

Photography- Summer Task

“My Jersey”

Julia Kochan





Person

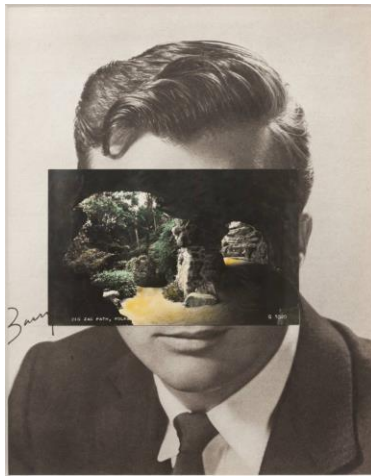
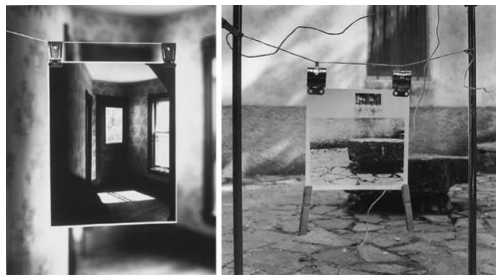
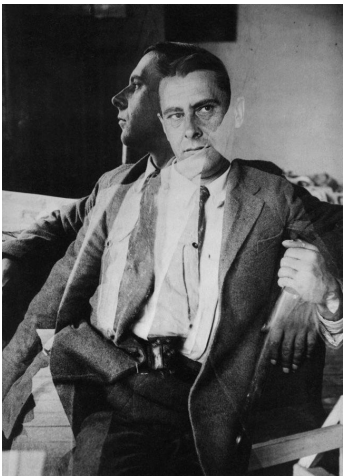
Tymon Kochan, my brother, is 13 years old and was born in Jersey on the 8th of December, 2008. He has lived in Jersey his entire life, however our parents are from Poland and moved here in the year 2004.

I chose him as my person as he has explored Jersey thoroughly, seeing the island in depth, causing him to be very familiar with it. Over the years, he's been in multiple local clubs, such as Cub Scouts and the Jersey Heritage Discovery club, which has enabled him to be able to experience even more of the islands adventurous paths. He is currently in the Jersey Youth Parliament.



Photo Montage

a combination of several photographs joined together for artistic effect or to show more of the subject than can be shown in a single photograph. It results in a composite piece. The final result is often portrayed as though it is seamless, making the piece even more effective. Artists also often overlap, merge and blend images together, using several linking photographs to create one final piece. There are many techniques to create a photo montage, such as stacking, juxtapose, merge and other physical techniques (such as cutting out and layering printed out images).



Man Ray

He was born on the 21st of August, 1890 and passed away on the 18th of November, 1976. He was a visual artist and was best known for his pioneering photography. Ray was also a renowned fashion and portrait photographer. He uses several images of the same person to create a merged piece.

John Stezaker

He was born in 1949 and is a British artist who takes different types of photographs (postcards, book illustrations, etc.) and tears them up, later creating an even more interesting visual by combining them together again.

Claude Cahun and Alexander Rodchenko

Claude Cahun was born on the 25th of October in 1894 and died on the 8th of December, 1954. She was a French surrealist photographer. Alexander Rodchenko was born on the 5th of December, 1891 and died on the 3rd of December, 1956. He was a Russian and Soviet artist, sculptor, photographer, and graphic designer. They both merged images to create a eerie look, as if 2 or more people were present.



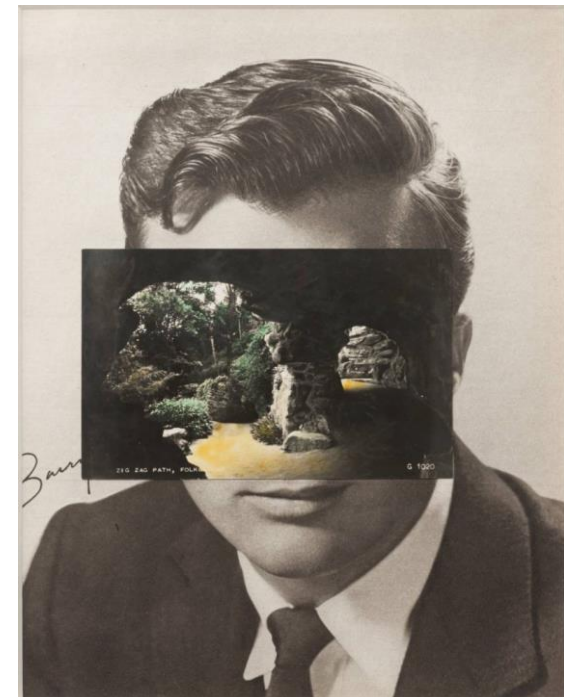
Man Ray

I have chosen him as one of the artists to research as I find his work very interesting and inspiring. He uses different exposures to create eerie looking edits. He also uses the same photo multiple times to make his pieces more surrealistic, as well as showing the emotion he wants to portray in more depth. He tends to take his photos from a face on angle, however he positions his models to look away from the lens, giving the picture a more apparent emotion. Ray's pictures are all in black in white (due to the time period he was from), which draws our attention to the textures of the skin and forces us to see the emotion by looking at the features instead of paying attention to the colour scheme. Ray uses plain and simple background, not drawing our attention away from the face as well as creating contrast between the pale complexion of most of his models and the dark, endless background. I have noticed that he also sometimes decided to include a foreground, for example a shattered window which creates even more texture in the photo. I think he used artificial light as the lighting is distributed on the models faces with a purpose, once again clearly showing the different textures and details on the skin. I think ray used photography as a way of showing the world how emotions can be captured in many different ways. I think using the camera as a way of viewing the world is very interesting, as capturing a single moment can show a very beautiful moment, but it can be also seen is fiction and an unrealistic way of seeing the world.



