

Activity: Fantastical Framing

This activity created by London based photographer, Yazid Rowe-Habbari, invites you to create a series of photographs that frame the reality of street photography in unique and imaginative ways.



Helen Levitt New York, 1940 © Film Documents LLC Courtesy Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne



Produced in the context of the major retrospective *Helen Levitt: In The Street* at The Photographers' Gallery, this activity draws on Levitt's fascination with child's play, in particular the many references to children's drawings and graffiti present in her work. You will start by drawing a shape or character which will then become a new frame to capture the everyday through your window.

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You will need:

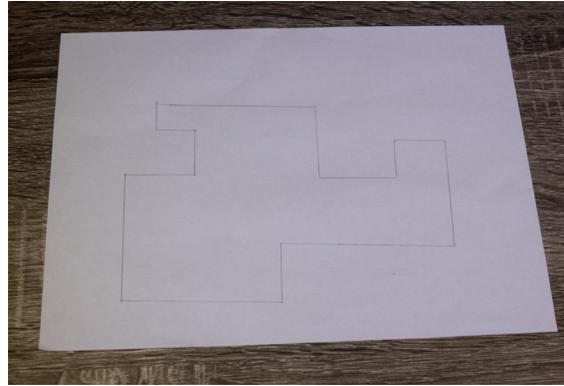
- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- Camera phone or camera
- Scissors
- A window



Instructions

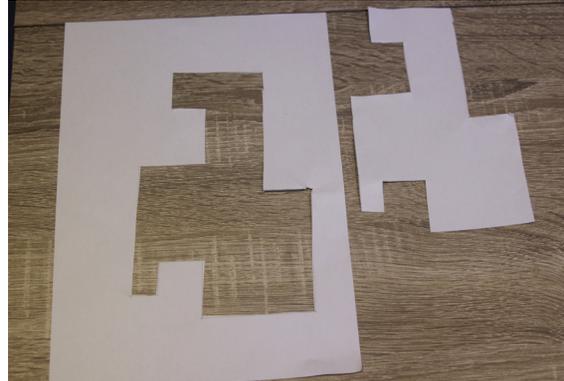
1. With your pen or pencil draw a picture in the middle of the paper.

This can be anything from a simple shape to the silhouette of a character but make sure there is a clear outline.

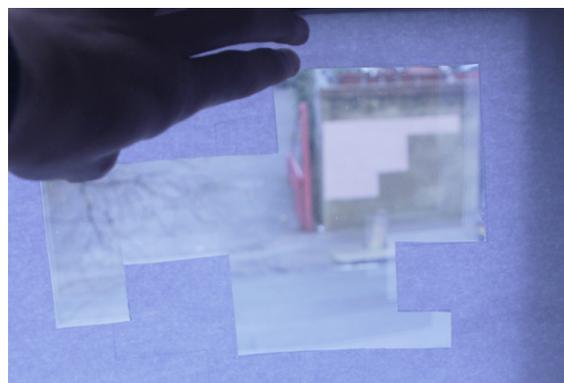


2. Now using the scissors, cut out the drawing from the paper.

This will become your viewfinder.



3. Take your piece of paper and hold it up to the window.



4. Begin photographing through your cut-out shape in the paper.

Experiment with the positioning of the paper on the window.



Top Tips

- Shooting in black and white will help the paper stand out less so the viewer's gaze is more easily directed to the scene beyond.
- Go fish! Choose a place on the street outside where you think people are likely to walk past. Once the paper is in the intended position all you have to do is wait and photograph the people that enter the frame.
- Try creating smaller but more complex outlines that allow for easier obscuring of parts of the scene. This helps engage the viewer as there is a sense of mystery to what is hidden to them.

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