

The theme for Your project is **Urban influences**

Task 1

Explore taking photographs of your environment.

- Aim to do 5 different photoshoots (see below suggestions to give you inspiration)
- For each photoshoot take at least 20 different photographs.
- Present all your photographs on a PowerPoint presentation.
- Annotate your photographs - explain what inspired you? What were your intentions when taking these photographs? Select the best photographs and explain why you think they are the best.

Here are some suggestions that may stimulate your imagination:

- Quarries, football fields, dunes, beaches, hillsides, building sites
- Caves, theatres, cinemas, concerts, cellars, darkrooms
- Stagnant water drops, hair, plant and animal cells, aquariums
- Charity shops, supermarkets, car boot sales, superstores
- Skips, scrapyards, recycling centres, antique reclamation yards
- Classrooms, gymnasiums, halls, cathedrals, churches, crypts
- Houses, bedrooms, kitchens, yards, sheds, gardens
- Attics, towers, skyscrapers, bridges, Ferris wheels, funfairs
- Planes, buses, trains, boats, cars, lifts
- Holidays, tents, hotels, caravans, beach huts, changing rooms
- Drawers, suitcases, jars, test tubes, treasure chests, jewellery boxes

Task 2

Complete 3 artist studies – select one artist from each theme (read the information about the themes and artist on the next pages)

1. People and their environment – August Sanders **or** Lewis Hine
2. Domestic Environment – Peter de Hooch **or** Laura Letinsky
3. The 'Absurd and Ridiculous' – Richard Wentworth **or** Micheal Hughes

Task 3

Visit an Art Gallery – living near London we are surrounded by amazing art galleries and museums

- Go to at least one Gallery
- Write about your experience of the trip – What artwork did you see?
- Select one artist or Artwork that captured your imagination and write a review of the artist and their artwork.
- See the list of galleries on the last page.

Extension task – challenge yourself!

Read one of the following books and write a short review:

- Ways of seeing – John Berger
- On Photography - Susan Sontag

People and their Environment

Photographers often explore the relationship between people and their environments, whether it be their immediate surroundings or cultural background. Photographers like August Sander and Lewis Hine, aimed to give dignity and respect to people at all levels of society.

August Sander



Lewis Hine



Domestic Environment

Our domestic environment can reflect how we feel about ourselves and our relationship to the world. 17th century Dutch artists such as Pieter de Hooch painted interior scenes that reflected harmony, restraint and prosperity. For Laura Letinsky, domesticity revolves around creating domestic scenes and photographing them.

Pieter de Hooch



Laura Letinsky



<https://lauraletinsky.com/art/photographs/the-dog-and-the-wolf/>

The 'Absurd and Ridiculous'

Artist often use the 'absurd and the ridiculous' in our environment to depict the strange and mundane.

Richard Wentworth photographs the often intriguing solutions that people make to solve mundane problems. His series Making Do and Getting By reveals our environment to us with fresh eyes. Michael Hughes uses souvenirs bought in places to create optical illusions.

Richard Wentworth

Making Do and Getting By



Michael Hughes



Gallery Visit

1. The Royal Academy of Arts

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/>

2. Tate Britain (free) Pimlico tube station.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain>

3. Tate Modern (free) Southwark Tube

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

4. Victoria and Albert Museum. High Street Kensington tube (free)

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/>

5. Photographers Gallery (free)

<https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/>

Challenge!

Read one of the following books

- Write a short review – what have you learnt?

Susan Sontag On Photography



Ways of Seeing John Berger



Seeing comes before words. The child looks and recognizes before it can speak.

But there is also another sense in which seeing comes before words. It is seeing which establishes our place in the surrounding world; we explain that world with words, but words can never undo the fact that we are surrounded by it. The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled.



The Surrealist painter Magritte commented on this always-present gap between words and seeing in a painting called *The Key of Dreams*.

The way we see things is affected by what we