Untitled

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I live in Nightcliff and it takes only 10 minutes for me to walk to the seaside, so I had a lot of opportunities to take photographs along the shore. No matter if I had a happy or a bad day, I always love to walk by the sea, see all kinds of people there and take some nice shots. This was the reason why my topic is "Mood in Seascape".

I was inspired by four photographers, Paul Arnold, Louise Denton, Ken Duncan and Mark Gray. Each of them has a different style of photography, Paul Arnold's photos include lots of detail of clouds, Louise Denton prefers using slow shutter speed to make the flowing water smooth and milky, Ken Duncan's photographs make use of multiple layers of colour and the saturation is slightly higher than what it is in nature, Mark Gray likes to use panoramas to show the vast and sublime beauty of seascape.

During my explorations and experimentation, I found that timing is important in deciding the mood in a photograph. When it is around 4 to 5 pm, the sun is bright and shiny, and clouds are just like spun sugar, so photographs at that time are very positive and let viewers feel hope and happiness. When it comes to 6:30 pm, the sun starts to fall, clouds turn from white to orange, then finally red. The mood of the photos at that time depends on viewers now, if they are negative when seeing these photos, they will feel sadder, if they are positive, these photos intent to make them feel happy and peaceful.

After 7:00, the sun falls completely, and red clouds is the only thing we can see, as time goes by, clouds will turn from red to pink or purple. At last, all sunlight is extinguished, and infinite darkness swallows the seaside. Photographs always create a sad and sombre mood at that time of the evening.

Different kind of subject matters different moods in photographs. If the subject of a photo is a pair of young couple, it creates a feeling of romance and happiness. If the subject of a photo is a pair of old couple, it let viewers feel amazed by the timelessness of love. If the subject of a photo is just someone alone, viewers will sense the loneliness easily.

The exposure value of the sky and the sea is quite different, if the sea or the land is correctly exposed, the sky is always over exposed, so digital editing is quite necessary to make photographs of seascape look better. I would rather let the sky have a correct exposure than be over exposed, because over exposing may lose some details so I couldn't fix it.

Increasing the value of "shade" can let the unexposed part to adjust to correct exposure while maintaining the part that is already correctly exposed. Changing the white balance is sometimes important too. The camera can make mistakes and mess up on the White Balance so I have to fix it to take photos back to show what they are supposed to look like.

Overall, I believe that it was a successful body of work, as I managed to use multiple techniques to capture different moods on seascapes. What I found challenging was to compose and capture the moment in few seconds when subjects and the background were matched together so well. Capturing the mood became integral to my work. I hope viewers can sense the moods in my photograph and hopefully my works can influence the viewers' own mood.