

CMT11 • Halifax West High School

Semester 2: February - June 2016

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Photoshop CS6: Photomontage/Surrealism Project

Unit 2: Photography

- understand the characteristics of a pixel, and how it relates to resolution
- locate and save an image from the world wide web
- create a composite image from 2 or more different digital sources
- demonstrate a basic understanding of Photoshop.

Assignment Summary

Students are to produce a highly creative and meaningful **photomontage** composition. Original photographs and (some) downloaded/digitally scanned source material will be skillfully combined, manipulated and blended using a range of appropriate tools and (advanced) techniques in Adobe Photoshop CS6. If successful, it is envisaged that each student's work will be exhibited as high-resolution, large-scale prints.

Definition & Brief History

The term Photomontage is used to describe the process of making a composite photograph by cutting and combining 2 or more images. The resulting composite was usually photographed (film) as a 'new' and seamless photographic print.



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1. Dora Maar, Sans Titre (1934)
2. Jerry Uelsman, Untitled (1992)
3. Scott Mutter, Chandelier

Although the technology has changed, the underlying principles of photomontage remain. Photomontage can now be achieved digitally using image-editing software and is often referred to as "compositing", or even "Photoshopping".

Although photographic manipulation had been done before, the term 'photomontage' was first introduced towards the end of WW1. The term was coined by the **Dadaists** as a way of describing the new technique of introducing photographs into their work. The Dadaist used photographs as a readymade image, pasting it together with cuttings from newspapers and magazines, lettering and drawing to form a chaotic, explosive image, a provocative dismembering of reality.

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1.
2. Man Ray, *Le Violon d'Ingres*, 1924

3. Umbo (Otto Umbehr), *The Roving Reporter*, 1926

4. John Heartfield, *Adolf the Superman: Swallows Gold and Spouts Junk*, 1932

The photograph eventually became dominant in Dada artworks as a reaction to exclusive and traditional artforms. Photomontage belonged to the technological world, a world of mass communication and photomechanical reproduction.

As Surrealism became the dominant European art form, photomontage gradually faded into obscurity for a number of years, until the emergence of the Dada-inspired Pop Artists of the 1960s. A number of artists connected with the Pop Art movement used magazine photos and text to convey the ethos of the age.



1



2



3

1.Claes Oldenberg- *Lipsticks in Picadilly Circus, London* (1966)

2. Alfred Gescheidt, *untitled*, 1968

3.Pink Floyd, *Wish You Were Here* (album cover), 1975

At this time, and to an extent in response to the increasing populism of art, advertisers jumped on the bandwagon and started to produce more photomontages, a trend that continues to this day.

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1.



2.



3.

1. 2. 3.
1. Jerry Uelsman, *Symbolic Mutation*, 1961
2. Scott Mutter, Untitled (Escalator)
3. John Foxx, *Cathedral Oceans*, 2001

In detail- Photomontage Project

Students are required to produce a photomontage artwork using digital cameras and Photoshop CS6.

As it is expected that the final work is done to a high standard, it is therefore expected that the main source material for the project must be done using **original photographs combined with high quality downloads**, digital scans from books, magazines, image libraries, etc. If you need an image to a particular specification, whenever possible, shoot one on a H/SLR camera or use an image that you have previously taken.

Attention to detail such as resolution, scale, angle, perspective, colour, lighting, etc, is very important for the purposes of making this new project a 'convincing' composite. Students will be introduced to a range of new techniques, tools and filters in Photoshop to help achieve this

To begin with look the work of photomontage artists such as Dora Maar, Scott Mutter, Alfred Gescheidt, etc. Consider a range of different ideas before final selection. **Sketch 3 ideas on paper first and then discuss the results with your teacher.**

How you do this piece is mainly down to you. However, you are to be assessed on the requirements below-

- *The final photomontage must be a composite of at least 2 source images from (mainly) original high-quality photographs and downloads/digital scans*
- *You must adhere to the required resolution and size requirements. Resolution (ideally at 300dpi). Print size to be confirmed in class.*
- *Marks will be awarded for skilful image manipulation, blending and 'seamless' compositing.*
- *Use of appropriate/ advanced tools and filters (to be discussed/ demonstrated)*
- *It is a requirement that the work is produced in Adobe Photoshop.*
- *Evidence of working out the ideas on paper first.*

Submit for Assessment

1. A set of (3x) sketches on paper (value=5)
 2. A final composition. (value=45)
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Deadline for submission- early April 2016 tbc

M. Barker 8th Mar 2016