

## AAD011 CASE STUDY

Sarah McDonald

Module: Contextual Research and Understanding

Theme: Place

Artist: George Shaw

George Shaw has a highly detailed approach to his paintings of suburban subject matter. George's paintings are personal and sentimental to him as they are of locations in his hometown. His work represented his journey through life and his different stages in art as he went through a phase of disliking painting and turned to photography instead. He would photograph details of his childhood hangout spots and places that he would frequently spend time in. His work is very honest and meaningful as it is a look inside his life/ being able to view places where he grew up the way he perceived them.

George purposely made his work appear unsettling and empty. A main factor in his paintings is that they are peopleless. He stated that he wished it that way as it keeps the focus on the building, park, forest, etc and not on the person as if they were included, the attention would shift to become about their story. Shaw's paintings encompass a feeling of dystopia as his subject matter can be boarded up shop fronts and abandoned areas.



George Shaw: Scenes from The Passion: Christmas Eve, 1988.

I attended a George Shaw talk where he explained his life's journey and reasonings behind his work earlier in the school year.