

Summer Transition Task

We tailor the Photography A-Level course to the individual students and the skills they need to develop, given their wide variety of proficiencies and interests across art, design, photography and textiles. To help the teachers on your course plan the art projects and lessons specifically in term one for the strengths and opportunities for you, please can you:

1) Select a photo from the following list and write 300-500 words about the photo and the suggested reading points. 2) Produce a shoot of at least 20 photos, produce a final response, present/annotate your outcome

You may write more than 500 words if you feel this is appropriate or have a lot of research to share. Do not worry if you feel your work is not your best or you are unsure about what sizes or media to use: this task helps us identify where your practical skills need work. We will also use your writing to ascertain how you are able to select research, because your Personal Investigation project in year 13 consists of a 3000 word essay and research to guide your photoshoots and experiments. Some of you may be excellent essay writers and some of you may not be - we will plan your writing tasks around where your artwork analysis and art history need improving, and perhaps where you struggle with selecting ideas and the execution of your project overall. We really look forward to welcoming you to the course and seeing what you produce. We enjoy editing and manual manipulation alike. You are welcome to submit this digitally or on paper, but be prepared to present in your first timetabled lesson.

Common advice you will hear us say almost every week on this course:

- No photography teacher has ever said “you have taken too many photos”. Frequently if you feel that you can take more and come up with a great second idea, run with it. Both sets of photos and outcomes get marked!
- There is no such thing as a “wrong choice”. No photography teacher has ever said “this work is amazing, too bad it was a waste of time!”. It is our job to help you make sure your project links and gets the marks it deserves. If you do work, we will find a way to grade it. We may ask you how you came up with an idea, so be prepared to discuss your work.
- You should be enjoying this and we encourage you to pick the things that YOU like, so that you are motivated to do the work and find it easier to talk/write about. The MORE WORK YOU DO, the HIGHER YOUR GRADE WILL BE.
- Deadlines are important. They will prepare you for University courses and job deadlines working for clients and design teams. Lack of homework and progress in your projects will lead to the removal of free periods. Those that come voluntarily to the studio in free periods tend to be the A/A* grade students.



Option 1: Vanitas

Suggested reading points:

<https://www.widewalls.ch/magazine/still-life-photographers>

This is a modern photograph based on the Vanitas still life movement. What is Vanitas and why would modern artists be recreating it? Consider lighting and composition, and consider your objects and symbolism carefully when constructing your Vanitas response photoshoot.



Option 2: Composition

Suggested reading points:

Henri Cartier Bresson was known for his composition and framing – see in this photo, 'Gare Saint Lazare', you may at first consider it quite bland. Bresson has utilised the rule of thirds masterfully – the man jumping is in the right third, with his reflection in the bottom third, but there is also a poster in the background of a man jumping perfectly balanced in the top left third. Consider your composition and utilise some composition techniques to recreate Bresson work – you could choose some other Bresson work to inspire you. Try researching why this photograph is so famous, it may help your analysis.

