Notes

Everyman Cinema

Oxted

28.09.23

17.55pm

Film, Dumb, Starts at 6pm

I take photos of my environment in each direction from my seat before I open my computer

So many things have changed before my laptop is open and on

Couple on a table two tables down

Both drinking water

Now gone

Waitress came out and put a menu on my table, my first photo had only my computer and the plastic, cactus inspired plants

Waitress placed a candle on my table. A small tealight in a ribbed glass container, which is good as I have just noticed the wind on my face pick up.

I can’t see the candle now as my laptop screen blocks it, as it does the plant.

Word, where I am making my notes, is on a weird setting with all punctuation marks showing and no rulers which is not how I am use to looking at it and I need to sort it out before I can continue.

A motorbike has just gone by, I noticed by its sound.

Cars are constantly coming and going, dropping people off, picking people up, I can’t keep up or type fast enough.

What am I doing. Perec. Take time.

Waitress coming, brings my ordered wine and water. The table is so wobbly she won’t put the glass on it, I get my old metro from the train and fold it twice to put under one leg, my wine on the concrete ground next to me.

Is this about me or the space.

Focus. Perec. Small detail, set some boundaries, a foot on the other side of the window is moving slightly, it catches my eye. A white trainer shines through the reflections that dominate the window.

I wonder how the reflections in the window change with the time of day and the light. Where does the sun come from, does it reflect / deflect…

My computer keeps correcting my typos, lazy.

Focus: How long will I note take for.

Until I finish my wine.

Focus: What shall I look at first. The ground.

No the façade as is the ground part of the façade or not?

I am defining, it is.

The Ground

It’s a widish concrete based expanse boardered on one side by the brick and wooden structure of the cinema front and by a series of blocks at the same height that dip down to what is the road on the other.

From a distance it looks grey and continual.

Up close it is a patchwork of colours, textures, heights, debris.

On the immediate left of my chair there is

1. Tightly compacted small to tiny stones making up the overall ‘concrete’ or texture, in whites, light greys and mid greys. There are dark patches that look more like stains than raw material. This is consistent for a couple of feet then it becomes the same texture but cracks have formed creating rivers and tributaries that dance across this texture, which meets in a strong horizontal line with
2. Darker more consistent looking texture, that is still made up of small and tiny stones that are more closely packed together and more uniform in colour and texture that make it soon more monogamous and smooth. Runni g horizontally through this piece of texture is a slightly lower strip of slightly lighter grey concrete with flecks of white in. Is it lighter grey or is the flecks of white making it appear lighter? Its actually a warmer grey, I feel it has some red in it?
3. There is a small rectangle that overlaps the two pieces that is similar in colour the the second texture but is made up of larger stones with greater depth between them, not as tightly packed, with quite a noticeable actual line where it meets texture two at the top. The line is notacble because of the height of the two textures meeting, which must be something in the way the compound is created?
4. At the edge closest to the blocks that mark the edge, before it dips down to the ‘road’, there is a long rectangle that spans two blocks of edge that is much rougher in texture, lower in height, with larger particles that is more uneven. Wher this rougher patch meets the blocks there is a small line of green grass emerging. (Could diverge as to how and why grass grows here, gap in the two textures meeting allowing what is below to come up – ohh what is below…???!!!) There is some white debris on the right hand side of the strip of grass and again a few cm along from the end. There is a white cigarette butt a few cm along from that and a couple of cm further away from the block. There is some more white debris at the left end of the strip of grass.
5. The blocks that punctuate the edge of the concrete and divide the ‘path’ from the ‘road’ vary in length – WHY? They are generally quite wide and similar in length, some longer ones looked cracked rather than ‘joined’ (I know this as the line is diagonal rather than straight), some have corners that have deteriorated.

There is so much more I could write about the pavement.

Two ladies appear arrive at the front of the cinema, is this it, one asks the other, yes he replies, leans back, points up, ‘EVERYMAN’ she says.

A voice from within says hello… welcomes them, makes them feel reassured, they go in, happy.

Façade from seat.

At ground level there are bricks that are red, essentially, but discoloured with white and grey. The pointing is deteriorating and there is depth between the bricks. One brick up is a 3cm ish line of concrete? Marked with holes, cracks, uneven edges where it has been worn away. Above that is wood that is grey and heavily textured, gaps forming between the lines, a predominant knot has separated and spread creating curves and homes for webs and small bits of natural debris, tiny parts of leaves that are brown hang within it. 10cm of distressed wood gives way to a sill of 5-7cm deep, which gives way to glass that spans 2m or so, uninterrupted large pane, another sill and strip of wood above that frames a series of three panes of smaller glass with leading creating 16 small panels of glass. The leading is dark grey and each is framed by 5cm of distressed wood.

Above my head is a canopy that extrudes from the building. It blocks the light and the view of the sky but is good if it rains. Why do they put it out when it doesn’t rain. Does it connect the outside area with the building?

Finish 18.31.

Questions / Reflections:

* Should of set my boundaries before I started
* Physical boundaries (concrete pavement went off façade) and had my note taking equipment set up correctly
* Should of re-capped Perec note taking notes before starting rather than trying to ‘remember’ them
* Should I?
* Pre-conceptions of how quiet it is made me want to take down all the activity quickly which didn’t allow me to set up a la perec
* Context influenced my state of mind. Bit manic as was trying to do it ‘quickly’ (as per brief plus time/life constraints) without thinking, but had read Perec that day, but had limited time so just wanted to get on with it. Too much context.
* Didn’t know if I was suppose to be writing a stream of conscious or a ‘flat’ description
* Is it possible to write a flat description when never have done before?
* Is it ok to go back over notes and make them ‘academic’
* Raw - important inflections? Or too much emotion
* Am I an emotional / romantic (critical faculty) writer
* Got confused with note taking my experience and interactions rather than observing
* Is that because I was involved in the scene rather than looking on from afar
* Link – Reportage / Stalker reference from sheet

Outcomes

* Should I write stream of conscious with all its inflections as that is my style
* Or is that not academic enough?
* Should I repeat the exercise in pure Perec and pure uncensored note taking to compare?
* Should I repeat the exercise therefore at the same time on the same day
* Or can I go at another time when its less overwhelming
* Is that pre-conceptions as I wanted to discover what I couldn’t hear, but was overwhelmed constantly by what I could, or should I say what was top level changing in front of my eyes
* Is this exercise for looking at the nothing?
* Yes it is – so repeat at a ‘nothing’ time, just to fulfil this initial need.