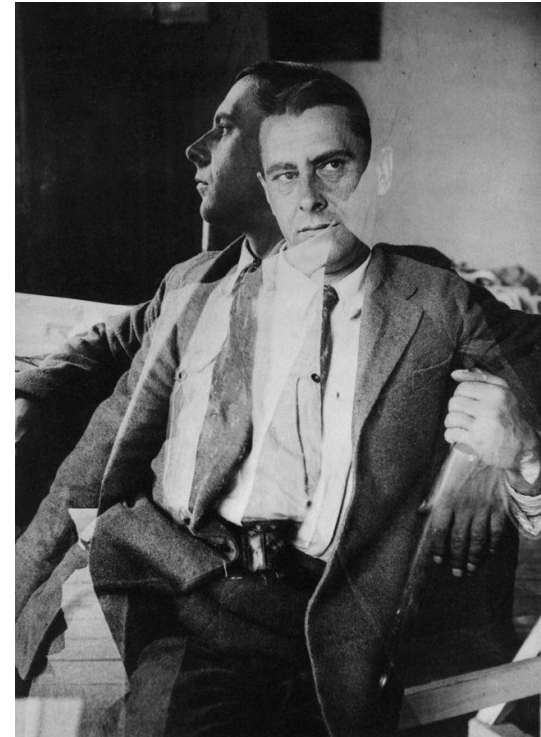
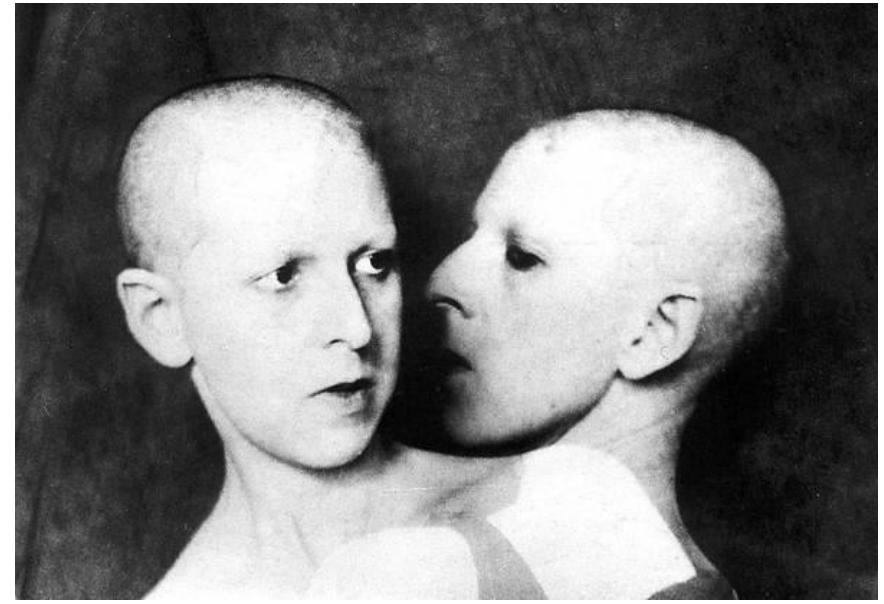
John Stezaker

I have chosen him as one of my artists as I find the way he layers the landscape photos on top of a black and white portrait of a person/ people a very interesting concept. It creates a sense of mystery as we will never know what emotion they were truly making. The way the landscape photos resemble the features of the face that were covered, makes the two pictures link in more together. Both the portrait and landscape pictures have a old-fashioned look about, the gritty texture of them both making the two pictures look better together. He creates contrast between the two picture by leaving once in colour and making the other black and white, causing the landscape photo to be the area of focus as it the colour draws our attention. The rectangular shape of the centred photo, once again creates contrast, the smooth features of the face being disrupted by the bold, colourful shape, replacing them. The two pictures being layered on top of each other also create a foreground and background, adding depth to the final piece. Contrast is also created between the uniform portraits and the wild, colourful nature, portraying how perhaps the landscape is showing how the person really is, wild and fun.

