

Industrial art, a bygone industry - Activity Guide

This is a great activity that you can follow up and complete at school

Purpose: To use photography to capture the bygone industry of High Peak Junction

Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Location: Any safe space at High Peak Junction in and around the workshops and train carriages.

Resources: Digital cameras or tablets (brought from school), example photos

Teaching notes:

Explain to the class that the photography of industrial landscapes is a recognised form of art.

Hilda and Bernd Becher were a couple born in the 1930's in Germany. And for over 40 years they photographed the architecture of industrialisation: water towers, coal bunkers, blast furnaces, gas tanks and factory facades. Often documenting the markers of disappearing industries.

Your class is going to follow in their footsteps and use photography to showcase this near 200 year old workshop bringing to life the sounds, sights and smells of a bygone industry.

Remind the class that they do not need to go anywhere near the canal, and they are not to touch any tools or materials they come across without the permission of their adult.

Depending on the number of cameras/tablets available you may split the class into pairs, threes or small groups, either working under the supervision of an adult per small group, or independently in pairs with strict parameters of where they can and cannot go, with all adults strategically placed to guide and supervise different areas of the site.

Before they head off share the example photos with the class (some of which were taken in at HPJ). What do they notice about the camera angle, whether the image is zoomed in or out on an object / structure, is it colour or black and white, what is the photographer trying to show in each picture etc.

Explain that the activity is not about the number of photos you can take, but the quality of each photo and the thought process that has gone into taking each photo. To help with this you could limit the number of photos that each person can take.

If some children need more structure you could challenge them to each take photos of 2 things that could fit in their hand, 2 that are about the same size as them and 2 that are much bigger than them.

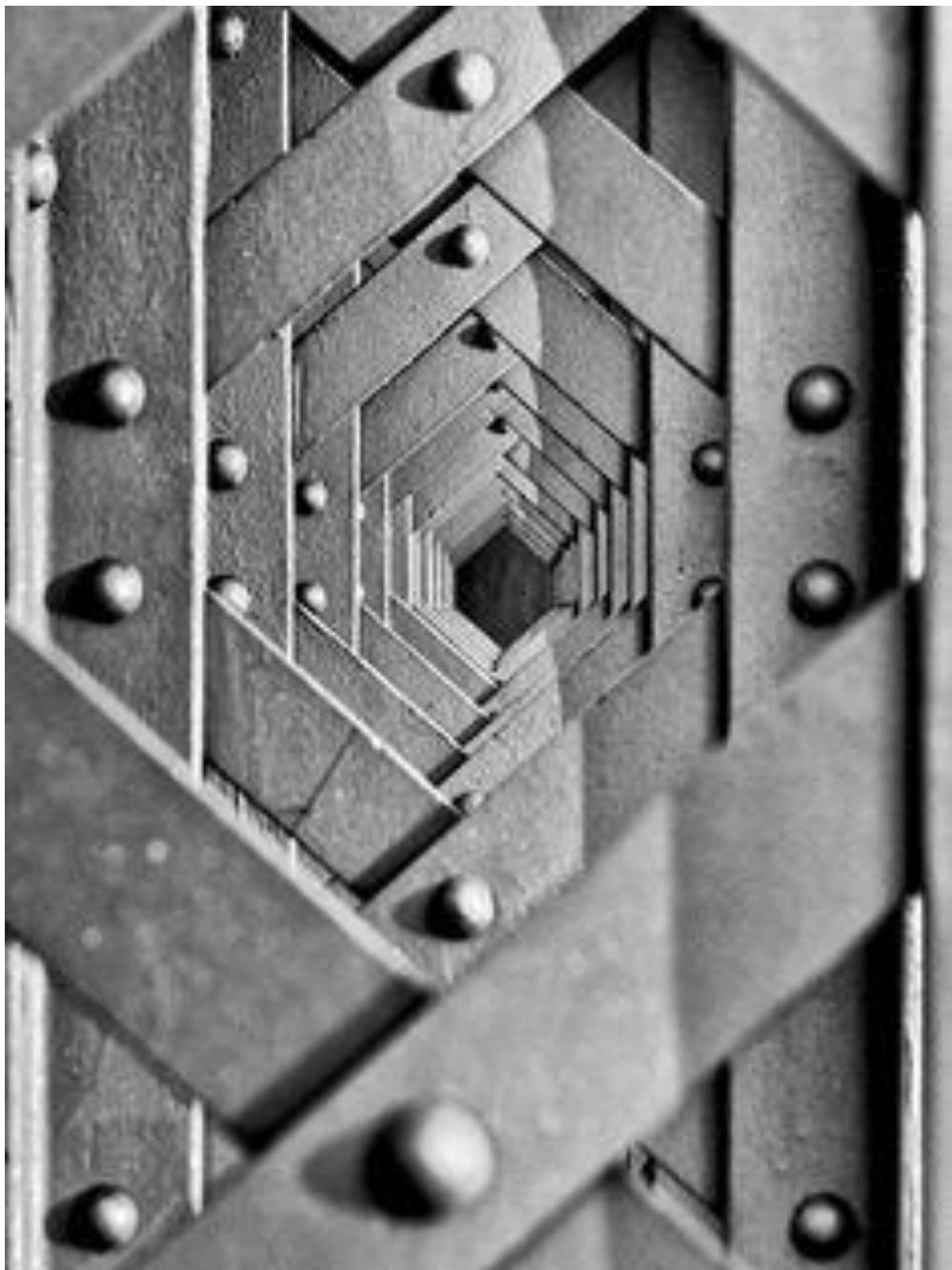
If working in small groups another challenge could be for each group to focus on taking photos based on shapes, e.g. one group taking photos that show circles or curves, squares or rectangles, or long and thin items etc.

Alternatively, you could give each group their own limited area to photograph, e.g. one group around the forge area, another around the inspection pit, or in the train carriages, outside etc. This would really help the group focus on what and how they could take pictures, instead of dashing around trying to photograph everywhere and everything.

Set them off in their groups with a set time and place to return to.

Back at school

Back at school you could print the photos and make a gallery and invite the school community to a viewing.







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