**What *is* Photography?**

Demonstrating a critical and contextual understanding of photography can be tricky, especially if the subject is relatively new to you.

The following activities have been designed to encourage you to reflect on what you know already about photography. Hopefully, some of the prompts will encourage you to further develop your understanding of photography through additional pondering and research.

In small groups, discuss the following questions. One person in the group should be responsible for making notes capturing the main ideas of the discussion:

* Why do people take/make photographs?
* Why is photography important?
* What skills do you need to be a good photographer?
* How many different kinds of photography can you think of?
* How does photography help us see the world?
* Can photographic images be trusted?
* What are the similarities and differences between photography and other types of visual art?
* When would it not be OK to take a photograph?
* How do you know when you've made a good photograph?
* Are photographers also artists?
* Where is the best place to see photographs?
* What kind of photography interests you most?
* What confuses or frustrates you about photography?

Watch the short film in which the photographer **William Klein**discusses his contact sheets. Make some brief notes. What does he help us to understand about photography?

Now, watch the film in which **Wolfgang Tillmans** discusses his attitude to photography. What strikes you as interesting and or unusual about his work and views?

Creatively document the notes you have made from the activities above. Think carefully about your relationship to photography. What does it mean to you? What interests or intrigues you about it? What questions do you still have about photography? What confuses or irritates you? How do you feel about the idea of being a photographer or artist who uses photography? What do others say or write about photography that strikes a chord with you?

Note: Try to make these annotations as visually interesting as possible.

**Assignment:**

Imagine you are the curator of a photography exhibition with the title 'What is Photography?' You can choose a number of images to represent your understanding of photography. These images can be any type of photography from any time in the history of the medium. They could include commercial and art photography, amateur and professional. Create an imaginary exhibition of images to be exhibited somewhere in the school. Your chosen location should relate to your theme in some way.

**Note**: Try to be really creative about how you do this. For example, you could exhibit the images in the library or front case – you would then invite visitors, provide them a guide to the exhibition, produce relevant publicity materials, print a catalogue with accompanying text, create a video interview with the curator ...etc.

Installation will take place on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

You will be assessed on: