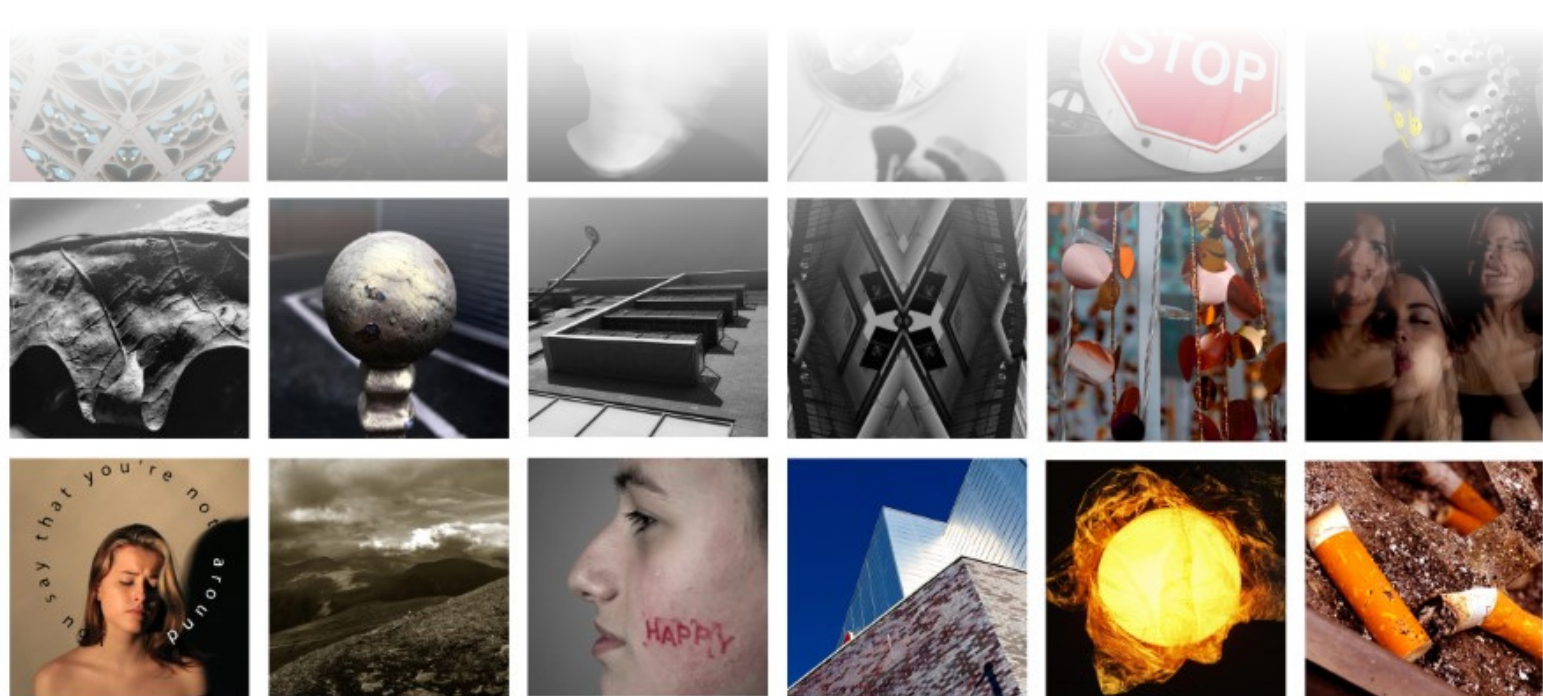


Congratulations for achieving a place on A Levels here at Bury College and welcome to A Level Photography!

You've probably been wondering how studying A Levels will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting in September.



A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY STUDY PACK



COURSE OVERVIEW



This course provides you with an exciting opportunity to develop the range of skills required to be a creative photographer. During the first year of A Level Photography, you will study the basic skills required to develop your visual awareness and your creative ideas.

