

PHOTOGRAPHY RESOURCE BOXES NOTES FOR LECTURERS & STUDENTS



These lecturer's notes are suitable for use with AVCE Art & Design, AS/A2 Photography, BTEC National Photography, and Foundation Studies Art & Design Diploma students

Access to original photographs is one of the most inspiring and vivid ways through which students can begin to assess the scope and learning potential of photography.

The V&A has been acquiring photographs for 150 years. The National Collection of the Art of Photography now consists of around 300,000 images, from mid-nineteenth century documentary images to contemporary photography. Many are on show in the Museum as part of changing exhibitions and displays, but the majority are stored in the Print Room. The Collection includes work by photographers often studied by post-16 students, such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Bill Brandt, Ansel Adams, Don McCullin, Cindy Sherman, Nan Goldin, Gary Winogrand and Martin Parr.

You can also use the collection to explore photography through its technical development, stylistic changes or subject matter, to name just three aspects. The collection embraces and reflects the diversity of photography. It comprises photographic prints drawn from the whole history of photography, from early salt prints and daguerreotypes to digital ink-jet prints. Areas of practice include fine art to commercial imagery, and photojournalism to family photographs. The V&A also holds the only public collection of fashion photographs, spanning the 20th century.

Key Questions

Encourage the students to consider some of the following questions before reading the notes on each photograph:

The Photographer's intentions

- What are the photographer's aims and intentions?
- Who is the image for? Is it for more than one audience?
- Does the image successfully communicate the photographer's aims and intentions?

Analysing the image

- What type of photography is this? E.g. documentary, portrait, fine art?

- What is included in the photograph?
- What message does the image convey?
- What techniques do you think have been used to make the image?
- Has the image been staged?
- Has the image been manipulated in any way?

Personal Responses

- How does the image make you feel?
- Does the image remind you of anything ?e.g. personal experiences, other photographers' work etc

Curriculum links

Photography AS/A2 (Edexcel)

- Analyse and evaluate critically photographic, film and video images demonstrating an understanding of purposes, meanings and contexts
- Use Photography to present a personal, coherent and informed response, realising intentions, and articulating and explaining connections with the work of others
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of contextual references through research into the work of others extracting useful information about their working methods

AVCE Art & Design (Edexcel)

Unit 3: Historical & Contemporary References

Unit 5: Visual Communication & Meaning

Unit 13: Photography Materials, Techniques & Technology

The V&A Photography Gallery & Exhibitions Programme

Why not combine your visit to the Print room with a visit to the V&A's new photography gallery, or plan to see one of our forthcoming photography exhibitions.

A new photography gallery opened at the V&A in May 2003, adjacent to the temporary exhibition courts in room 38A. This gallery houses annual exhibitions which showcase photographs from the Museum's national collection of the art of photography.

A history of the medium will be illustrated in around fifty images from the birth of photography in 1839 to the present day. A wide range of processes, techniques

and imagery from classic photographers and leading artists are included – such as works by William Henry Fox Talbot, Julia Margaret Cameron, Eadweard Muybridge, Paul Strand, Alfred Stieglitz, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ansel Adams, Bill Brandt, Irving Penn, Cindy Sherman and William Eggleston – alongside remarkable discoveries and lesser-known surprises.

The gallery also incorporates a programme of smaller displays, changing four times a year. These highlight outstanding historic and contemporary bodies of work in the light of new publications and scholarship, show recent acquisitions and allow for collaborations with collections, artists and curators outside the V&A.

The gallery also features interactive screens which allow students to study a selection of photographs drawn primarily from the V&A collection. It contains information on photographers, personal commentaries and explanations of photographic processes and techniques. This can also be accessed on the V&A website: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/photography/>

Bibliography

Haworth-Booth, Mark, **Photography: An Independent Art, Photographs from the V&A 1839-1996**, V&A Publications, 1997

Cotton, Charlotte; **Imperfect Beauty *The making of Contemporary fashion Photographs***, V&A Publications, 2000

Barnes, Martin **Benjamin Brecknall Turner: Rural England Through a Victorian Lens**, V&A

Dodier, Virginia, Foreword by Marina Warner. Afterword by Mark Haworth-Booth **Lady Hawarden *Studies from Life, 1859-1864***, V&A

NB Bill Brandt *Behind the Camera* by Mark Haworth-Booth, will be re-published to accompany the exhibition in 2004

Useful Links

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/exploring/collections/photography/>

<http://www.nmpft.org.uk>

<http://www.autograph-abp.co.uk>

<http://www.photonet.org.uk>

<http://www.tate.org.uk>

<http://www.npg.org.uk>