

## **Group Assignment: Photography and Form**

As a group chose a theme from the course: Social Realism, Documentary, Surrealism, Early Photography, The Colonial Archive, Science and Medicine, Pictorialism, War Photography and Journalism, Street Photography, Gender and Performance, Post-Modernism and Appropriation, Contemporary Photography.

Assign Your Roles: 2 Researchers (or Art Historians), 2 Photographers, and 2 Art Critics

The researchers should go to the library, research the theme and then select a single photographer to focus on in collaboration with the groups 'photographers.'

As a group: discuss what is unique about the photographer you have chosen: their subjects, their motivation, their style. What are the distinct formal qualities of their images? Where were their images shown? Do the images have captions? Why is this photographer interesting?

The group should then discuss how to re-create at least **two images** in the style of the photographer that you have chosen. The 'photographers' in the group are responsible for managing and organizing this shoot. You can use your camera phone, but if you have access to a digital SLR camera that would also be great. Think about tone, grain, lighting, color, and composition. Also, think about the photographer's motivation, their subjects and their audience. Take notes on your process.

The critics job is to analyze the groups' efforts, interpret the image and present your findings about that image as a whole. The critics can also help to select the most successful image from the photographer's shoot.

In the class presentation the everyone should have an opportunity to speak: you will have seven to ten minutes and should leave time for questions.

**Art Historians:** Why did you choose this theme? What did you discover that was unexpected? What do you think is the most important thing about this photographer is in terms of the history of the medium? What defines this photographer's style? 2- 3 mins

**Photographers:** Describe your process and approach. What were the main challenges you faced in re-creating this style of photography? Did any ethical questions arise? What other resources would you have found helpful? 2- 3 mins

**Critics:** Describe the groups work in an over-all sense. Draw on your knowledge of formal analysis techniques to draw our attention to the details of the photograph. How closely does it match the original? How successful is the re-creation? What are the defining qualities of the original photographer's style? 2- 3 mins.

**You will need to show the image in class. Bring a slide show on a usb.**

Submit:

Each group member has to submit **a one-page reflection** directly to the instructor. Your reflection is a short essay (approx. 300 words) of a) your thoughts on the photographer, b) how your photograph was made, and c) what was your experience working with your group. These are personal reflections that you do not have to share with your group, only your instructor. You can submit your reflection on Blackboard, or as a hard copy in class.