You will focus on:

Visual language & composition

Selecting subjects

Artist research for inspiration

Camera control

Digital editing

Studio lighting

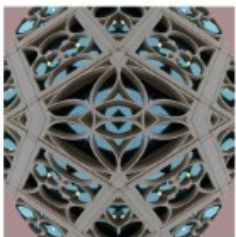
Film & darkroom (traditional methods)

Website presentation

We expect our students to be highly motivated and to be able to work independently. As you progress through the course, you will become increasingly confident in being able to produce coursework that shows individual creativity, alongside good technical control over the quality of the imagery produced and presented. A high level of attendance and punctuality are essential to success in Photography, as well as a passion for creativity. That means working in breaks and in your study time.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Most of our students are new to studying Photography as a subject and have various degrees of experience. You can start this course as a fresh subject (little prior experience), provided you have the motivation to learn and to become successful in your studies.



RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT



Photography is a technical as well as creative subject, therefore students are required to have a device that can capture images. The ideal camera is a DSLR camera that has manual controls, provided you can afford it. A basic student level DSLR camera will cost around £300 for the cheapest brand new one (we recommend either a Canon, or Nikon brand). However, a good quality 'bridge' or 'compact' camera will be acceptable as a starting point. If the cost of

a camera is an issue, the minimum requirement for the course would be that you have a good quality mobile phone camera (such as an iPhone). Bear in mind that some mobile phone cameras can produce better results than some cheaper cameras. However, the key benefit of owning your own DSLR, is that you can practise the use of manual exposure controls and lenses to have more creative control over your results. Phones and compact cameras are usually more geared up for 'automatic' settings.

The college will provide free access to Adobe Photoshop within college. Having Photoshop installed on your home computer is beneficial if you can afford it, but not essential. It does cost around £10 per month. Free software that's similar includes Gimp and Pixlr. Another alternative is Affinity Photo, which has a 'one-off' cost of around £50 (they often have discount offers), with no recurring monthly costs. These are acceptable to use as an alternative to Photoshop at home.

The college will also provide the equipment you need for film and darkroom photography, including loan of a camera and all darkroom apparatus. However, you will need to buy rolls of film and darkroom paper from our Art Department shop at the cost of £2.50 per item.

The other key resource available at college, is use of the studio. This is equipped with various spotlights, flash units, backdrops and props for use.



HOW WE ASSESS

In the first year, you will complete a series of 'workshop' based projects to build your skills. You will need to meet target grades in Year 1, in order to progress to Year 2. In Year 2, you will produce two Components of work that will count towards your final grade. Component 1 runs up to January and is worth 60% of your final grade. Component 2 runs from February to May and is worth 40% of your final grade. Component 2 has a 15-hour controlled test at the end, where you will produce your final work for that project. All work is visual and practical in nature and is classed as 'coursework'. Your projects will cover aspects such as: research, responding to the work of others, observing and visually recording your subjects, experimentation with materials and resources, developing personal ideas, written reflections on progress, refining your work, and producing a high quality, personal final outcome.

In the main, your work will be presented on a website (using WIX) and most of your work will be digital in nature. This enables you to produce professionally presented projects, and allows you to develop the extra skill of online presentation.

The entirety of your projects in Year 2, from starting points to final outcomes, count towards your grade (not just the final outcome). There are some written elements, where you will undertake research into the work of other photographers for inspiration, and you will also reflect on and evaluate your own progress, discussing creative ideas, strengths and improvements to be made. All 'Components' are internally assessed and verified against the AQA (exam board) assessment criteria. There are 4 'Assessment Objectives' that remain constant throughout the whole two-year course. The teaching staff assess your work, which is then checked by an external examiner from the exam board.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

You will learn a wide range of skills across the different aspects of Photography to allow you to develop your own creative skills to help determine your chosen future pathway. You will use industry standard software (Adobe) and use other photographic equipment that is in line with current industry expectations. You will develop the skills needed to effectively and creatively respond to themed projects, whilst developing a personal portfolio of work suitable for a progression interview. As your creative problem-solving skills grow, you will increasingly work with greater confidence and independence. We also develop your wider employment skills such as team work, time management, research techniques, reflective and lateral thinking.

