

Seaside: Photographed

What do you think of when you think of the seaside?

Britain is an island where you are never more than 70 miles from our coast. Being surrounded by the sea limits, inspires and in many ways defines our nation.

Seaside: Photographed at John Hansard Gallery explores our relationship to the seaside through the work of artists and photographers, from the early days of photography to the present day.

Photography is an art that can take many forms; reportage, documentation, social comment, exploring memories and journeys. *Seaside: Photographed* covers all these forms and explores how our ideas about the seaside are formed through images of it.

Artists and photographers in the exhibition include:
Laszlo Maholy-Nagy, Paul Nash, Susan Hiller, Lee Miller,
Bill Brandt, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Martin Parr.



Pat Gwynne, Isle of Wight, 1970. Courtesy the artist

Who's looking?

The seaside is a parade. We look and are looked at.
Dressing up or dressing down, we are conscious of the gaze of others.



Grace Lau, *21st Century Types*. Courtesy the artist

Early commercial portrait photographers were drawn to the seaside because it attracted people wanting to capture memories.

Many photographers took portraits directly on the beach, whilst others set up more formal studios as owning your own camera was very rare.



Seaside Portraits, c1850-1920.
Courtesy SEAS Photography.
Private Collection

Photographer Grace Lau set up a portrait studio on Hastings seafront in 2005. She made 400 photographs titled *21st Century Types*. Grace bought props from Hastings second hand shops and set them up to look like a Victorian photography studio. This series of images, taken using a medium format camera, explore photographic traditions and complex relationships between Chinese and British cultures.

Curriculum focus

Photography Key Stage 4

- Portraiture
- Studio Photography

How ideas, themes, subjects and feelings can inspire creative responses informed by different styles, genres and aesthetic considerations and/or an individual's distinctive view of the world.

Photography Key Stage 5

- Portraiture

How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created.

Continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to photography.

Documenting Place

Curriculum focus
Photography
Key Stage 5

- Landscape photography
- Documentary photography, Photojournalism

How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created.



Hannah Blackmore, *Vacant 55, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate.*
Courtesy the artist

Hannah Blackmore is a British photographer who grew up in Thanet, Kent. Her series *Vacant* is a series of photographs of empty, closed down or abandoned shops near her home taken in 2011. The project captures a moment in time, documenting the rise and fall in fortunes of the seaside town.

The fortunes of our seaside resorts chart the tide of enormous social change in Britain over the last 200 years. Utopian visions and playgrounds by the sea for the rich became places of last resort, rickety and forgotten, as air travel became cheaper and holidays abroad became the norm. Photographers have documented these changes and captured the marginal existences of those on the coast.



