

Overview:

Found photography is a genre of photography and/or visual art based on the recovery (and possible exhibition) of lost, unclaimed, or discarded photographs. It is related to vernacular photography (common), but differs in the fact that the “presenter” or exhibitor of the photographs did not “shoot” the photograph itself, does not know anything about the photographer, and generally does not know anything about the subject(s) of the photographs. Found photos are generally acquired at flea markets, thrift stores, yard sales, estate sales, or literally just “found” anywhere (internet). I assume you are not allowed at this time to leave your home, so internet will be the main source for the images used in this assignment.

Much of the appeal of found photography is the mystery regarding the original photographer or subject matter. There are possibly three practices of looking that influence inferences made in regards to the origin of found photos:

(1) Voyeurism-which a photographer must be, the term comes from the French voyeur, “one who looks,”

(2) Sherlock Holmes’ style deductive reasoning,

(3) Surrealism, like the eye’s of a cultural anthropologist. He describes the ideal found photography exhibit as inviting a viewer to sample all of these viewing practices in order to achieve two results: to force a viewer to consider the effect of their own perceptual process during their viewing and to build the widest spectrum of possible meaning within the limitations of found photography.

Some History: found photography actually falls underneath the umbrella of found art, which has its origins with Marcel Duchamp and his Readymades he found (used) in the 1910s. Since found photography utilizes found objects to generate artwork, it is considered found art. However, the found art movement was about the decontextualization of art, where the form or shape of the artwork creates the meaning rather than the context. As such found photography treads a gray-line between found art and collage because of its relationship between form and context (content).

Procedure:

A. Look for found photography anywhere including the internet. Type “found photography” into your web browser and click on “images.” The images seen should show you the types of found photography which could be used in this assignment. Source your images from possibly family albums which might have interesting contexts.

B. Collect enough found photography for (2), three image composites can be made from.

C. Image (copy) these found photographs using your camera, or, if one is available desktop scanner. You may use color or black & white images from the internet.

D. Process according to our digital workflow used in Project 1 & 2. No proof sheets are needed unless you would like to make them for yourself. We will not be printing the composites so you might want to reduce the image file sizes used for compositing.

D. Follow the tutorial during our Zoom class meetings on layer compositing in Photoshop. If you do not have access to a computer or Photoshop I will offer an alternate of Project 3.

E. Grading will be done as in Project 2. Please use only class meeting time & last name in the subject line of your email: 12_Carlson.