

Photography has many genres, some old, some borrowed, some new

#1

Photography has many genres, some of which are borrowed from painting (e.g. still life, portraiture, landscape). Some are special to photography (e.g. photojournalism). Artists/photographers often play with our expectations about genre for creative purposes.



Photography is the capturing of light; a camera is optional

#2

All Photography is the capturing of light (radiant energy) and this includes images that are made without a camera or film. The digital revolution has prompted a renewed interest in the material qualities of a photograph including its properties and the way it is presented to the viewer.



Photography is a hybrid kind of picture making, democratic and diverse

#3

Photography crosses different disciplines both in theory and practice. It is a hybrid form of art informed by the sciences and the humanities. Photography is the most diverse and democratic of the visual arts. It has multiple functions, contexts and meanings and these can sometimes overlap in interesting ways.



Photography is an art of selection rather than invention

#4

Photography is unlike other visual arts in that it begins with a world full of things rather than with a blank slate. Photography is more an art of selection and translation rather than of invention. However, photography is also an art of production, not just reflection. It does things to the subjects it represents.



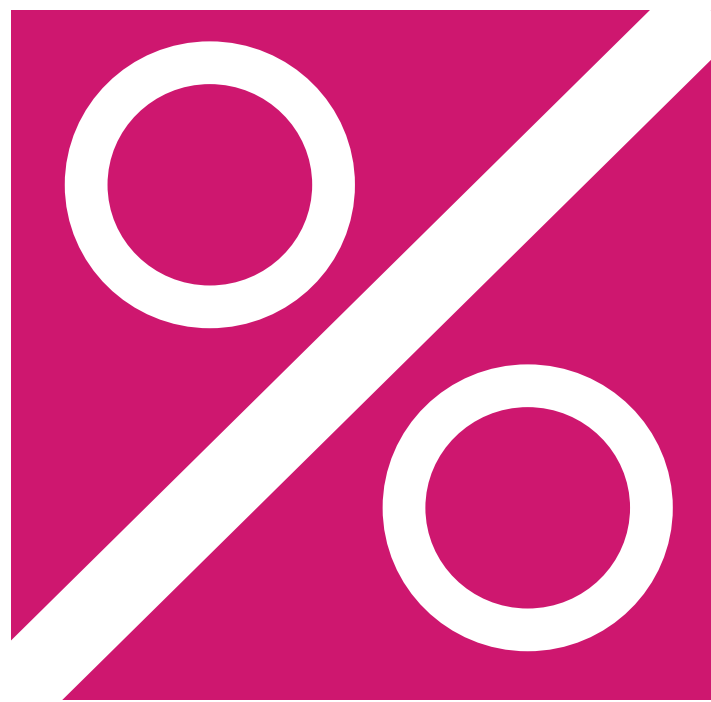
Photographs are abstractions, shaped by technology

#5

Cameras 'see' the world differently to us. The flatness of photographs creates relationships between objects that may not have existed in reality. All photographic images are shaped by the technology the photographer chooses and by a process of selection, editing and manipulation.

## THRESHOLD CONCEPTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

## PHOTOPEDAGOGY



Photographs rely on chance, more or less

#6

Chance is very important in photography. You can fight chance, tolerate it or embrace it. To some extent, all photographs are the result of chance processes.



