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# Photography (Art and Design) A Level

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We look forward to welcoming you to the Art & Photography Department at Highdown School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form in September.

In the meantime, we have set you a series of creative tasks which we hope you will enjoy but will also help you practice and develop your photographic skills ready to start your new courses.

You should find them something of a challenge, but hopefully stimulating and enjoyable. So, don't be too precious about your outcomes. The most important thing is to try new ideas and share them with us so we can help and guide you.

There are four themes: Abstract, Line, Colour and Monochrome.

We would like you to choose one question from each theme.

- For each question you should aim complete be at least one photoshoot (a minimum of X30 photographs).
- Present your X6 favourite photographs ( Be selective) from each photoshoot in a digital portfolio such as a PowerPoint presentation or PDF document.
- Experiments can be completed on different applications: Pixlr E, photoshop, lightroom,
- Collectively, this should contain in excess of 24 images. Please save your presentation onto a memory stick to present in your first lesson. That should be one Landscape photograph a slide or 2 Portrait Photographs on a slide.

Follow us on Instagram @arthighdown if you haven't already, as we will be sharing your responses to each task.

Photograph and/or share your work with us using the hashtag #HighdownSchoolPhotography and tag us @arthighdown



# Task 1: Abstract

“Things are not always what they seem; the first appearance deceives many; the intelligence of a few perceives what has been carefully hidden”. Phaedrus

1) Reflections. Emphasise the reflection, not the objects themselves like the urban landscape photography of Yafiq Yusman. - Explore reflections within your work such as those that occur upon metal, glass or water. Try photographing different subject matter: people, objects, places.... Consider looking at and through as in the work of Sabine Hornig.

2) Bokeh is defined as, "the way the lens renders out-of-focus points of light". In addition to being an exciting part of outdoor night photography, bokeh can be created in dimly lit interiors, when photographing sequined fabric, glitter, sparkle or points of strong light etc. - Try photographing in different low light conditions, interiors and exteriors. - Experiment with creating Bokeh images, try to create 'light trails' ... either by photographing moving lights or by moving the camera whilst photographing lights or other points of strong glitter, sparkle etc.

3) A Vortograph is an abstract kaleidoscopic photograph taken when shooting an object or scene through a triangular tunnel of three mirrors. Alvin Coburn's images were some of the first abstract photographs taken in this way. - Experiment with glass lens prisms, a series of mirrors, hand held, or wall mounted or any other reflective surfaces and experiment with reflecting/ refracting the light to create abstract images.

Websites links:

- ❑ [Creative Snapshots Reveal Singapore's Urban Landscape Reflected in Puddles \(mymodernmet.com\)](https://mymodernmet.com/creative-snapshots-reveal-singapore-s-urban-landscape-reflected-in-puddles/)
- ❑ [water - takashi kitajima photo vault](https://www.takashikitajima.com/)
- ❑ [Artists | Tanya Bonakdar Gallery](https://www.tanyabonakdar.com/)
- ❑ [Alvin Langdon Coburn | Vortex Eagle \(Vortograph\) \(Circa 1917\) | MutualArt](https://www.mutualart.com/artists/alvin-langdon-coburn/Vortex-Eagle-Vortograph-Circa-1917/)



# Task 2: Line

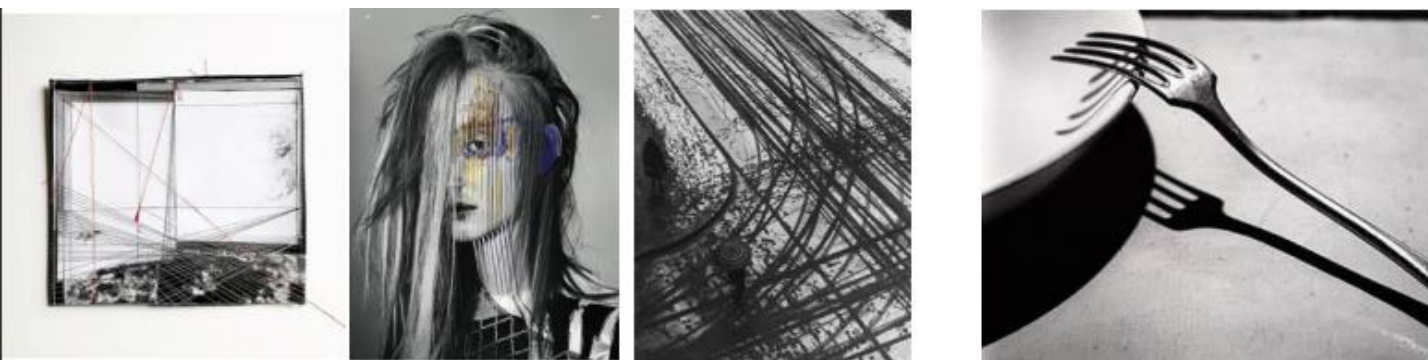
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“I walk the line” Johnny Cash

