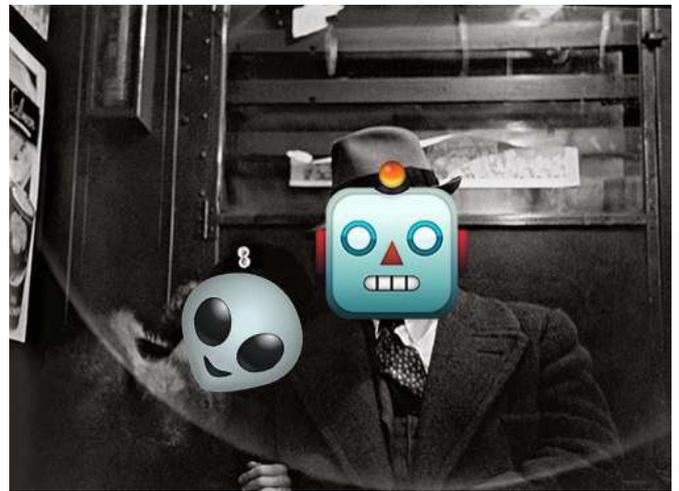


Activity: Dystopian Portraits

The year is 2050 and the use of facial recognition technology is widespread. In order to protect the identities and privacy of ourselves and others, and to stop our faceprints from being collected and abused by governments and companies, we must now obscure the faces in all photographs.

This activity, created by RAKE Collective, invites you to imagine yourself as a futuristic street photographer - how would you choose to take and share images of yourself, friends, family or strangers in a time when doing so could jeopardise their privacy, safety, or rights. What would street photography look like? What would your pictures look like? And how would you choose to protect the subjects in your images?



The activity is created in the context of the major retrospective *Helen Levitt: In the Street* at The Photographers' Gallery.

Share your photographs #TPGActivity

You will need:

- Photographs taken by your favourite street photographer and/or your own street photographs
- Access to digital picture editing tools like Stretch Your Face, IMGonline, inbuilt Instagram photo editor or Photoshop
- Or a printer, scissors and different papers and collage material

Top Tip

If you don't have access to digital editing tools or a printer, you can also use images cut out of a magazine or newspaper.

Instructions

1. Gather your street photography images

These can be existing street photographs from your favourite photographer, your own original photos, or even pictures from a magazine - but they must show the subject's face(s). You can work on these digitally on a computer or phone, or you can print the images you wish to use.



New York, circa 1972, © Helen Levitt. Courtesy Laurence Miller Gallery and/or powerHouse Books



Helen Levitt New York, 1938 © Film Documents LLC Courtesy Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne

2. Find and isolate the faces in your image

If using digital tools, you can select the area containing faces (this does not need to be precise), or cut out the faces if you're working with physical pictures.

3. Think about the best way to protect the people in your images

Example 1: Subtraction - You could remove the faces from the image, and replace them with something else, maybe a colour, pattern or another picture.





Example 2: Addition - You could add elements on top of the image, such as shapes, objects or emojis.



Example 3: Distortion - If using digital tools, you could experiment with distorting the faces in the image



4. Share your work and disrupt facial recognition technology!

Save your results, or take photos of your collages and share them using the hastags: #TPGActivity #DystopianPortraits

This activity is supported by the U.S. Embassy London.

