

Activity: Shoot Like Svoboda



This activity draws on artist Markéta Othová's ideas for involving visitors to reflect on the work of photographer Jan Svoboda. Produced in the context of the exhibition *Jan Svoboda: Against the Light* at The Photographers' Gallery, Othová developed a series of simple, conceptual activities.

Svoboda's creative universe was almost exclusively within the walls of his home. In this

activity you will take a series of photographs that encourage you to look closely at the objects and surfaces directly around you.

Share your photographs #TPGActivity



Photograph 1:
Contents of your pockets



Photograph 2:
Contents of your bag or rucksack



Photograph 3:
Contents in your fridge



Photography 4:
Contents on your shelf

You will need:

- Camera or camera phone
- Good light
- A flat surface to place your objects on
- An ability to look at things most familiar to you with fresh eyes

Instructions

One at a time, gather the items from each place and arrange on a flat surface. Photograph them from above like Svoboda's image or experiment with different angles and compositions.

Once you have completed all four, place them next to each other. What do the photographs say about you? Try editing the photographs to black and white like Svoboda's work.

1. Contents of your pocket

Empty the contents of your pocket on to a flat surface. Play around with the position of each item to fill the frame differently. What part of each object do you want the viewer to see?



2. Contents of your bag or rucksack

Arrange the items in your bag and rucksack on the table. Look for similarities and differences within the objects - are there colours connecting them? Does this change the viewer's experience?



3. Contents in the fridge

Select items in the fridge that you'd like to photograph. This time, look out for the shadows that are created by the direction of the light. What patterns can be made with them?



4. Contents on your shelf

Gather objects from your shelf and arrange them on the same surface. Once you have taken all four scenes, line them up next to each other and transform them to black and white. How do they look all together?



Ask friends to make their own photographs like Svoboda. See if you can curate a 'show' by emailing or sending each other your final four all in a row using social media. Younger children, please use social media with a parent/carer.

Share your photographs #TPGActivity