Photographs are not fixed in meaning; context is everything

#7

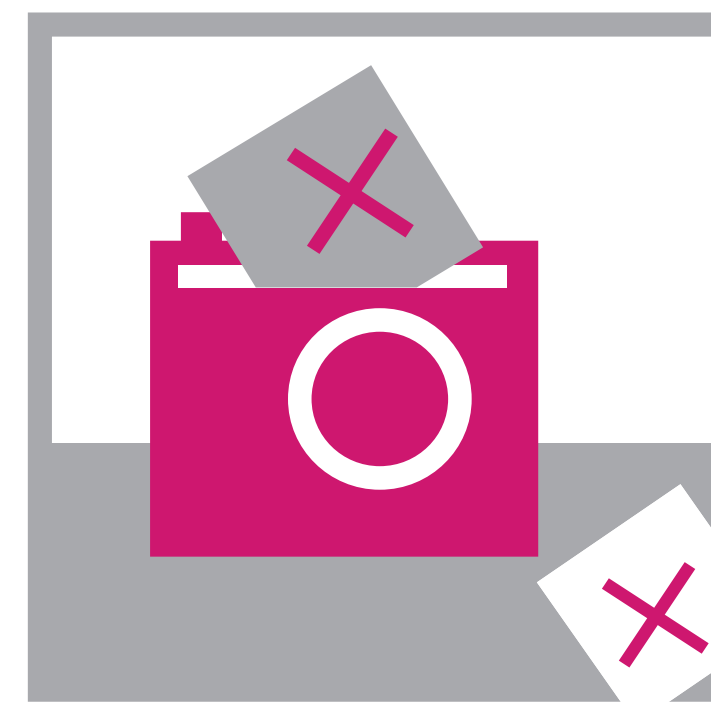
The meanings of photographs are never fixed. Meaning does not reside within a photograph but relies on a combination of the viewer's sensitivity, knowledge and understanding, and the specific context in which the image is seen.



Photographs have their own visual language and 'grammar'

#8

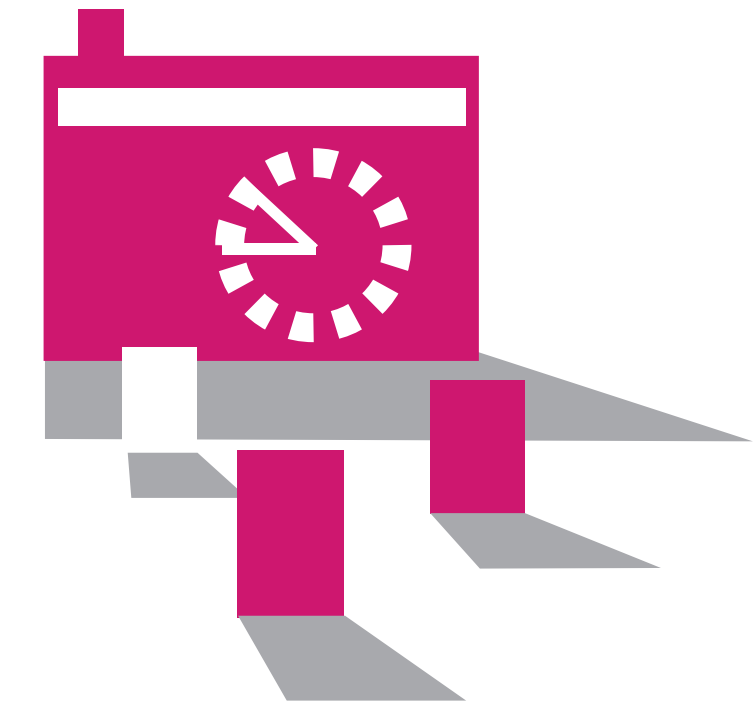
Formal and visual elements of Photography (such as line, shape, balance etc.) are shared with other works of art. But photographs also have a specific grammar - flatness, frame, time etc. 'Mistakes' in photography are often associated with (breaking) the 'rules' and expectations of this grammar.



Photographs are not neutral; they are susceptible to the abuse of power

#9

Photographs communicate powerful ideas about the world. They can be used to promote both good and bad attitudes. Therefore, students of photography must be very careful to think hard about what they see in other people's photographs and how they make their own.



Photographs warp our sense of time; they remind us of things lost

#10

Photographs warp our sense of time. They present us with the past and present simultaneously. Photographs remind us of people and things that have gone. They record what has been lost, what no longer exists, or what still exists but will be lost at some point in the future.