

Middle School

When Photography becomes Art

Introduction to Photography through
Fundación MAPFRE's Collection

Teacher's guide



Barcelona Photo Center



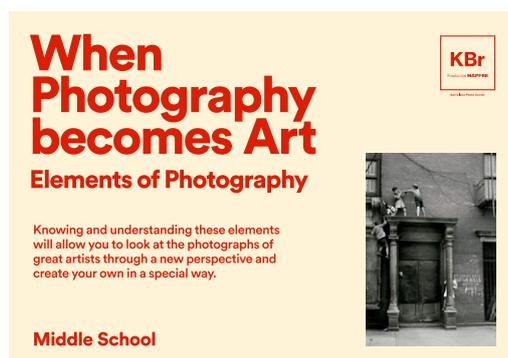
Visual Comprehension

We find ourselves surrounded by images. Photography is present in all aspects of our daily lives. Moreover, we constantly capture testimonies through the cameras on our mobile phones. But... what do we know about visual language? Do we know how to read and interpret photographs?

Through a selection of works from Fundación MAPFRE's Collection of Photography, we propose analyzing and interpreting photography through the concept of identity. Who am I through photography? The objective is for students to approach the images and create affective bonds with the things that define them: people, places and objects that make up their everyday lives. For this purpose, it is essential to understand some of the techniques, languages, styles and protagonists who have positioned photography as a form of artistic expression.

We hope this document will serve as a guide for introducing photography into the curricular programs of students in the second cycle of ESO, *Bachillerato* and other formative cycles. Thus, we present the objectives and curricular skills that serve as a framework for the activities, as well as a methodological approach that we hope you will be able to use in class in order to discover the elements that make a certain photograph a work of art, beyond the moment being captured by the camera.

Download the visual expression activity proposal we have developed [here](#).



You can also click on the image to download the document.

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 - 2.4. Appendix: Images of Works for the Narrative**

Objectives

- Educate students' sensibility toward photography and history.
- Promote visual learning and detect formal elements of artistic photography through Fundación MAPFRE's collection of Photography.
- Express perceptions and feelings that emanate from image visualization.
- Reflect on and value the diversity of points of view that the images portray.
- Motivate students to become critical and reflexive thinkers, creators of hypotheses able to solve problems and make decisions. In sum, motivate students to become the protagonists of their own education.
- Foster creativity through photographic expression.
- Recognize authors and recognize one's self through the history of photography.
- Foster cooperative work that will allow students to share, debate, research and learn how to respect fellow student's opinions.

Activity Learning Skills

- Linguistic communication: foster communication through individual and group exercises. The ability to express one's thoughts logically is one of the key points in the educational development of students within this age group.
- Social and civic abilities: stimulate the appreciation and admiration of art and art collections as a part of the society students live in. This skill will be fundamental in gaining awareness of collective memory and a sense of belonging in society. Thus, work and activities should focus on responsibility and the values of art and culture.
- Consciousness and cultural expression: fostering the admiration of art as a fundamental part of contemporary society will be paramount in achieving the goals for the activities; focusing on tolerance and respect for all forms of expression.
- Initiative and entrepreneurial spirit: fostering activities that are related to problem solving, etc., by means of challenges, gymkhanas and other group activities. Students' initiative and entrepreneurship will be a key factor in order to solve the problems they are presented with.
- Learning to learn: this skill incorporates the knowledge that students possess relative to their own education and is developed in three dimensions: knowledge of what he or she knows and doesn't know, knowledge of what he or she is able to learn and knowledge of what he or she is interested in, etc. Different strategies will be employed to address this activity and learning process.

Methodology

- Questions will always be the point of departure. Starting with a question, teachers will establish a dialogue with students about the image being observed. Through these images, the group will discover different fundamental aspects of photographic language. Our aim is to stimulate perceptive and intellectual curiosity. When appropriate, teachers can allow debates on different points of view and/or opinions.
- Debating: our objective is to highlight the potential photography and art (in general) have for generating a wide range of points of view. It is important to consider that there is no single vision or correct interpretation of a photograph; interpretations are infinite, they are frequently far removed from the author's initial intention. Debates are enriching, they generate empathy and make us more creative at the same time. Joint reflection turns participants into protagonists, taking on an active role in observation, reflection and debate in order to reach different conclusions.
- Practice: we will propose group and individual challenges that will incorporate the basic terms of visual language, translating theoretical concepts into practice through games. We will develop an artistic activity in which students will assimilate the concepts related to photographic language that we have worked on.
- Sharing: it is important to create a space of trust and respect where students can share personal or collective experiences with their class. This will allow students to learn and will reinforce empathy and communication. Before the end of the activity, a group discussion will be held and students will be asked about what they have learned from the experience and what they have enjoyed the most.

*Suggested duration:

Exercises related to visual language concepts (45 minutes)

Artistic activity: Our Visual Narrative (45 minutes)

Let us know!

To the teacher: we want to know if you have enjoyed the educational activities developed for Fundación MAPFRE's Collection of Photography.

We encourage you to let us know through our social media networks:

Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

