

Summer Task for new Year 12 Photography students

The task: To set up an A level Photography specific Instagram account and document *something*, every day

At first (and probably second) glance that task might seem a bit vague. But that's intentional: **we want you to pursue your own interests rather than one set theme. We also want you to reconsider how you might use and be less self-conscious with social media in a creatively and experimental and authentic way.**

Once set up on Instagram, follow @photopedagogy. Also follow AND message @artpedagogy to say hello and introduce yourself.

IMPORTANT: This is not to be used as a social account. It is for creative experimentation. It is important you are not too precious with uploading photos. **Make the account private and do not allow others to follow if that will influence how you use and think about the account** – it is not about 'likes' nor assessment or impressing teachers etc. Think of it as a digital notebook where you play with ideas and observations.

Importantly too, we would like you to develop the habit of using your camera everyday:

- Get out with your camera/mobile and experiment enthusiastically
- Don't worry about being 'right' or 'wrong' (whatever that might be)
- Avoid stereotypical responses – those photos you think you should be taking but have probably seen before

How you go about this is ultimately up to you, but here are a few helpful prompts and links for wider reading:

Suggested approach 1: Typologies & Constraints

A [typological](#) approach has its roots in the work of [August Sander](#), and subsequently that of [Bernd and Hilla Becher](#). It might be considered an 'objective' way of recording – a less subjective (less stylised) way of working. Think of it as 'photography presenting the cold facts' of what you discover everyday. Follow [@Fotologic](#) he is a photographer and teacher who we will be collaborating with later in the year. You might set some rules for focusing on a particular theme. For example, using a consistent subject, framing technique or lighting conditions, or keeping at the same distance from your subject. (Refer to [@Fotologic's #gutterobject](#)).

A suggested approach 2: Thematic Explorations

For example, in the early 1960s, Photographer Lee Friedlander repeatedly returned to a common theme with a series titled, [The Little Screens](#). He documented television screens (then a relatively recent luxury appliance) in what he considered 'lonely hotel rooms'. His compositions are not constrained by 'rules' but rather seek or wait for interesting contrasts and relationships to emerge (pausing the image on screen was not an option). In a later series, Friedlander chose to 'go looking' for [America by car](#) – but unlike other photographers he chose to shoot it through his windscreen, producing a set of strange and powerful images of the varied US landscape. Both series maintain consistent elements – TVs or wing mirrors – but allow for a more subjective interpretation. **How might you choose a reoccurring theme to explore each day throughout the summer?**

In summary....

You are going to develop a personal project that documents *something*. Regularly and, ideally, getting you out and about, with your genuine interest behind it. This might be:

- daily routines
- journeys
- specific viewpoints
- day-today family life
- summer work or play...

If you are in doubt still, just begin (and carry on) taking photos daily. Tune in to re-occurring themes and see what emerges. Mostly enjoy being creative, whilst being reflective too. And have a great summer. **Any queries email fs@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk**

In addition, the following websites: PhotoPedagogy.com and artpedagogy.com are essential reads for your a level preparations.