

Stranger Photography Reflection

Today's task was to approach strangers in Belfast and ask if they feel comfortable having their photo taken. When I first heard about our task, I felt anxious and uncertain. As you think of subjects to photograph, you immediately search for unique or wacky individuals. I began at a fruit shop close to the university, asking the owner if she was comfortable with having her photo taken. She politely declined, so I had to move on to my next subject. I browsed potential models and eventually landed on a jewelers shop I am familiar with and felt comfortable asking for photos.

The woman inside is called Kate. Immediately she was delighted that I found her fascinating enough to document and noted she felt she looked exhausted and asked me to make her look livelier.

I stood at the counter and directed her to do something she enjoys at work. She chose to pick up the polished cloth as she mentioned how she finds it calming to make the rings look glossy and bright.

I then proceeded to interview her and asked again what she enjoys most at her workplace. Kate said, "I love to stand here, at the counter, as I love to chat and engage with customers and talk about jewelry as it's a passion of mine".

I thoroughly enjoyed this project and how communicative it was, getting to know strangers and seeing how comfortable they became as I continued to photograph them.

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