

## Proposition Six

This proposition explores how photographs can inform the development of ideas by moving between the giving of factual information and the revealing subtleties of thought through selection and editing.

*'Photographs really are experience captured, and the camera is the ideal arm of consciousness in its acquisitive mood'.*

Exert taken from: S, Sontag. (1977) *On Photography*. Pub. Penguin

To view a photograph is a particular experience, unlike writing or drawing it does not immediately appear as an interpretation, as a personal statement on the world but rather as a 'piece of it' a miniature reality that anyone can create and possess. It is the photographic image that provides our understanding of the look of the past, the activities of the present even the possibilities of the future. It is equated with knowledge, with the giving of information. In fact, without a photograph we would question whether or not something exists at all. This inventory began in 1839 and it seems as though almost everything has been photographed since. The world captured on small pieces of paper or disc to be held in the hand and possessed.

In truth, the action of taking a photograph involves a selection, a framing, editing, often reduced, enlarged, cropped or retouched. The anthology of the world through tiny images is also a subjective collection. Yet, it retains the power to persuade, to encourage us to believe in what we see. Barthe referred to the photograph as having the ability to create 'the perfect analagon to reality', an image in seamless relation with the world. It has the ability to present an image without apparent style or intervention, to naturalize what are actually invented and structured meanings. A gift exploited by both politics and advertising.

### CORE CHARACTERISTICS

**to resource:** conduct an initial investigation of an area of interest, to stretch the possibilities of an idea by looking for references in a number of different spheres, to create an archive of reference material

**to further elaborate :** a reflective tool

**to record:** time-based activities – movement, sequential stages of a process.

**to document:** bring different aspects of your practice together to demonstrate the project as a whole to reveal, analyse and explore its evolution