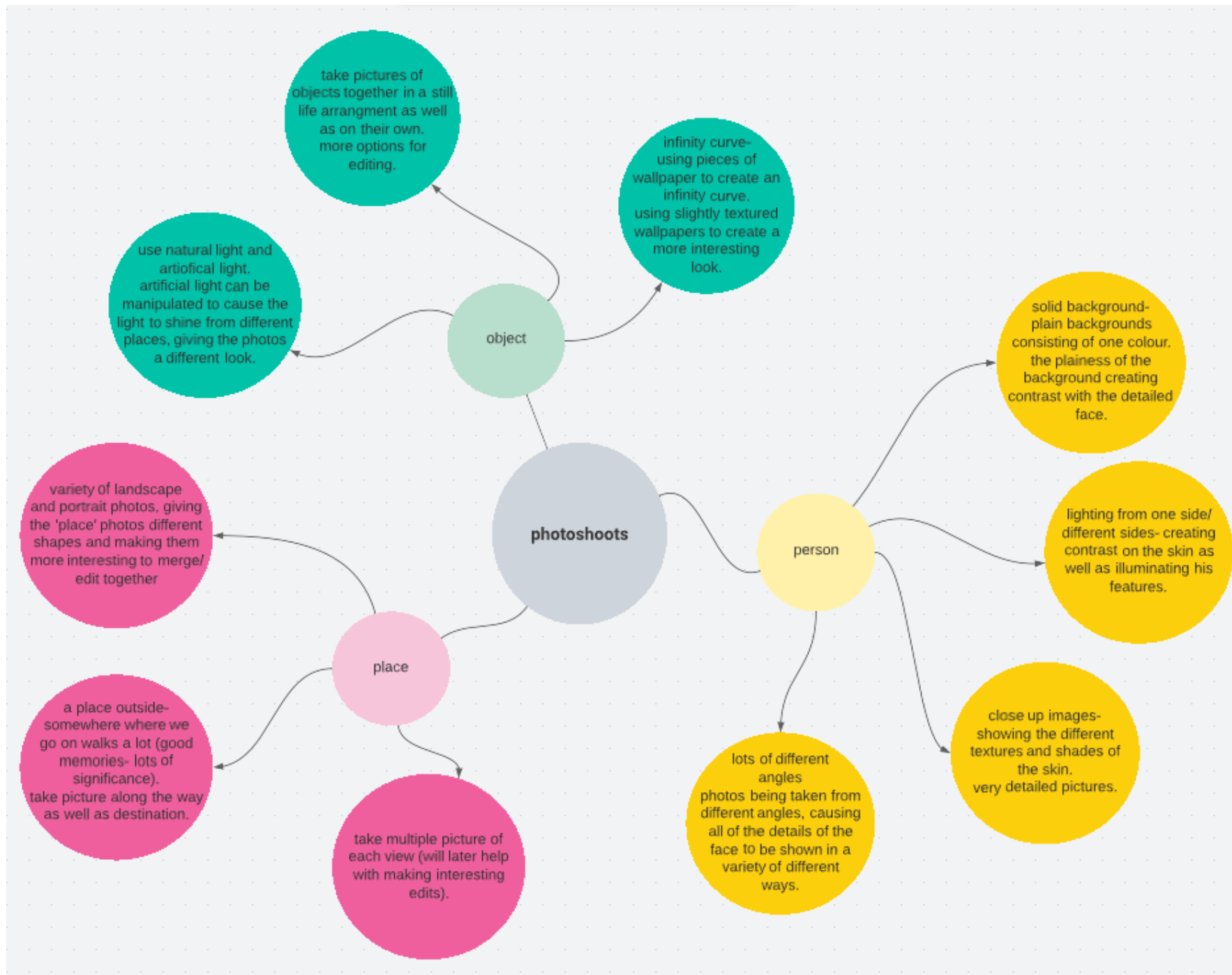


Claude Cahun and Alexander Rodchenko

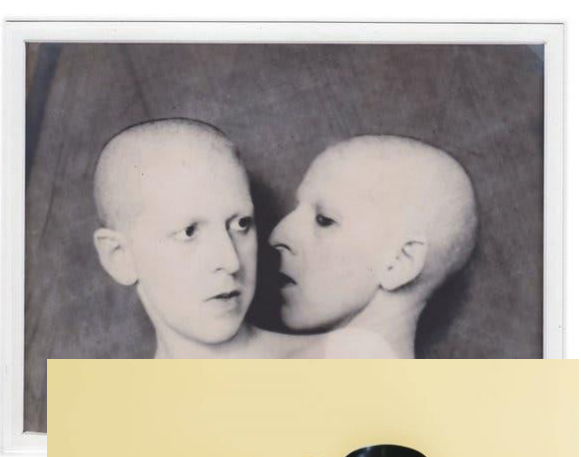
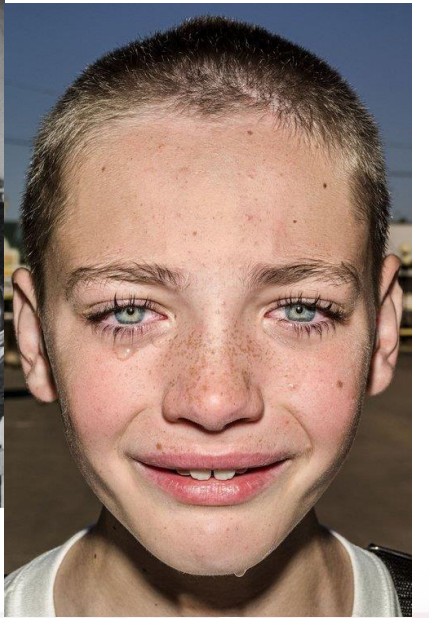
I have chosen them as another set of artists as I think the way they merge two similar pictures together is very effective and creates an eerie/ mysterious feel. Even if not much emotion is shown in the picture, the midground that was created using the second picture creates a story. Despite the pictures being real, the addition of the second person makes the picture fictional. The way Cahun creates a scary theme by making the eyes black (portraying one of the faces as a dark side of the original person) and making them almost transparent, adds a lot of character to the picture. Despite editing the picture in a similar way, Rodchenko creates a ghostly look by editing a picture person in a similar pose onto another picture, making it more transparent and blending the two pictures together. Cahun uses plain, solid- coloured background, causing us to only focus of the faces as they are the only thing initiating the emotion and mood portrayed in the picture. This leaves a lot to our imagination, which is something that Claude wanted. On the other hand, Rodchenko uses the background to further imply the mood and scenery of the photo (in this case using the couch to show the suited man in comfort). It also makes the photos look more casual and as though they weren't planned. It also seems that he uses natural light (from a window) to make the photos look even more natural. However, I think Cahun uses artificial lighting to ensure the entire face is evenly illuminated and that the emotion is clearly shown. The light seems to also be very bright and harsh, almost bleaching the skin and therefore, showing more texture.