DID YOU KNOW THE CREATIVE SECTOR IS THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY IN THE WORLD?

Future career opportunities within Photography may include: Fine Art photography, fashion photography, product photography, photojournalism & documentary photography, wildlife and landscape photography, travel photography, scientific, medical & forensic photography, photography careers within the uniformed services (police, army ... etc.), sports photography, advertising and branding, architecture photography, portrait photography, wedding photography (and other events), food photography, music photography, and many, many more...

HOW BEST TO WORK

The best thing you can do is to have a genuine passion for documenting the world around us, and have creative individual ideas. It is essential that you are willing to explore the environments around us, often in your own free time/study time. Be curious, dedicated and hard-working. Be able to take criticism and accept and work on mistakes. Photography can often involve repeated practice, till you learn the skill, so be patient, be resilient. It can mean learning to let go of perfectionism and learning to think more flexibly. An open mind and willingness to listen and take advice will benefit you hugely during your time in college.

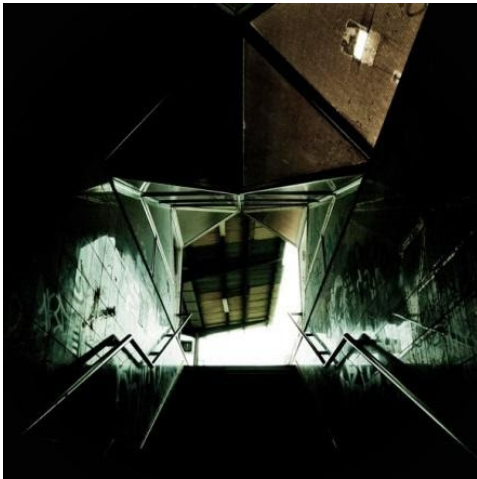


RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

To prepare you for your upcoming course and get your brain engaged in thinking creatively and visually, we have a few activities for you to try over the summer. We want to see what you have done when you start in September, so upload your photoshoots and save them to a memory stick in organised folders (no need to print work).

TASK 1

ARCHITECTURE & VIEWPOINTS



Explore the urban environment around you, when you are out on your daily walks or around the building or area you live. Choose one interesting building or man-made structure. It could be an old building, or new, a bridge, a pylon, stairwell, or any significant structure. Photograph this building or structure from at least 20 different and unusual angles to create interesting viewpoints.

If you can't go outside you may find some interesting angles and lines simply around your home or garden. Things like stairs and banisters/railings, lamp-posts, drains, corners of the house and doorways. Looking up or down or at tiled extreme angles can help you find some unusual perspectives.

TASK 2

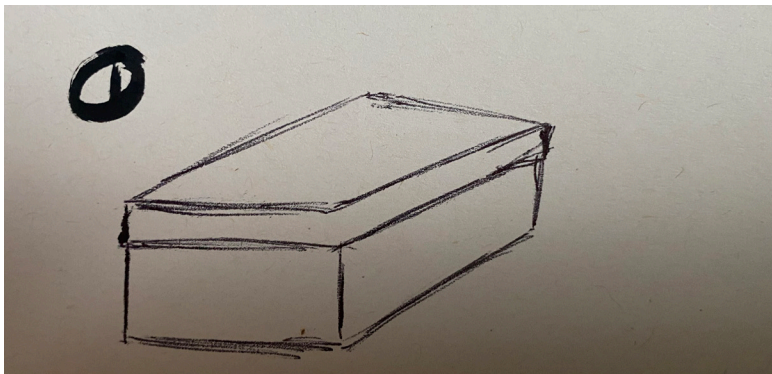
HOMEMADE PINHOLE CAMERA

Make your own Pin Hole Camera ready to bring with you at the start of your College course, we will develop a photograph using your very own DIY Pin Hole Camera. Research Pin Hole Cameras and jot a few notes down about them, here's a useful link,