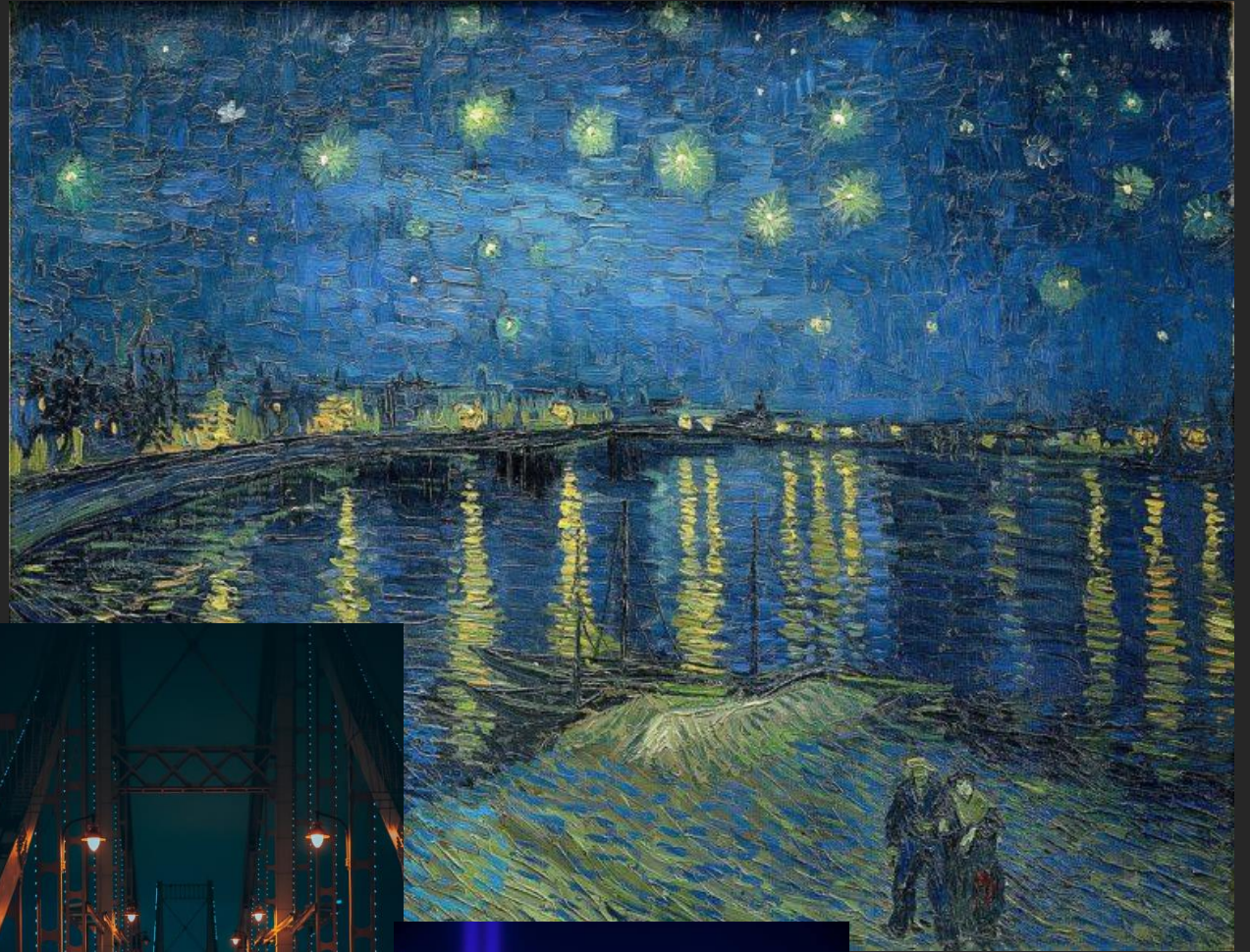


Option 3: Night Photography

Suggested reading points:

Bridges are used frequently within cities and the art world, and are often famous, e.g. the Golden Gate bridge, Tower Bridge, Sydney Harbour bridge. Photographers may often seek inspiration from artworks, sculpture and installation as well as just photographers. See if you can write about *Starry Night Over the Rhone* by Van Gogh, research into capturing night photos and take your own photos of a bridge at night. You may also want to explore blurring your photographs intentionally, and researching Bokeh

Note: please be safe at night!



Option 4: Still Life (1946) by Giorgio Morandi

Suggested reading points:

Morandi's still life images are instantly recognisable for their low saturation, low contrast muted earth tones. Every art teacher would recognise a Morandi work, even if they had not seen it before. Research a bit about his still life images and recreate your own. Consider what this is for (what is the purpose of this still life series) and why he uses those colours, and apply those principles to your work.



Option 5: Photojournalism

Suggested reading points:

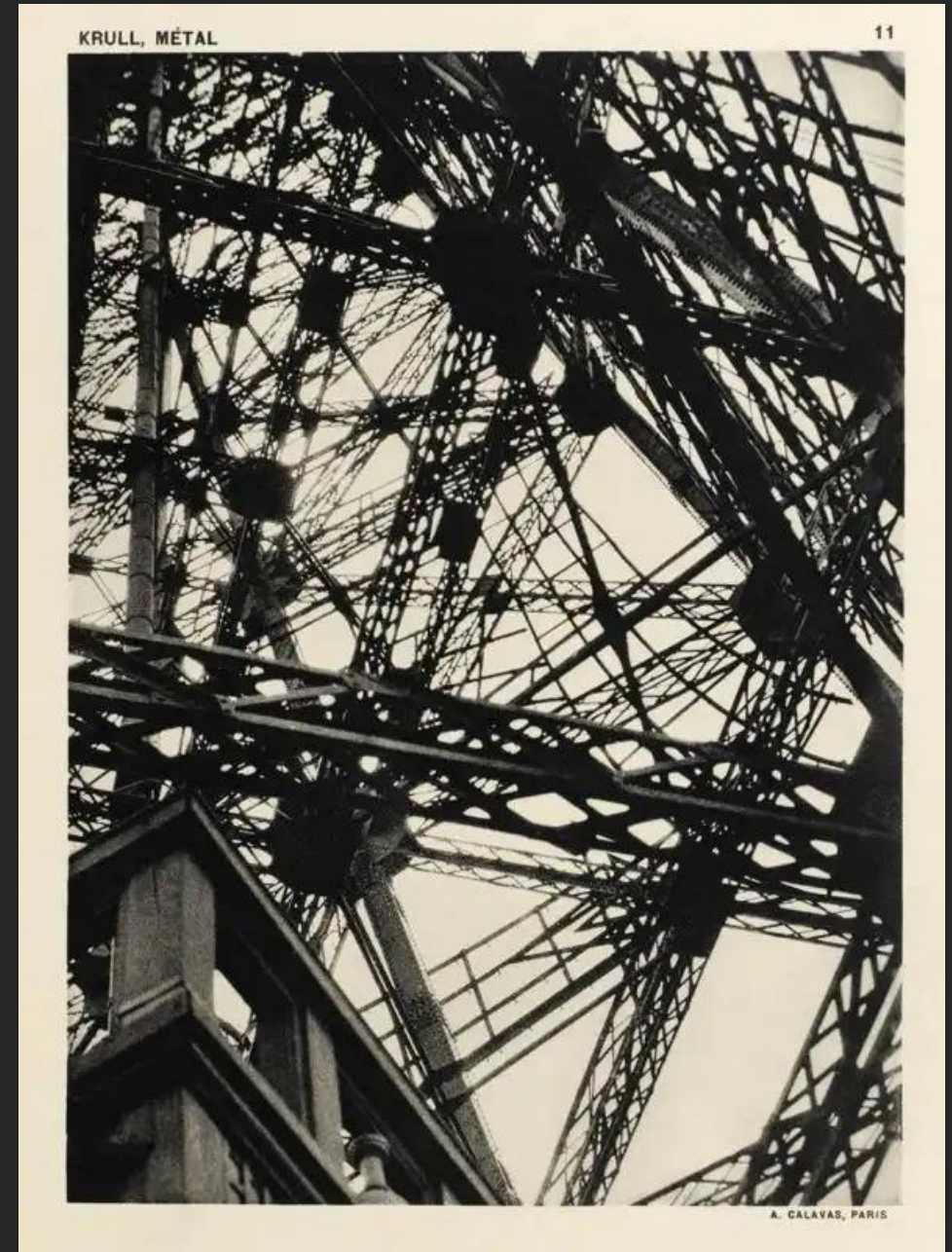
Photojournalism is a huge aspect of photography: as photographers, we naturally frame well, considering composition, and we “have an obligation to capture things”. Research famous photographs such as Tank Man (to the right) and V-J Day in Times Square. We would like you to go out and photograph things that are happening. It does not have to be a significant historical war-ending moment like these, it could be a simple story such as the humour of capturing your dad unable to operate his smartwatch, or the vacant expressions of bored people queueing for the 111 on Grove Road



Option 6: Architectural Shapes

Suggested reading points:

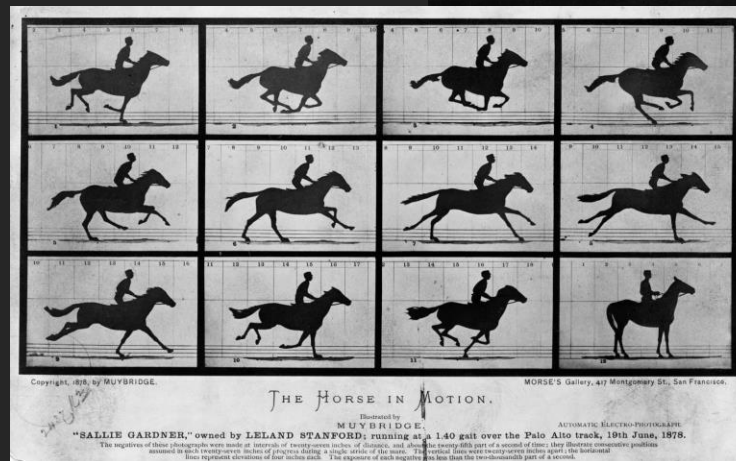
This is a photograph by Germaine Krull. Find out about her, and the Collotype print. Whilst we don't expect you to print your own collotypes at home, anyone interested in printmaking photography could include history of print in photography and print methods, such as gelatin prints or image transfers, and prepare to discuss how you would create prints if we were in school (what would your next steps be? Could you prepare a negative?)