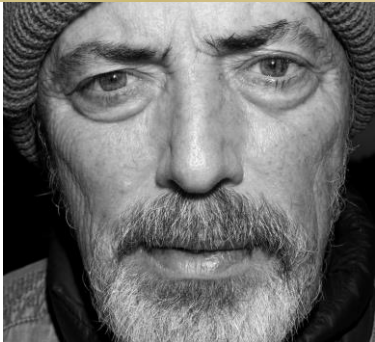
Planning:



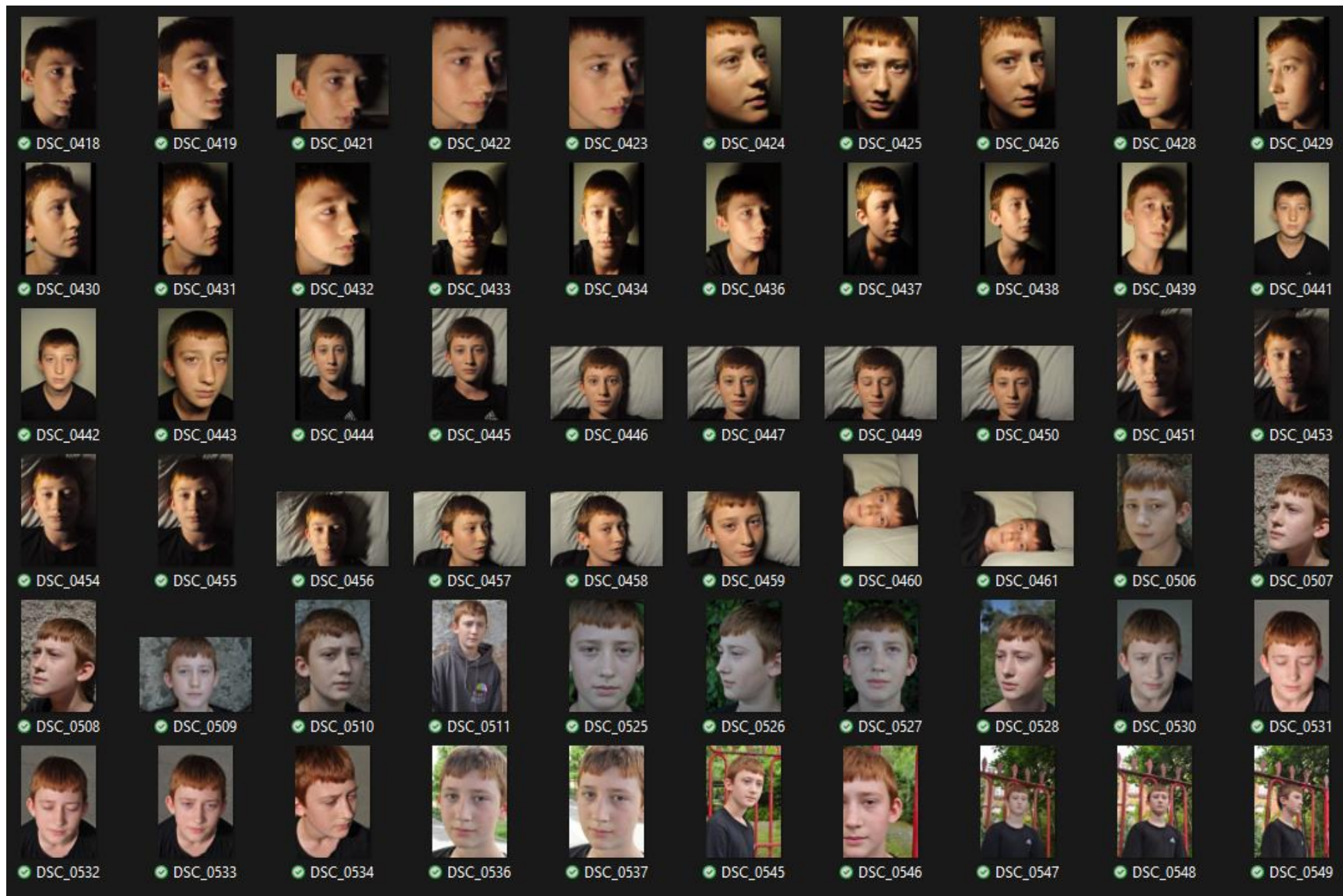
Planning:



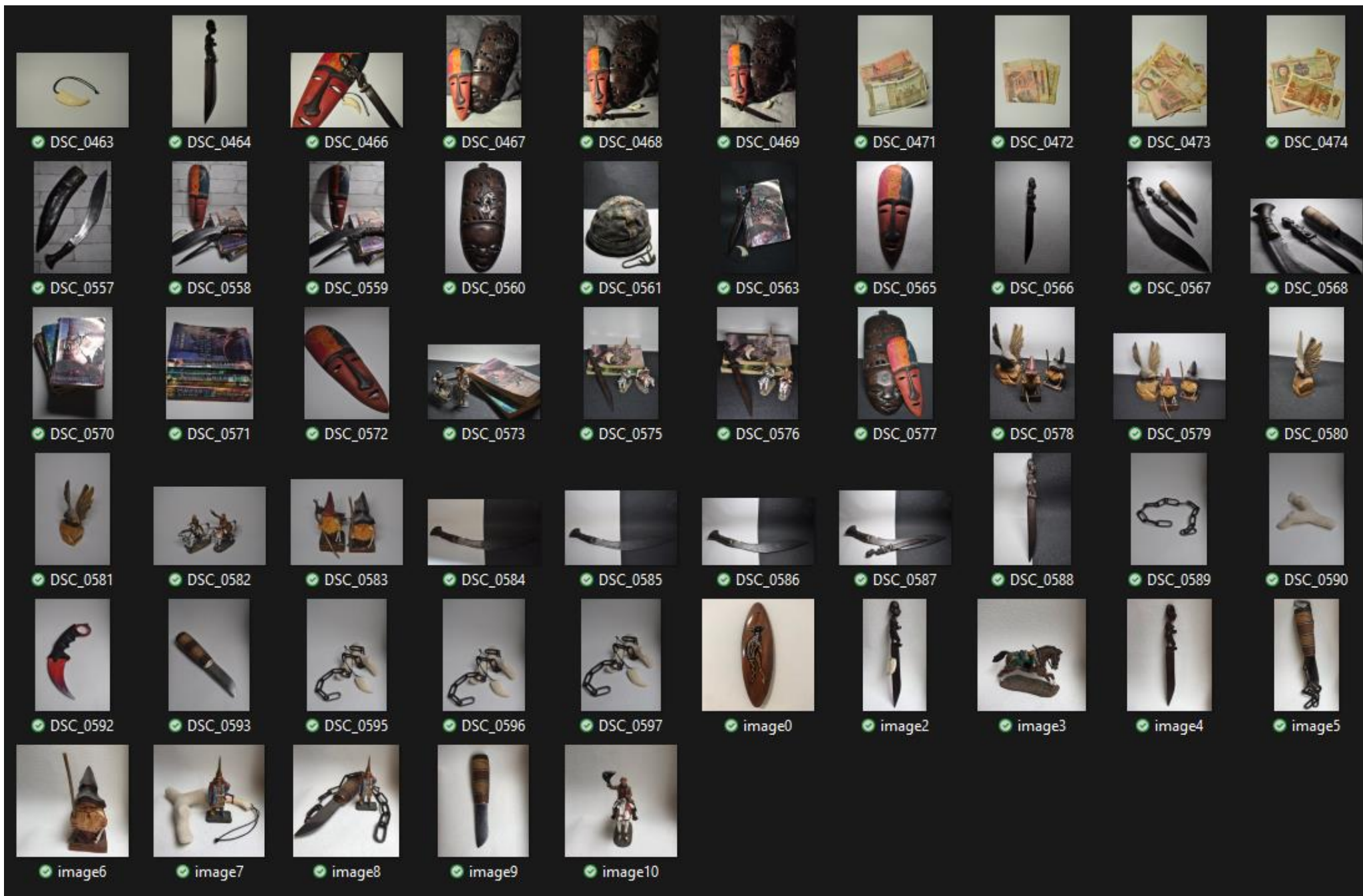
INSPIRATION
(for the raw photographs)



