

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages

English 8

Passport Project

Theme 3

Topic: Writing a translated interview to know how a shop owner designs his shop

Instructor:	Yi-Min (Ivy) Chiu	
	Numbers and names	Job description
Students:	1107200102 Sammi 1107202086 Jimmy 1107208122 Brian 2107203054 Georchia	Leader: Sammi PPT slide: All members Reflection: All members Introduction, Q1 to Q3: Sammi Q4 to Q8: Georchia Q9 to Q12: Brian Q13 to Q15: Jimmy
Date:	2020/11/26	

The camera shop is located at The Pirer-2 Art Center. The shop is named Vintage Wet Plate Collodion Studio running by an old man. He used to run the camera shop in Taipei. He came back to Kaohsiung because of his parents and Reverse Brain Drain program. More importantly, he wants to pass the techniques to the next generation. (Sammi)

Why did we choose this camera shop? (Sammi)

People nowadays use cellphones and digital cameras to memorize what has happened in their daily lives. However, how did people in 60s or 70s record their lives without a digital camera? We cannot answer this question until we found a vintage camera shop in Kaohsiung. The pictures on the shop's fan page are attractive. Also, each picture seems to tell a story without words.

Below are the questions we asked the shop owner and his responses.

1. What triggered you to learn photography? (Sammi)

My father had **Analog photography camera** and he gave it to me when I was little. At that time, I only took random photos of objects. Many years later, I started to learn photography when I was about 27. I really enjoys the moment when I get the picture I love.

2. Why did you decide to run a vintage camera shop? (Sammi)

The reason why I want to open this camera shop is that I want to promote wet-plate and cyanotype techniques to people. I do not want these two techniques to disappear. Since most people today own a digital camera, I decide to set up courses to teach them wet-plate technique. This shop can not only preserve the two techniques but also advocate vintage cameras to people.

3. Where do all the cameras come from? (Sammi)

I am fond of collecting cameras, so I have collected different kinds of cameras. To me, each camera has its own story.

4. How did you decorate your shop? (Georchia)

At first there were only the most basic cubicles. The exterior walls and floors of the house were not decorated, and I just wanted to make changes according to my needs and ideas.

5. *Did you decorate your shop in a particular style? (Georchia)*

I have a strong feeling of old-school things, and I hope that I can use many vintage clutters to decorate my shop. For instance, antique cameras and the photos I have collected or taken.

6. *Why are there so many photos on the wall? (Georchia)*

There are many photos on the wall, and the photos are everyone's smiles. I want to use these photos to be the best decorations. Capturing the customers' most beautiful side, like their smiles is my profession.

7. *Is there a special meaning behind the shop design? (Georchia)*

I think the photos can represent the past. I hope that each guest come to my shop can see those photos and refresh their memory of the good old days.

8. *Did any guest ever wear vintage clothing to go with the shop design? (Georchia)*

Yes, the vintage style is very popular now, and The Pirer-2 Art Center is a famous tourist spot. Many customers who wear old-fashioned clothing have visited this shop and taken a photo to capture the moment and make it a memory.

9. *What is "Wet-plate collodion process"? (Jimmy)*

This is an early photographic printing process invented in Britain and there are four steps. First, pour the collodion on the film and soak the film in silver nitrate, a chemical acid, for a couple of minutes. Second, put the film in the camera in a dark place and prepare for photo shooting. Once the shooting is done, take out the film to do the next step. Including developing, fixing, washing, and drying, there are four steps. That is the whole process of Wet-plate collodion.

In the Victorian era in the 19th century, the wet-plate collodion photograph process was the most popular picture process due to its convenience and simplicity. The whole process of picture-taking only takes ten to twenty minutes. Also, the photos during this process are perseverative and can stand the test of time. In the 21st century, this photo process was suddenly revived by not only the foreign but also the local photographers in Taiwan--waving a tide on the skills of photography and the classical culture.

10. *What is "Cyanotype"? (Jimmy)*

Cyanotype is a classical way of the photographic printing process which consists of four steps. First, use special chemicals to cover up the prints. Second, put the prints in

a light place and wait until they are dry. Third, wash out the chemical on the prints. Finally, the color of blank on prints will become blue and the solid area that is not being dried under the sun will become white. Between the blank and solid areas are layers of grayscale and presenting the different levels of color.

Back in the 19th century, a British botanist also known as the first inventor of cyanotype used cyanotype to create the plant specimen. However, during these years, cyanotype became unpopular due to advanced technology. In the 20th century, engineers started to use cyanotype to do architecture paperwork. This is also where the word “Blueprint” came from.

11. Which technique do you prefer? Wet-plate collodion or cyanotype? (Jimmy)

I must say, it is a hard question for me because I like both. You see, although both are processes of photography, they are two different techniques that required different skills. For this question, my answer is I like both.

12. Is the design of your shop original? (Jimmy)

Yes. I didn't use any art gallery or museum as a reference point. The decoration is simple, and I just put setting around us or paintings on the wall. I must say, when the first time I came here, I got a sense of Yad Vashem, or a Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem. You know, it shows or displays numerous photos in a circle.

13. Would you like to have a branch store in the future? (Brian)

Not yet. The promotion of the conventional photography is not easy. Now we digitalize our daily photos and save them into the computer, so for now I just want to run this store and make more people know what wet-plate photography is.

14. Does the store provide any extra services? (Brian)

Besides wet plate photography, we also provide DIY activities and sell some souvenirs. Furthermore, we hold some lectures from time to time.

15. How can people contact you? (Brian)

They can find us on the social media like Facebook and Instagram. We will provide our course link to people so they can sign up and join us.

Our reflections:

Georchia

I love to take photos and I find the variety of negatives and understand how cameras

work. Also, I learned the history about camera deeply after going to the studio/shop. People who like photography have a common point after gaining others' praise in their work. They will have a great sense of accomplishment.

Sammi

In the process of interview, I can tell how much the shop owner loves filming. Also, I am touched because he dedicated himself to preserving the fading culture. After the interview, I realized that cellphones and digital cameras are not the only choice for us to take pictures. There are different ways for us to develop a good quality and memorable picture.

Jimmy

For me, this is my first time to interview someone who has expertise in photography. From this interview, I have learned not only the two techniques but also the philosophy of the shop owner. Also, it is really fulfilling for me to talk with an expert like him.

Brian

While we intended to interview the shop owner, we found that he runs the shop with plenty of enthusiasm. All of us, who had participated in this interview, can feel it, and enjoyed the atmosphere of the shop. If we get married in the future, we will definitely have a wet-plate collodion photo taken in this shop.

References:

典像濕版攝影工程. (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.vintagewetplate.com/>

Wet-Plate Photography. (May 22, 2000). Retrieved from

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/eastman-wet-plate-photography/>

How to Make Cyanotypes. (May 24, 2020) Retrieved from

<https://parallaxphotographic.coop/how-to-make-cyanotypes/>