<https://parallaxphotographic.coop/beginners-guide-to-pinhole-photography/>

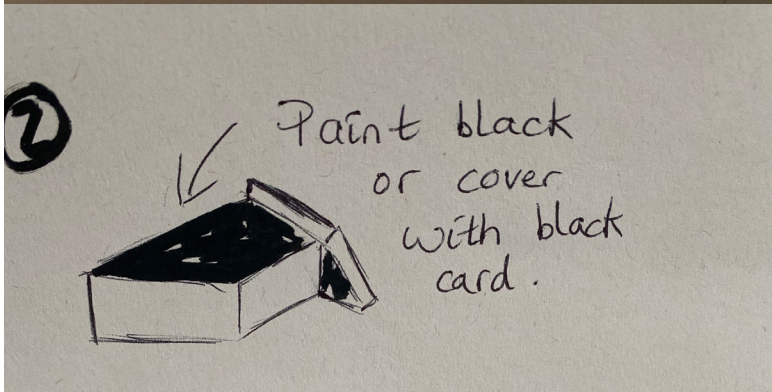
YOU WILL NEED

- A cardboard box – must have a lid, a shoe box for example. Must be light tight when closed.
- Celotape.
- Black card.
- Tin foil
- A pin – Don't worry if you don't have one of these in your home we can finish the step when you start college.
- Scissors.
- Black paint.