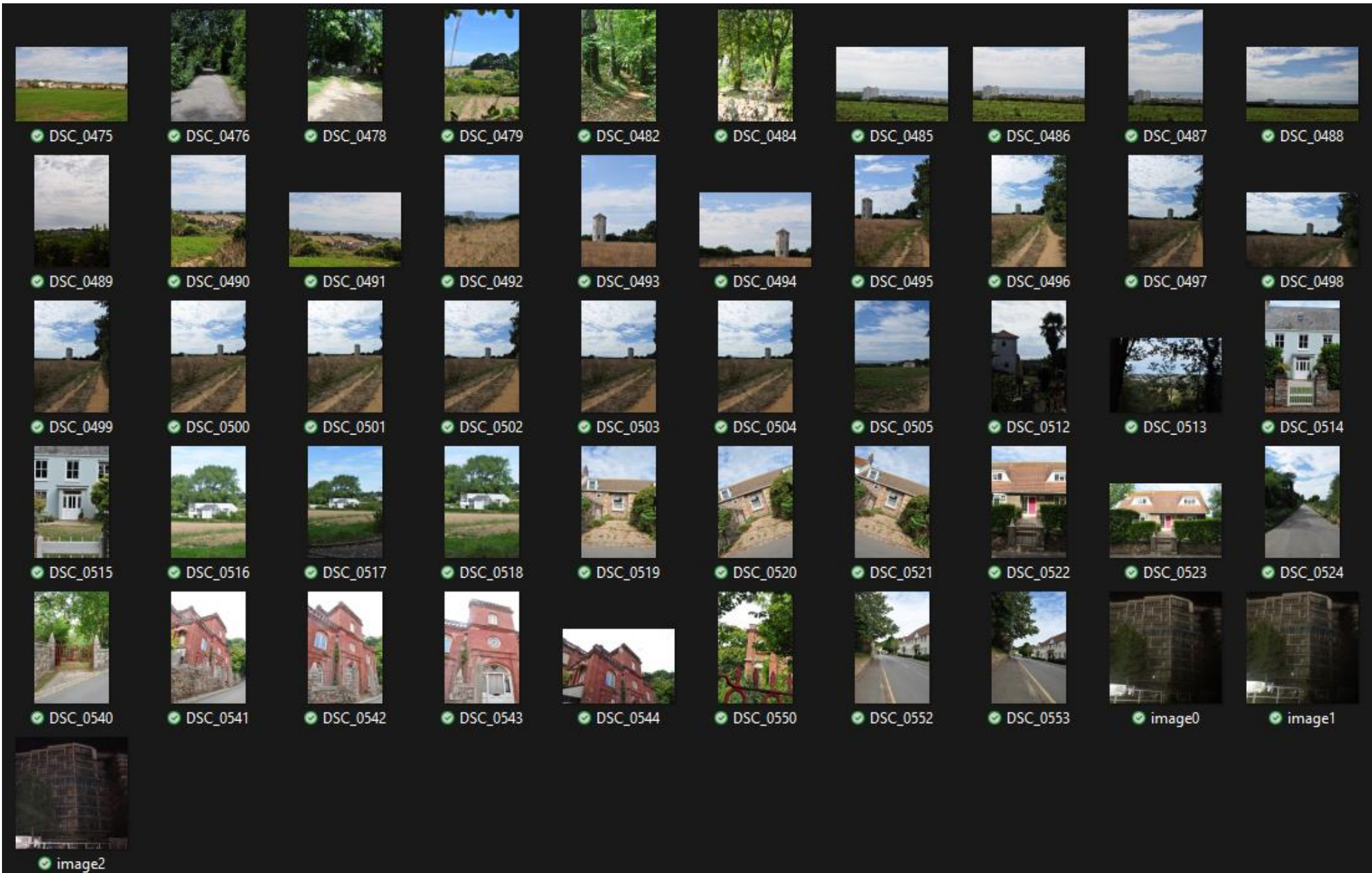
*R
A
W
S
-
P
E
R
S
O
N*



*R
A
W
S
-
O
B
J
E
C
T*



*R
A
W
S
-
P
L
A
C
E
(S)*





I chose this picture as a best raw as I liked how close up I took it and how I used artificial lighting to bring out the textures in the face. The angle I took it from forced him to look sideways into the camera lens, creating an interesting photograph. The brightness of some areas of the face contrast with the areas left in the shadows, causing the area of focus to be the left eye, being the brightest area of the photo. Furthermore, I thought this would be a good photo to edit, creating a ghostly photo inspired by Alexander Rodchenko, who uses similar photographs to create a eerie effect.

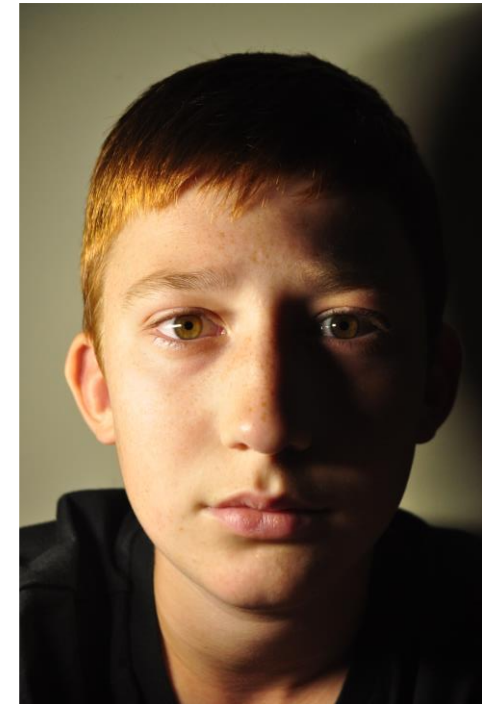
I chose this picture as a best raw as I liked how the natural light evenly distributed across his face, making it into a smooth canvas for editing. I also like the contrast between his pale skin and the lush, green leaves behind him, making his face stand out. Furthermore, the leaves being blurred creates depth in the picture, a clear foreground and background being present. I decided this would be a good picture to edit in the style of John Stezaker, as I could edit the picture and make it black and white and then add one of my 'place' pictures over his face, replacing his features, creating an abstract look.





I chose this picture as a best raw because I like the way I directed the light to only illuminate half of the face, the rest being left in pitch black. Half of the picture being dark creates contrast with the light half as well as adding depth as the darkness almost seems never-ending. I selected this picture as I thought it would be good for the stacking technique, adding it in the middle of a background and also incorporating an object in it too.

I chose this picture as a best raw as I like how it is perfectly face on however, the light is still only shining from one side. This causes the left side of the face to be the area of focus, causing our eyes to go from the left to the right and take in the entire photo while noticing the gradual change from light to dark. I also selected this picture as I thought it would work well for the stacking technique, adding in the corner of a background and also incorporating an object in it too.





I chose this picture as a best raw because I think it would be interesting to merge it with one of the 'person' photos, creating an interesting look. The mask is perfectly presented and photographed from a birds eye view angle, which would make it easier to incorporate with the face. I could also duplicate the picture and create a smudged effect, recreating the look that Rodchenko's pictures have but using an object instead.

I chose this picture as a best raw because it is once again taken from a straight angle, showing the entire knife proportionally and making it easier to edit into a picture. Furthermore, the light being shone from the top of the blade creates an interesting look and makes only certain areas of the top of the blade shine. I think it's a good picture to put over an area of a face, making an picture including the place, person and object, successfully.