- 1) Photograph examples of line in the natural world such as patterns in nature, textures, surfaces, trees, forests, landscape, cross sections, close-up, natural uniformity, repetitions as well as organic, wavy and flowing line.
- 2) Photograph examples of line in the manmade world such as patterns in architecture, structures, grids, pylons, streets, stacks, rows, urban textures and objects.
- 3) Take photographs of both natural and man-made lines and then print them out. Cut, slice or tear the photographs and collage the natural and manmade together. When collaging your images think about line in relation to, direction, angle, geometry, thickness, perspective, symmetry, complementary colours, juxtapose, balance, narrowing, widening.
- 4) Look at the photographer, Gisoo2024 (Instagram). Using old photographs cut up and manipulate the images by stitching lines over the top. You can combine more than one image. Alternatively, use manipulation software to highlight and accentuate the lines in your images by adding colour. Other artists to look at could include, Maurizo Anzeri and Lisa Kokin.
- 5) Research the art of the Constructivist artists. Find any house-hold objects in multiples, i.e. drinking straws, cocktail sticks, matches, Jenga blocks, kebab skewers, knives and forks. Photograph the objects singularly and in their multiples. Look at the work of Anton Stankowski or the solitary fork of Andre Kertesz.

Websites links:

- ☐ [https://www.saatchigallery.com/artists/maurizio\\_anzeri.htm](https://www.saatchigallery.com/artists/maurizio_anzeri.htm)
- ☐ <https://www.instagram.com/gisoo2024/?hl=en>
- ☐ [http://www.all-art.org/20oct\\_photo/Stankowski1.htm](http://www.all-art.org/20oct_photo/Stankowski1.htm)
- ☐ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hHWcnL0244>



# Task 3: Colour

At it's inception Colour Photography was considered vulgar and not worthy of artistic merit compared to the art of Black and White.

However, the ground-breaking work of a range of photographers has changed that perception.

- 1) Create a set of photographs that focus on packaging with specific focus on colour, lettering and shape. Look at James Rosenquest and create an abstract composition. Photographers such as Gurnsky often look at repetition and multiples in their imagery. Consider the difference in the way Andreas Gursky has photographed the 99cent shop and the Prada shop. Take a series of photographs where objects and artefacts are repeated many times across the composition.
- 2) Photographers Franco Fontana and William Eggleston both explore the relationship between colour and their environment. They utilise light and specific photographic processes to achieve their very 'high quality' results. Use either photographer to create a response.
- 3) Create colour ladders/charts through photography. Take close up photographs ensuring the subject matter is the same colour but slightly different shade. Put the colours in sequence going from the darkest / lightest shade. See how long you can make your colour ladder. You can take photographs of any environments or any objects or anything else you can think of. Investigate also the relationship of colour in psychology. Most importantly in the use of advertising and commerce. There is a reason certain colours are used.... Why do certain supermarkets, and brands, use either primary, secondary, harsh or soft colours ?

Website links:

❑ - <https://vimeo.com/381155719>

❑ - <https://www.photopedagogy.com/blog/red-alert-the-joys-of-editing>



# Task 4: Monochrome

“Black and white are the colours of photography. To me they symbolize the alternatives of hope and despair to which mankind is forever subjected.”

Robert Frank

Taking photographs in Black and White involves a different set of thought processes to photographing in colour. You must translate colours from pure black through greys to pure white.

- 1) Take a series of portrait photographs in black and white and consider how you use lighting to create strong tonal contrast. Research Ralph Gibson and experiment with using crop to create drama in your images.
- 2) Set up a still life near a window where natural light comes through, using shadows create a series of starkly contrasted images.
- 3) Look at Edward Weston's photographs of natural forms such as fruit, flowers, vegetables. Dissect your objects and create a macro images focusing on detail and texture.
- 4) Look at Bill Brant's landscape photographs. Explore perspective in the landscape, this could be urban or natural but aim to create a sense of space.

Website Links:

- ☐ - <https://photo.wondershare.com/photo-editor/best-apps-to-make-black-whitephotos.htm>