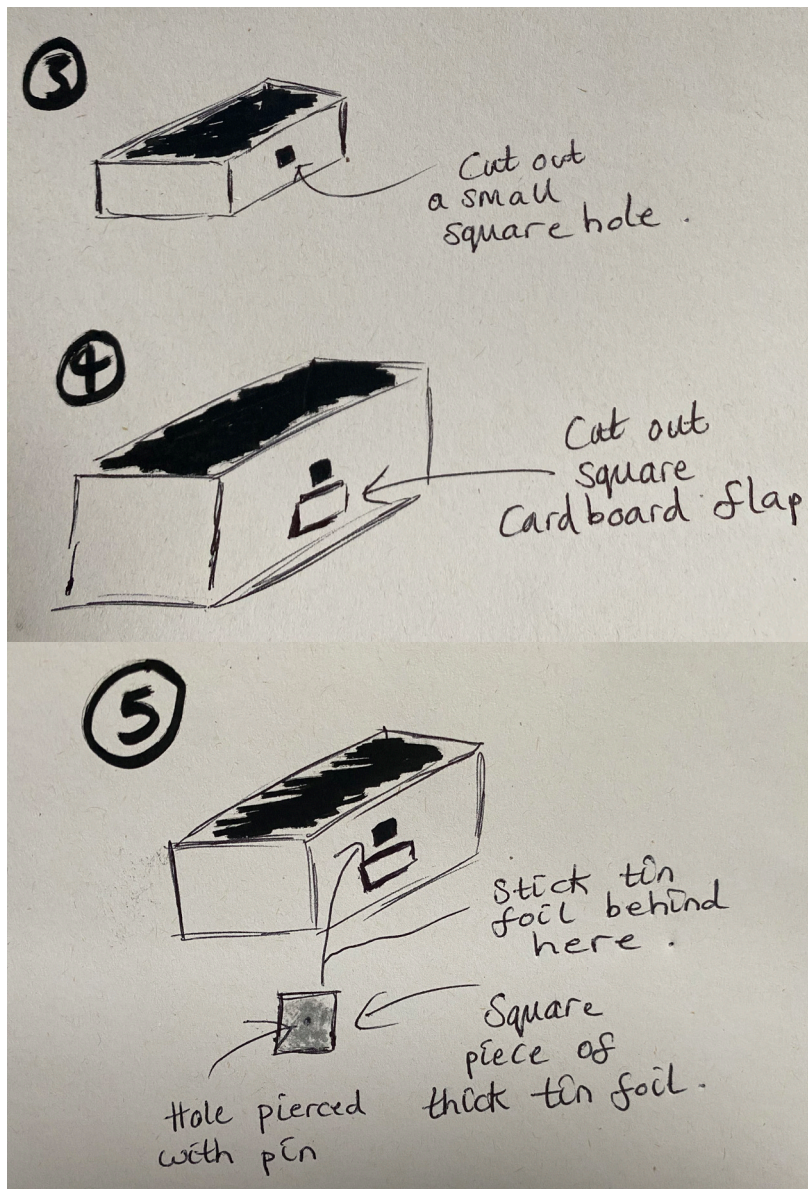


1. Make sure your box is light tight, no small holes in corners etc.

If you notice some you can use black card to seal any hole and block any light entering the box when the lid is closed.



2. Paint the box inside black, if you don't have any black paint, cover all the edges inside with black card.



3. Cut a small square hole in the front of the box. Please be careful using scissors or a craft knife whilst doing this.

4. Create a shutter – With a bit of scrap card, cut a square large enough to cover the hole you have just made over the box. Tape this over the hole to make a flap. You now have a square hole with a flap covering it on the outside.

5. On the inside of the square hole, inside the box, tape a square of tin foil so the square is covered from the inside. Using your pin, poke a small hole in the centre of your foil square.

This is all you need to do to create your very own pin hole camera! Don't forget to bring this with you at the start of College so we can test them out to develop some unusual photography.

Why not think of other objects around your home you can use to make into a pin hole camera. It doesn't just need to be a cardboard box, as long as it is a light tight hollow object you can easily pierce a small hole through (the size of a pin) it should work.