Best Raws





I chose this picture as a best raw because I like how the cool light captured the washed out coloured of the money, highlighting their old look. The plain white background makes sure all the attention is on the object in the middle. The arrangement of the old money would be good to edit onto a face more naturally, fitting the features.

I chose this pictures as my best raws as I think using all three will make a good background to use for one of my edits. By tilting the camera, I obtained different angles that can be put together to create an image in the style of Idris Khan, an artist whom I didn't speak about yet has a similar style to Claude Cahun and Alexander Rodchenko, who merge similar images together to create an interesting look. Khan creates pieces like this but with landscape photos, which is what inspired me to take these. I like how the area of focus is the centred window and it is something that immediately catches the eye.

Best Raws





I chose this picture as a best raw because I like how the arrangement of the windows, door and gate create a abstract face and how I captured it in a straight on shot. I could use this picture to create a John Stezaker type edit, stacking the 'place' picture on top of the 'person' picture and replacing the features with the house. I would edit this to look like a slightly old fashioned picture, just like the artists work looks.

I chose this picture as a best raw because I like the contrast of the red brick and natural green surroundings. The broken down building still managed to look important due to the bold colour, so taking the picture from a lower angle made it look even more powerful and as though it was towering over me. I think this will make a very good background and I could add the red mask picture onto it, carrying on with the red trend.

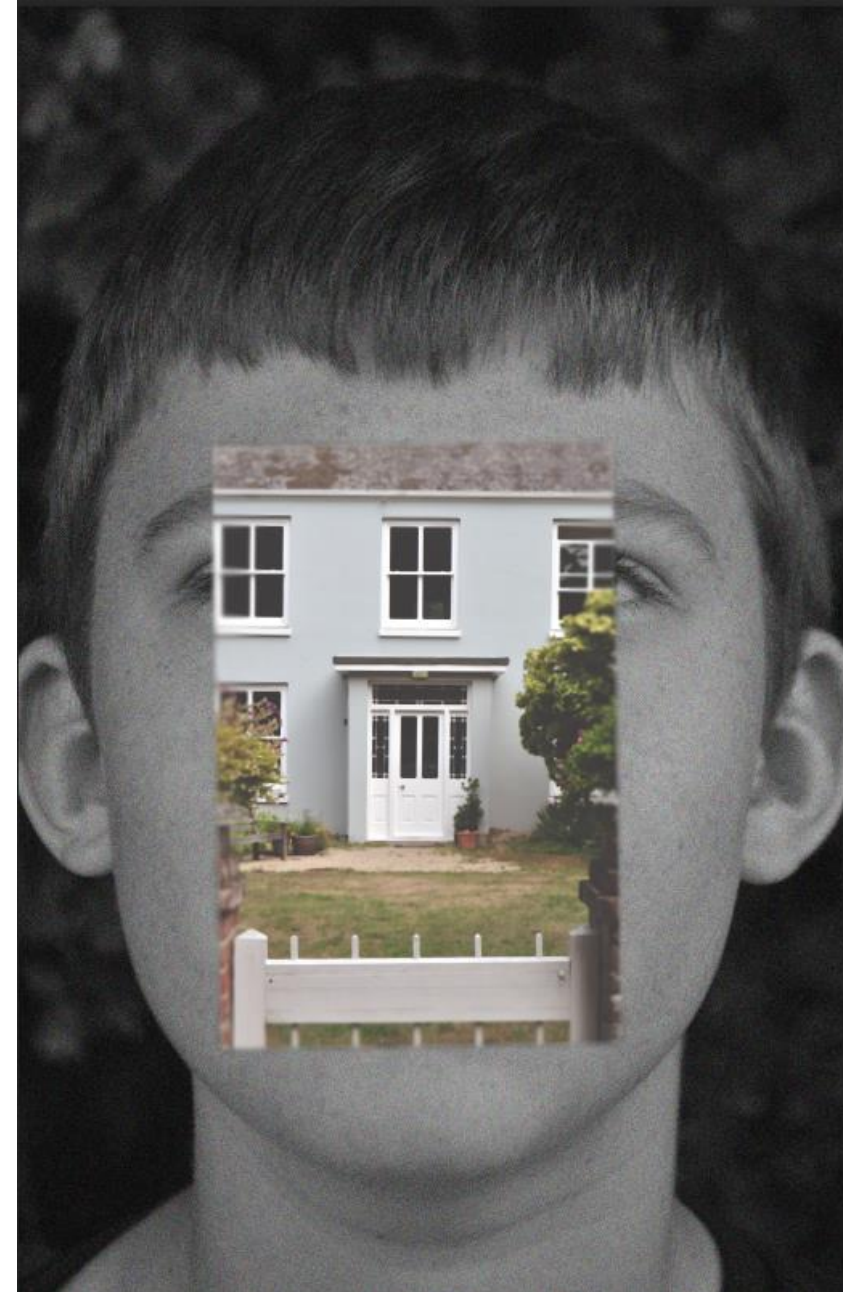


How I created the piece:

I created this piece by firstly opening the face picture in photoshop and turning it into black and white. I also lowered the brightness and slightly increased the contrast. I then went into the filter section and added some uniform noise, adding a gritty look to my picture. I then placed the 'place' picture over the face, angling it perfectly over the features. I blurred the edges of the picture to make it appear softer and also increased the brightness and well as changing the colour balance to make the picture looked more washed out and older. I also added some noise to this picture.

