**Photography, Summer Tasks**

**These are last year’s Exam topics. Choose one that interests you and take at least one 100 good quality, interesting photographs related to that theme. Save them onto a memory stick and bring them along to the first lesson. Research the artists mentioned to gain ideas.**

**01 Circles and curves**

Many photographers and artists have used circles or curves to produce imaginative and powerful work. Josef Sudek photographed shells, eggs, glasses and balls chosen for their distinctive shapes and forms, in his series of still-life arrangements. Round hats, mirrors and lenses act as frames or focal points in the portraits of Vivian Maier. Yayoi Kusama has used complex and intense patterns of dots and spots to produce startling installations. Produce your own response, making reference to appropriate work by others.

**02 Writing**

Words have been an inspiration for photographers and filmmakers, for both their appearance and meaning. Nancy Hellebrand’s close-up black and white photographs of handwriting are abstract studies of very personal linear forms. The posters by Jacques Mahé de la Villeglé are created from printed lettering that is combined and juxtaposed in torn layers. The title sequence for Wim Wenders’ film Wings of Desire shows poetry in the process of being written with pen and ink, in contrast to the credits which appear as chalk on blackboards. Produce your own response, making reference to appropriate work by others.

**03 iSettings and locations**

The locations chosen by numerous filmmakers and photographers have often proved critical in creating mood or establishing meaning. The director Yasujiro Ozu used the interiors of Japanese homes to reflect the formality of domestic and family relationships that interested him. When photographing objects, Walker Evans emphasised the context of the room or street in which they were located. Irving Penn severely limited the space available for his models when creating his Corner Portraits series. Produce your own response, making reference to appropriate work by others.

**04 The sky**

Observations of clouds and skylines have proved inspirational for many photographers and filmmakers. Stephen Shore and Edward Steichen photographed clouds at various times of the day. In the film Mistaken Memories of Mediaeval Manhattan, Brian Eno produced a time-lapse sequence of New York filmed in a vertical format, with buildings silhouetted against a drifting atmospheric sky. In the photobook Solitude of Ravens, Masahisa Fukase produced evocative images of birds in flight against dramatic skies. Produce your own response, making reference to appropriate work by others.

**05 Shops and shopping**

Shops, shopping, buying and selling, in high streets or markets, can offer dynamic and engaging opportunities for photographers and artists. Robert Adams observed customers, shelves of goods and shopping trolleys in his project What We Bought. Jim Dow’s Corner Shops of Britain recorded the distinct colours of the interiors and exteriors of traditional family businesses. The Tate’s Prunella Clough archive shows how the artist used photographs of multiple and repeated objects in shop window-displays as inspiration for her paintings. Produce your own response, making reference to appropriate work by others.