Pringles tube, tin cans, cereal boxes are a few items you can use instead.



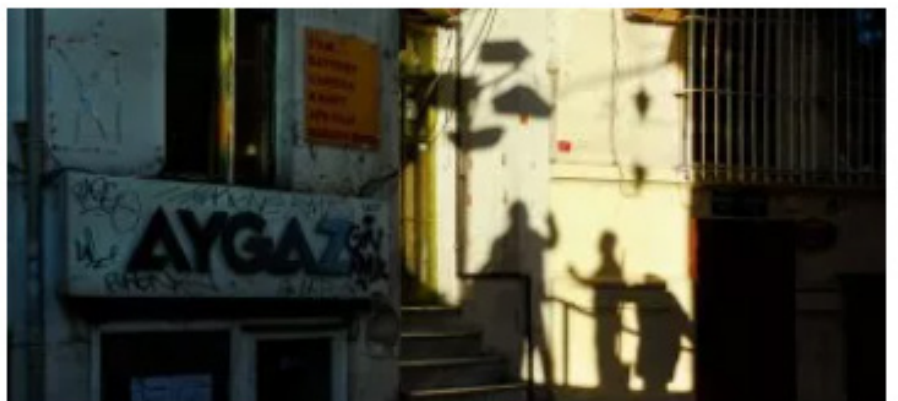
Images taken from <https://www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Make-A-Pinhole-Camera/> for educational non-profit purposes.

Each day use your phone/camera to capture the challenge for that day. You can interpret the challenge prompts in any way you want. Try to be experimental in your approach.

TASK 3

DAILY IMAGE CAPTURE CHALLENGE

1. Something green
2. Look up
3. Fill the screen
4. Old
5. Makes me smile
6. Reflection
7. Tilted
8. Distance
9. Flora and fauna
10. Broken
11. Shadows
12. Outside in
13. Candid
14. Upside down
15. L is for...
16. Artificial
17. Texture
18. Leading lines
19. Action shot
20. Colourful
21. Angular
22. Skyline/horizon
23. Wrinkled
24. Hiding
25. Look down
26. Tiny
27. Technology
28. Something sweet
29. First thing you see
30. Tunnel



Tips for Using Natural Framing to Improve Your Composition

[Click the image above for some helpful photography guides.](#)

TASK 4

PHOTOGRAPHY LETTER HUNT

THE AIM IS TO CAPTURE EACH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET PHOTOGRAPHICALLY.