Anna Fox, *Hayling Island 1986* © Anna Fox, courtesy James Hyman

Camera Obscura

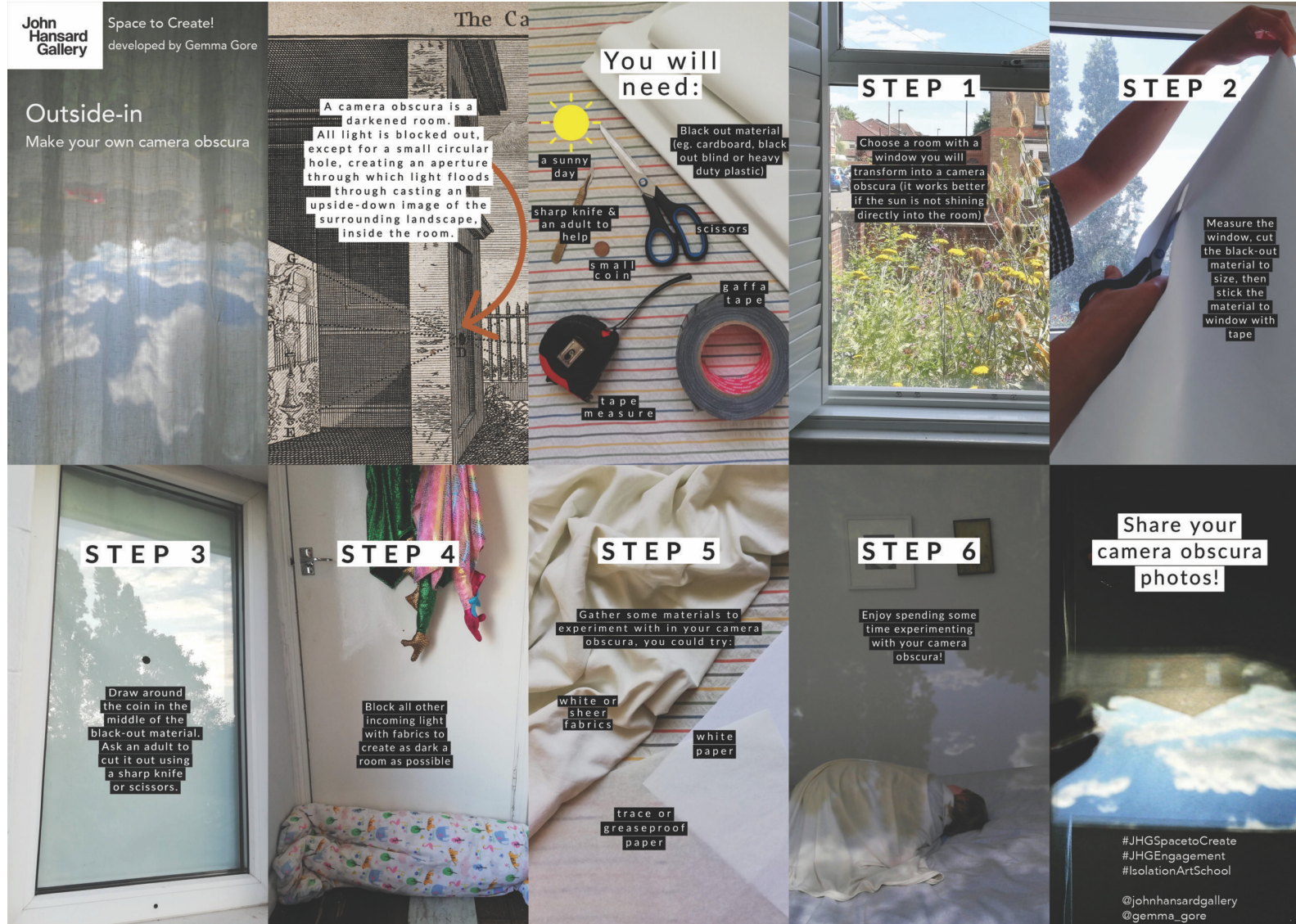
Curriculum focus

Photography
Key Stage 5

Traditional techniques and
processes

Learn how a camera projects an
image by allowing light in through
a small 'aperture' or hole.

Explore camera-less photography
with this guide developed by
artist Gemma Gore.



Cyanotypes and Photograms



Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, *The whisper of a smile*, Photogram, 1926. Photograph © 2016 Hattula Moholy-Nagy/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York Photo: © Museum Associates/LACMA

Inspired by photographer and artist Laszlo Maholy-Nagy, we invite you to explore photograms.

A photogram is a photographic print made by laying objects onto photographic paper and exposing it to light. It does not use a camera to produce an image.

More about the artist:

Laszlo Moholy-Nagy was born in Austria-Hungary in 1895. He moved to Berlin in the Spring of 1920 and taught a course at the Bauhaus art and design school.

Laszlo created kinetic sculpture, experimental film, light projections, set designs for opera, even ads for the London Underground.

His art was influenced by Dada and Russian Constructivism.

Curriculum focus

Photography
Key Stage 5

Traditional techniques and processes.

Historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres.

Try it out!

You can make your own cyanotypes by laying objects on to pre prepared 'sun print' papers that only require light and water to set and fix the image.