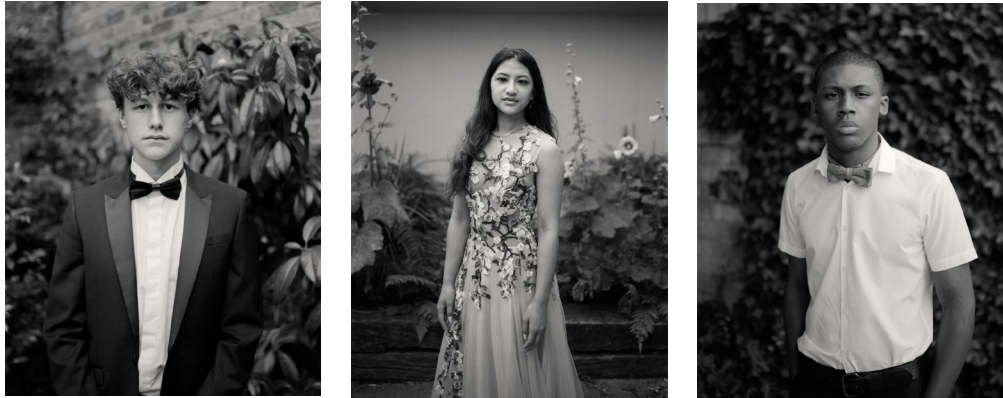


Photography A-Level Summer Work



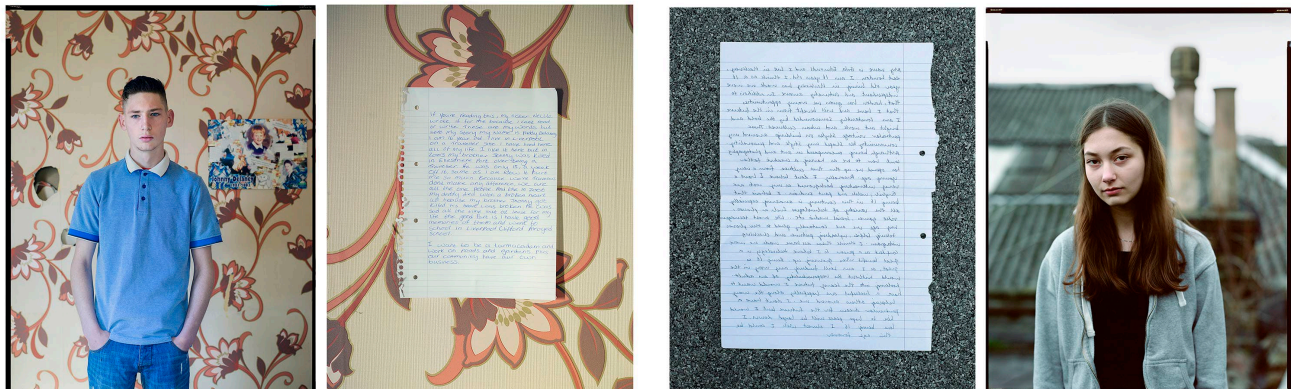
'The Lost Summer' by Alys Tomlinson

Introduction to a Portrait Project

Portraits tell us many things about the subject. They communicate and inform us about the person, the age and culture they exist in. When we look at a portrait, we read not only the subject and their expression but the things around them, their clothes, hair, and their surroundings which often contain important symbolic objects.

One of the principal uses of photography from its inception has been documenting peoples' lives. All of us have photos of some description, most of which are in the form of a *snapshots on our mobile phones*. Rarely are these composed or considered in any way other than to get all the significant people in the photograph looking towards the camera and smiling.

In preparation for the A-level photography course, over the summer, we want you to take a series of photographs exploring the question 'What makes a memorable portrait'



'Sixteen' by Craig Easton

TASK ONE:

When you are starting a photography project it is helpful to look at other photographers for inspiration. Look at the work of all the photographers below and choose the photographer whose work you are most interested in. Select two of their portraits that immediately appeal to you. Print the photographs out on an A4 sheet and use the following questions to analyse them:

- Title the page 'Photography Research'
 - Write a short description of what you see in the photograph.
 - What is the first thing that you look at in the photograph?
 - What is the relationship of the photographer to the subject/s in the photograph?
 - Does the photograph contain any objects that give more clues about the person/people in the photograph and what do they suggest?
 - How does the photograph differ from an average photograph?
 - Why have you selected this image from the other photographs by this photographer?
 - Include titles and dates for both portraits
7. Richard Billingham The photographer made his name as young person with a series of photographs showing his family at home. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/mar/13/richard-billingham-tower-block-white-dee-rays-a-laugh-liz>
 2. Jamie Hawkesworth is a fashion and documentary photographer. His first photography project was taken in Preston bus station. <https://www.anothermag.com/art-photography/7879/preston-bus-station-by-jamie-hawkesworth> <https://www.shashasha.co/en/book/preston-bus-station>
 3. Carrie Mae Weems staged and photographed a fictional drama in which she plays the lead, as a way of exploring her identity <https://www.nga.gov/artworks/209288-kitchen-table-series>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPDInpNoQ50>
 4. Craig Easton is a Scottish photographer who explores identity and the sense of a place. He led a photography collaboration called 'Sixteen' which explores what it means to be sixteen in the UK today. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah8O9EdahEE>
 5. Sian Davey Everyone had a place in 'The Garden' created by Davey and used by her as a background for her thoughtful portraits <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlgANeDSKls>
 6. Alys Tomlinson photographed local teenagers dressed in outfits they would have worn to prom in summer 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/nov/09/prom-portraits-from-the-lost-summer-of-2020-a-photo-essay>

TASK TWO:

During the summer break, photograph as many significant people from your 'life' as you can. You could choose to take portraits of family, friends or you could take self-portraits like Carrie Mae Weems! Use either, the camera on your phone or another type of digital camera.

Your portraits should be inspired by the research you have completed in task one and form a series of at least nine images. They should have something in common, so find an element that will connect your images so that it can be repeated in each portrait.

You will be expected to submit your written analysis of your selected photographs printed on an A4 sheet. Bring in the portraits you take on a memory stick or other storage device to the start of the course, as they will be used in the induction project.

GOOD LUCK!!! We look forward to seeing you in your Photography classes in September.



'Kitchen Table Series' by Carrie Mae Weems