Both natural and manmade objects can have shapes of letters within them. On your daily walk or around your home try to spot letter shapes and capture them with your phone or camera. You may have to crop and frame the photos in interesting and unusual ways to get the right angles to capture letters.

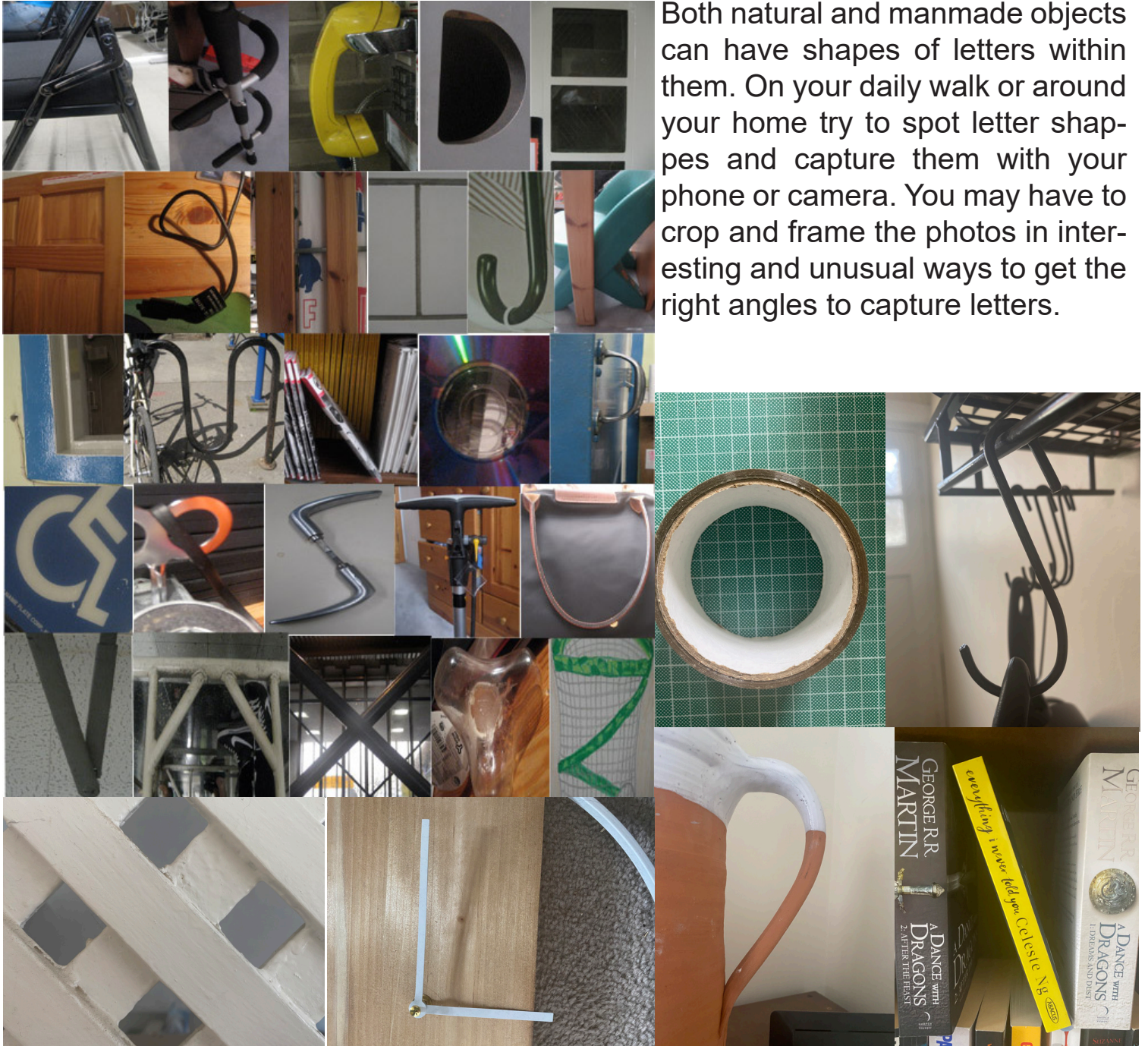


Image credited to <https://digitalmindsphotography.com>

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Photography - Websites & Collections

[The Royal Photographic Society - RPS](#)

[British Journal of Photography](#)

[AOP - Association of Photographers](#)

[500px](#)

[1x.com](#)

[Magnum Photos](#)

[Magnum Archive](#)

[Creative Boom - Photography](#)

[ICP - International Center of Photography](#)

[LensCulture](#)

Photography - Technical Advice

[Digital Camera World](#)

[DP Review](#)

[DPS - Digital Photography School](#)

[Cambridge in Colour - Learning Community](#)

[Photography Life](#)

[Fstoppers](#)

[PetaPixel - Photography and Camera News, Reviews, and Inspiration](#)

[Camera Jabber](#)

[DIY Photography](#)

[iPhone Photography School](#)

[Scott Kelby](#)

[Expert Photography](#)

Photography - Artists

[27 Most Famous Photographers You Need To Know](#)



RECOMMENDED APPS

[Adobe Lightroom \(Android\)](#)

[Adobe Lightroom \(Apple\)](#)

[Snapseed \(Android\)](#)

[Snapseed \(Apple\)](#)

[Photoshop Fix \(Android\)](#)

[Photoshop Fix \(Apple\)](#)

[Photoshop Express \(Android\)](#)

[Photoshop Express \(Apple\)](#)