How does it link to the artist:

My inspiration for this edit was John Stezaker and I think I managed to create this piece quite well. The background, the face, has an old fashioned look created by making the picture black and white and adding noise to create a gritty look. Furthermore, the 'place' picture in the middle, creates an abstract face when stacked over the original photo, an effect Stezaker managed to achieve in his own photos. The picture was also edited in a way that made it look older and washed out, capturing the old feel of the artists pieces. I created contrast between the bright and coloured picture and the black and white face behind it.



How I created the piece:

I created this piece by firstly editing the background, decreasing the exposure and brightness and increasing the contrast. I also changed the off-set, making the picture bolder. I added the same picture over it, and after editing it similarly, I lowered the opacity and moved it so that it gave the effect that the picture was moved. After that, I added the face and changed it to black and white to add contrast. I then selected the quick selection tool and selected just the face, selecting and masking it to get rid of the background. I placed it in the corner of the photo. I did the same with two pictures of the mask, getting rid of the background. I placed the mask over half of his face and rubbed out the picture where the mask's eye is, moving it directly over his eye. I turned down the opacity of one of the masks and made it bigger, once again creating the moved effect as I did with the building. Using the blur tool, I blurred the edges of the mask and face, making the pictures merge more with the background.

How does it link to the artist:

My inspiration for this edit were Alexander Rodchenko and Idris Khan, both artists who use multiple images and lowering the opacity of them to create this ghostly effect. It makes the photo look weird and trippy, as well as adding depth to the edit by making the piece appear almost three dimensional. I also created contrast between the bold, red house and mask and the black and white face, acting as the midground between the two layers of red, separating them. I also made sure to accentuate the natural colour of the building even more, creating a very eye-catching edit.



How I created the piece:

I created this piece by firstly getting the 'person' picture and changing it into black and white. After that, I added another copy of the picture but left it in colour and lowered the opacity, moving it to create a ghostly look. To incorporate an object, I added a picture of money and after placing it in position, I selected the quick selection tool and selected just the money, selecting and masking it to get rid of the background. I used the blur tool and eraser tool to merge it in with the face better, making it look less awkward.

How does it link to the artist:

My inspiration for this edit was Claude Cahun, who creates eerie self portraits by using several pictures of herself and merging them together. I decided to use two copies of the same picture instead but still merged them together to create a more eerie look. The original picture shows him with a distressed look on his face, his eyes signalling for help, and therefore, adding the same picture again and moving it to create a moved image, adds to the overall emotion of the picture. I also decided to add one of the objects into this picture. This money being near his head portrays the reason for his distressed expression, suggesting money is the problem.



How I created the piece:

I created this piece by firstly creating the background, which consisted of many layers. I used the three pictures of the house, all taken at different angles, to create the moved background. I firstly edited the 'normal' picture and made it black and white. I did this with the two other picture (twice each but I slightly rotated it) and lowered the opacity to create this look. I then placed the 'person' picture in the middle and also lowered the opacity a bit. I used the elliptical marquee tool to cut it into an oval shape, making it look like an old fashioned locket. Finally, I added the final picture of the wooden dagger, and after positioning it over the eyes, using the quick selection tool to select just the dagger, selecting and masking it to get rid of the background. I used the blur tool to make the oval blend in with the background more.

How does it link to the artist:

My inspiration for this edit were Idris Khan and John Stezaker. The background was inspired by Idris Khan, merging several images of the same place together to create the ghostly appearance that Khan commonly creates. For contrast, I decided to leave the face in colour, adding depth to the image and making it stand out. I slightly lowered the opacity to allow the background to be slightly seen through it, merging them together. I created an oval shape and I thought it was fitting and made it look like an old-fashioned locket. Although it may not look like it, I took inspiration from Stezaker to place the dagger over the eyes to almost replace them, adding in all the aspects of this project into one edit. The dagger going through the entire oval creates a leading line in the photo.

Edit 4





Evaluation:

Overall, I think this project turned out quite well. I think some of my photos were quite strong (especially the portraits) and linked in well with the topic of Jersey. Next time, I would pick a better location, with more architecture as the artists I picked focused more on architecture. I would've also taken more photos to have a bigger variety to choose from and make even better edits with. Furthermore, I think the editing/ experimenting section of the project went the best, as I applied all of my knowledge as well as attempting new techniques in photoshop. I think most of my edits are quite strong and have a clear link with my chosen artists. I think I should've tried more experiments, trying out new techniques. An area that I think was successful was putting the 'person', 'place' and 'object' pictures together in one edit, making a very significant link between them all. Something I would want to improve is making the edits link in even more with the artists, for example using different pictures instead of the same one to link in more with Claude Cahun.

Strongest Edit Evaluation:

I believe this is my strongest edit as it created the most effective link between the 'person', 'place' and 'object' as well as shows the most skill with photoshop techniques. It also includes other techniques such as contrast and depth to create a more interesting piece. It also shows a clear link with the artists, making it better than the rest of the edits. It also creates a very clear fore, mid and background, which like I said creates depth in the picture. However, the edit would be more effective if I made the centre picture bigger, making it even more eye-catching and completely avoiding the risk of it being lost in the busy background. I would also make the 'person' picture more transparent, causing all attention to go to the wooden dagger and therefore creating a clear area of focus.

