THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

Activity: Colours of the Street

This activity created by Anna Foxabbott invites you to interact with your outdoor environment in a new way through creating a colour restrictive photo collage, allowing the sometimes over-whelming nature of street photography to become easier to digest. The key aim is to colour categorise what you see around you before turning it in to a photo collage. What colours do we see most frequently in our environment? What emotions do they provoke?

Share your photographs #TPGActivity

You will need:

- Smartphone or camera
- Busy street or built-up area
- Scissors
- Glue
- Printer (Optional)
- Scanner (Optional)

Top Tips

If you don't have access to a printer or scanner, try using digital editing programs like Photoshop or free apps like GIMP to edit your images. Or run to your local corner shop to get them printed!

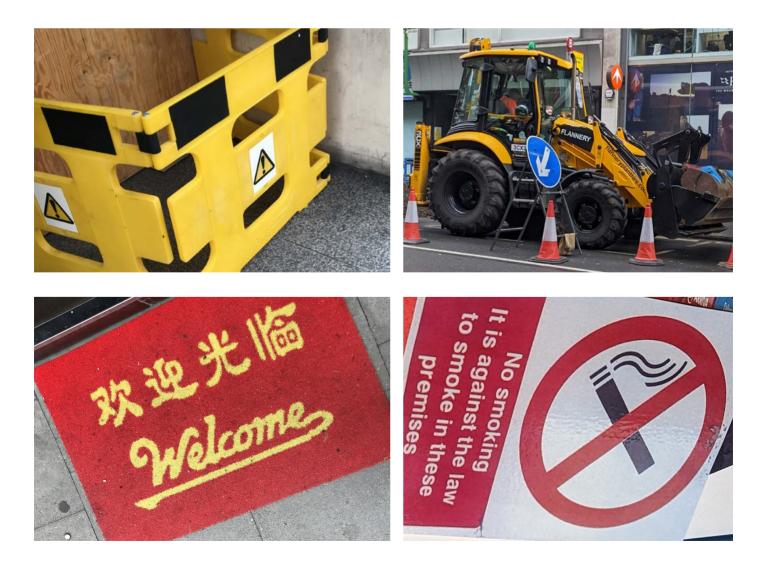# Instructions

1. Grab your smartphone or camera

Put on some comfy shoes and get ready to head out on your walk. Make sure your device has plenty of battery and storage, as it's best for you to take as many images as possible.

2. Select any colour

It can be your favourite colour or a completely random colour!

3. Go for a walk and photograph everything that is your chosen colour

Look for a variety of subjects – clothing, signs, lights, adverts, natural objects, vehicles.
(I took a short walk between The Photographers' Gallery and Tottenham Court Road Station and collected enough images to use in my collage.)

4. Select the images you want to use

Work out the photos or elements of photographs that you think would go well together. What different shades of a colour can you find? How can these be pulled together into a composition and subject matter?

5. Print, cut and arrange your images

The next steps can be done digitally if you don't have access to a printer. Consider the sizing of your images. Are there particular objects that you wish to be larger scale? For example, you could juxtapose a tiny bus with a huge traffic cone. Play around with the composition and try matching unexpected images together. You can layer images on top of each other or even scatter the images to see what happens naturally!
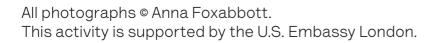

6. Photograph or scan your finished piece

You can try scanning and then rearranging your images to see what works best. I tried a few variations before settling with my final collages. Also, consider white space, do you want your collage to be crammed with imagery, or does white space help your images work together?

Reflections

Do you think your collage captures the environment accurately?
How does the colour you have selected make you and others feel?
Are there any correlations between objects of your chosen colour?
Try this again with a different colour or location, how does your outcome differ?

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