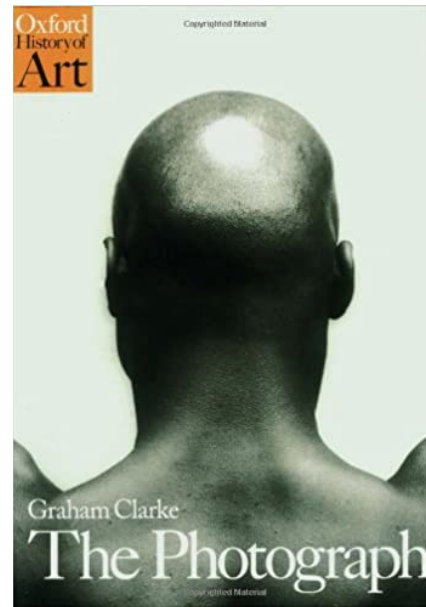
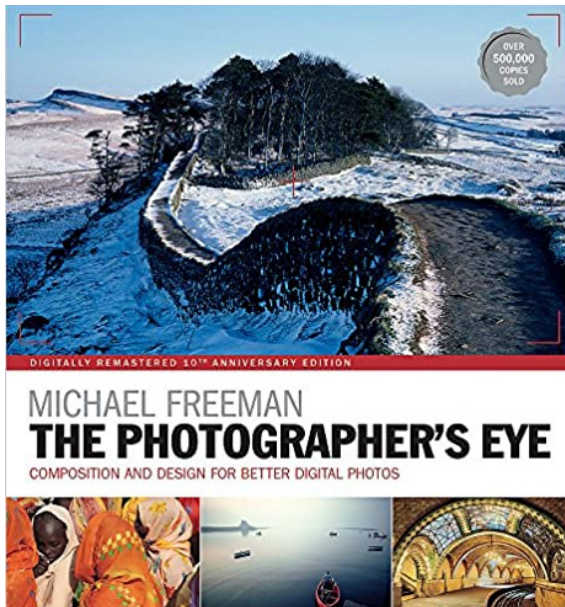
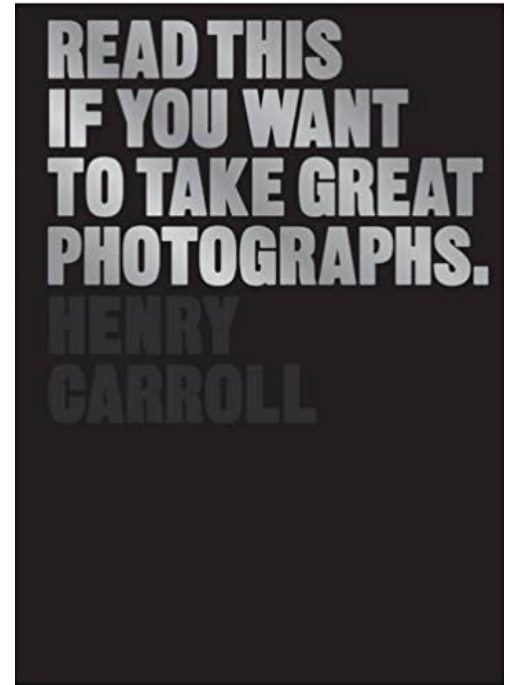
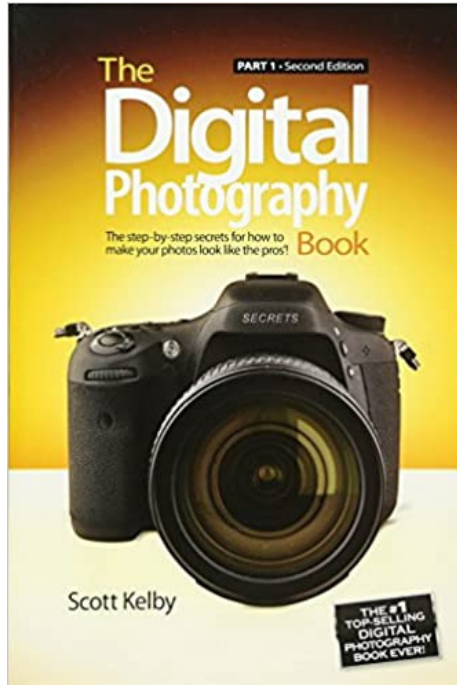
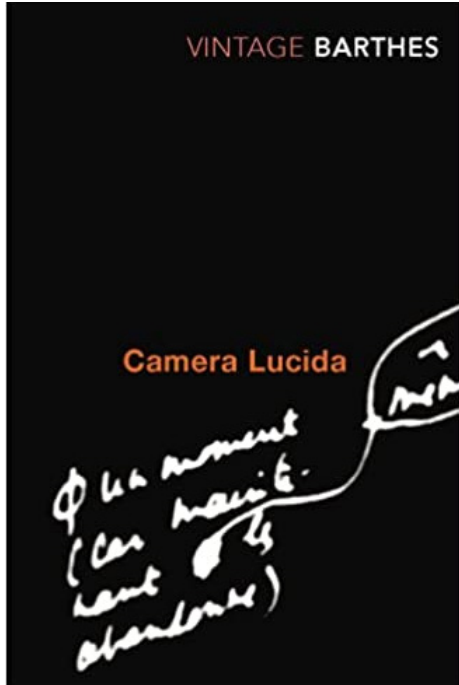
RECOMMENDED VIDEOS

The YouTube channels below are great for technique and software practice. The best thing you can do if you are interested in certain art styles or artists is to follow them and watch how they work. Watch any live streams the artist may do, seeing them work live is a good way to find out how to approach a drawing. Click the links below to be taken to the channels.

[SLR Lounge | Photography Tutorials - YouTube](#)

[How to Use a Pentax K-1000 35mm Film Camera](#)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS



Click the images to go to their Amazon pages.
We also have many photography books in our library for you to borrow when you get to college.



Contact Us

We are here to help you.

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