Option 6: Movement

Suggested reading points:

Movement and time lapse photography are always popular methods of distortion and storytelling. Research Eadward Muybridge and his famous horse images – Muybridge conducted an experiment to see if a running horse ever has a moment where all 4 hooves are off the ground. You could capture your own movement experiment using a fast shutter speed or using the live function on a smartphone camera



Task: A 300-500 word analysis, photoshoot and final outcomes

Option 7: Femme Au Beret Et A La Robe Quadrillee by Pablo Picasso

Suggested reading points:

At first glance, students often describe Picasso's work as "abstract" but actually, he painted things in multiple viewpoints within one painting and so his work is very deliberate. Cubism was a heavy response to the invention of the camera – now that we had black and white still images, artists had to be extra creative and colourful to avoid being redundant and to captivate audiences. See if you can find information about cubism and Picasso's models, and produce your own Cubist portrait



Option 8: Rankin Portraits

Suggested reading points:

Rankin's portraits are recognised throughout the fashion industry, but we want to know how far you're willing to go for the grade in A-Level photography. Will you and your friends cover yourselves in Nutella if that's what it takes to get the avant-garde portrait? Put it this way, this is A-Level Photography. Everyone can take a portrait, so what. What are YOU going to do that's DIFFERENT? Research contemporary portraits and fashion photography to contextualise your response



Option 9: Tim Walker

Suggested reading points:

Tim Walker is a fashion photographer known for his props and costumes. We want to see what you'd bring to a portrait to tell a story, and how you'd tackle the issue of lighting. Are you skilled at moving lamps around and how will you create a story at home, using the materials available? How creative will you get for that grade? Why do you think Walker's work has been so popular?

Note: Tim Walker's website changes frequently and has displayed nude images on the homepage before. Please ensure you are using safe searching



Option 10: Macro Photography

Suggested reading points:

We've seen flower photos and we've seen close up imagery, but Kathleen Clemons is able to achieve aesthetic images using soft lighting. Research her photography, there are some guides on how she captures these images (such as this <https://www.printique.com/blog/flower-power-5-tips-to-macro-flower-photography/>) but also consider the bigger picture. What would this imagery be used for? Is it for a function, or is it just aesthetic art? What will your response be for?

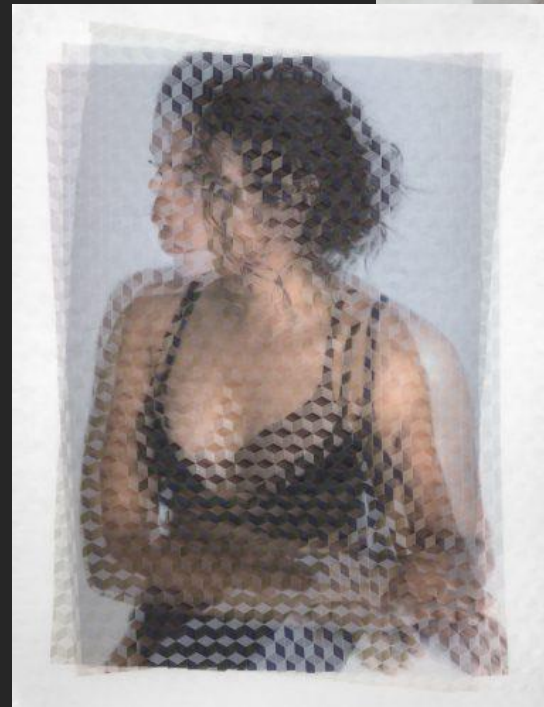


Option 11: Weaving

Suggested reading points:

David Samuel Stern's woven works look simple enough, but require a steady hand, patience and precise cutting skills. The more complicated of Stern's work features a 3 way weave and photographs printed on translucent paper. What effect does this give? You can choose whatever subject matter you would like but we want to see some progressions of weaving, perhaps a smaller/finer weave or for the brave and neat creatives, a 3 way weave*.

*It does not need to be A2 like Stern's weave



Option 12: Flat Lays

Suggested reading points:

Barry Rosenthal's Found In Nature series features objects washed up on the New York Harbour and arranged by colour. Consider the impact Rosenthal's work makes, so don't just collect anything. You could respond to this in many ways, collecting rubbish in Hounslow, or collecting single use plastic objects from home to illustrate the problems we have in today's society. What other objects could you collect to send a message to society? Consider consumerism and waste in your answer

Note: if you are going to collect banned items such as cigarette lighters for your photographs, please do not bring these objects in to school

