographs belong to the researcher except of two images in the question 7 which belong to: the number one in Bertil Stilling, 'Drowning Death' 1976, and number two in Olafur Larusson 'Attempt to Get Rid of Mystery' 1976.

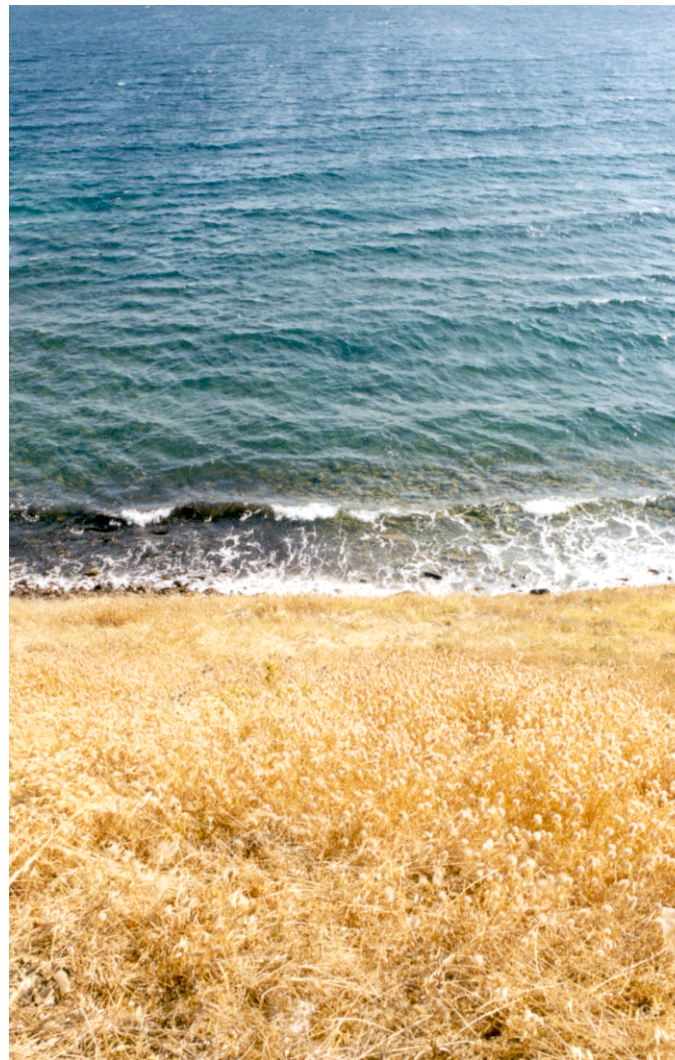


Question 2: Choose one caption for the above image. Please circle the number of your choice or write your own caption.

1. It was a sunny weekend in the countryside.
2. This species of tree is one of the most ancient in European Continent.
3. The shadows of the trees are changing the color of the grass.
4. It is quite early to collect chestnuts.
5. (Your own caption).....



1



2

Question 3: In which one of the three images is it easier to imagine a story? Please circle the number under the image of your choice and please state why below.



3



i



ii

Question 6: In which case [i] or [ii] is it easier to imagine a story? Please circle your choice and please state why in the box below.





' They agreed to meet by the water '

Question 4: Match the above phrase with one of the three images.

Please circle the number beside the image of your choice and please state why in the box below

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1



2 *“A horse is running around the field”*

Question 1. In which image do you think is it easier to imagine a story? Please circle the number under the image of your choice and please state why.

1



2





3

'She had to walk for many hours'

Question 5: Choose one of the three images for the above phrase.

Please circle the number beside the image of your choice and please state why in the box below.

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1



2



3



4

Question 7: In which of the four images is it easier to imagine a story?

Please circle the number under the image of your choice and please state why in the box below.

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1



2

Question 8: In which of the two images is it easier to imagine a story? Choose one image and please state why in the box below



Question 9: In which of the three images is it easier to imagine a story? Please state why in the box.



1



2

Question 10: In which of the above images is it easier to imagine a story? Choose one image and please state why in the box below



1



2



3

Question 11: In which of the three images is it easier to imagine a story? Choose one image and please state why.