

GETTING AHEAD



HAVANT

Start to develop skills that are relevant to your course before you join HSDC this September!

Photography - A Level

Photography is an ever-changing medium that stretches across fields, including press and editorial, advertising, fashion, fine art, the natural world, and scientific recording.

Photography is about evoking emotion, curiosity, and experiences in the viewer; it can also be a reality check. Everyday photography makes significant impressions on all our lives. Millions of images are made and taken daily and they have unknowingly changed the way we think about and see our world.

Theme: What Makes A Great Photograph?

Task 1: Learning to See in Photography

Most of us are too preoccupied to stand and look at something for any great length of time. We glance at something briefly and think we have seen it. This first practical task requires you to look at everyday objects, places, or spaces as if you have never seen them before and photograph them using the headings below.

Watch the link for initial inspiration: [Elements and Principles of Photography](#). There are lots of examples but, only for this project, you need to take a series of photographs of everyday objects, spaces or places but not people which best represent the following:

1. **Pattern** – repeating patterns occur naturally anywhere out and about (e.g., in architecture), in the living world (e.g., rows of trees, bottles) etc
2. **Shape** - all objects have shape; shape is normally referred to as the 'outline' of an object
3. **Line** - straight lines which we see often create strong images: e.g., pylons, railings, a slatted bench etc

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4. **Shadow** – strong black shadows will occur from any solid object, manmade or naturally occurring, and a hard light source, e.g., the sun on a bright day - think of flowers, bottles, cups, trees, chairs, beach umbrellas etc
5. **Reflection** – in any reflective surfaces, e.g., glass, water or metal
6. **Texture** - how objects appear with lighting skimming across their surface, e.g., spikey, rough, smooth. How can you photograph this?
7. **Colour** - creating a sense of emotions between strong bold colour and soft pastel, find objects and photograph them
8. **Unusual Viewpoint** – high or low, try and vary your viewpoint when observing objects.

For this first practical task you may use any photographic equipment that is available to you, e.g. DSLR, compact camera, disposable camera, phone camera. However, you should try to make the best use of the qualities of your chosen device. You will probably need to take quite a few images but select your best x4 for each title.

Save your photographs in a folder titled 'Learning To See' and bring along to the first lesson on a USB device, upload at home to a Google account or save to a Pinterest board which you can easily access in class for review.

Task 2: Research into William Eggleston - Ordinary Things



Ever wondered what the difference is between a 'photograph' and a really 'great photograph'? One of the important roles of being a photographer is someone who can see objects and places from different perspectives, angles and put into place certain elements of design.

[William Eggleston. Memphis. c. 1969](#)

The American photographer William Eggleston was great at photographing ordinary things from unusual angles and viewpoints, and the everyday events in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee in the 1960s.

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Research William Eggleston: find out some biographical information about him; when was he photographing - dates approx. where did he start out photographing, why? What were his interests in Memphis and how did this develop his 'style' of photography? 100 - 150 words

Read this article [The peculiar William Eggleston and his art of photographing "nothing"](#) and look at Eggleston's images to get an idea of his approach to photography.

Select x2 photographs which you can then analyse in more depth about them. Think about the content - maybe start off with 'In this image, I can see' describe what you see, look around the image into the background, look for any repetition of pattern, any leading lines, shadows etc. Write about the content and think about what else was going on in Memphis at this time; consider what Eggleston was trying to say about his hometown. Conclude with: Do you actually like the photo? Why is this? 200 - 250 words for each image.

Save your work to a USB device or upload to a Google account which you can share.

Additional links to William Eggleston

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/51630>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/william-eggleston-5327>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/17/t-magazine/william-eggleston-photographer-interview-augusten-burroughs.html>

TASK 3: Practical Project - My 'Everyday' Life

This practical task is based on what you have learnt from the previous tasks 1 & 2.

Plan to take a series of great photographs based on ordinary/everyday events, ordinary/everyday things, ordinary/everyday objects, and ordinary/everyday places, keeping within current social distancing rules. This could be around your local area, in your home (but not your bedroom or personal space), your garden, the places you visit and from unusual angles, patterns, looking for the light, reflections, viewpoints similar to that of William Eggleston. Consider image content: what you may think is ordinary will be of interest to someone else, just like Eggleston's photographs are of interest to us. Please do not take photographs of people/people's faces for this project.

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To complete this project, you will need to be creative in your approach, you will need to take a number of images which you can then select the final series from.

Outcome: A final series of 8 -12 high quality and successful images which meet the brief.

Save your photographs in a folder titled 'My Ordinary Life' and bring along to the first lesson on a USB device, upload at home to a Google account or save to a Pinterest board which you can easily access in class for review.

Be assured that for both practical Tasks 1 & 3 there are no right or wrong answers. Please take photographs in your own style and approach; this is what makes photography so interesting.

And finally ... an interesting and fun *optional* task

Turn Your Bedroom into a Camera Obscura - watch this and have a go if you like, maybe check with parents/guardians first though :)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=58&v=lby69H2PJzE&feature=emb_logo

We look forward to meeting you all in September - Happy Photographing!



Andreas Feininger, 1946

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