

# EDUCATION RESOURCE KIT

Educational programs are designed to spark curiosity through the discovery of new ideas, immersive experiences and growth of youth through art & culture.

AT THE CENTRE



## Fifty Fine Photographs: Bob Montgomery

4 March to 30 July, 2023

### Stage 5: Photographic and Digital Media Outline:

In exploring the exhibition, students can investigate how the world can be represented through photography and how practice is conditioned by a range of interests.

#### Syllabus Links:

##### Students learn about:

- how practice in photographic and digital media in different times and places is conditioned by a range of interests, including the artworld, art exhibitions, galleries and museums, the photographic and digital media market, theories and innovation
- selected photographic and digital artists, and relationships between the artist–artwork –world–audience
- photographic and digital artists and groups of artists working in Australia, international photographic and digital artists from different times and places with a focus on: contemporary and modern photographic and digital artists
- how the world can be represented in photographic and digital works
- how the frames allow ways to consider the relationship between the photographer, the still, interactive and moving image, the world and the audience
- the documentation of personal experiences through photographic and digital works

#### Objectives:

##### Students learn to:

- investigate a range of practices in photographic and digital media in different times and places
- investigate the recorded image through exhibitions, galleries, books, journals, photographic magazines, digital space
- investigate how different photographic and digital artists in different times and places develop their intentions and recognise some of the constraints they work within
- investigate the symbolic and stylistic possibilities of different media and technologies used by photographic and digital artists and how these aspects contribute to the kinds of works they make
- explain how photographers and digital artists interpret the world in making photographic and digital works and how they represent concepts through a range of styles and approaches
- explain how photographic and digital artists and ideas influence the physical representation of images. This may be through sequence, reconstruction, series, rows, construction and staging, as well as image transfers, hand painted emulsions and instant film

## Activities:

### Before your visit:

- Discuss with the class the different kinds of photographic and digital media that students can present
- Brainstorm the ways that exhibitions, galleries and museums might be different to a photographic or digital market
- Discuss the different frames and how they allow relationships between the photographer, the still, interactive and moving image, the world and the audience

### During your visit:

- Use the worksheet below to engage with the exhibition and take notes

### After your visit:

- Research the photography and style of Ansel Adams (see resources for some starting points). What elements from his practice can you see influenced Bob Montgomery?
- Investigate the process of black and white photography development - what challenges are involved in this type of process?
- Students could brainstorm routine aspects of their own life, like Montgomery's vacations and interest in plant life, that they can use for their own practice

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## Resources:

- **Ansel Adams Gallery** <https://www.anseladams.com/> (accessed 2023)
- **The Art of Photography Ansel Adams** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvSXVFEFSfQ>. (2015)
- **Photographylife: Spencer Cox** *Complete Guide to Black and White Photography* <https://photographylife.com/black-and-white-photography>. (2019)

# Bob Montgomery: Fifty Fine Photographs



Use the space below to develop your notes

**How has Montgomery captured his world?**

**What personal experiences are displayed through Montgomery's images?**

**How do the stylistic choices Montgomery has made influence the physical representation of his images?**

(Think about sequence, reconstruction, series, rows, construction and staging, as well as image transfers and instant film)

**What are the symbolic and stylistic possibilities of different media and technologies used by Montgomery?**



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## Fifty Fine Photographs: Bob Montgomery

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### Stage 6 Photography, Video and Digital Imaging Outline:

In exploring the exhibition, students can understand and develop knowledge of the frames, structural techniques and cultural significance of photography in a unique regional Australian context.

#### Syllabus Links:

##### Students learn about:

##### Content: Wet Photography

- use one or more of the frames to orientate investigations in making, and in critical and historical studies. For example:
- **Structural:** explore techniques and conventions of composition, framing, tone, balance etc in the taking and construction of photographs and examine similar kinds of things in selected photographs made since the nineteenth century; investigate how meanings are constructed by a photographer and read by an audience in photographic genres such as portraits, travel, landscape and studio photography.
- **Cultural:** explore the cultural significance of early photographic experiments by Niepce, Daguerre and Fox-Talbot; the pioneers of black and white and colour photography; the impact of the Kodak empire and George Eastman on photographic products and practice and the evolution of photography for the masses; the photographic image as a representation of the modern – new, elegant, stylish.
- **Subjective:** explore personal and imaginative responses to situations, environments, people and events in students' work and in the work of selected photographers.

#### Objectives:

##### Students learn to:

- Students will develop knowledge, skills and understanding that lead to increasingly accomplished critical and historical investigations of photography and/or video and/or digital imaging

## Activities:

### Before your visit:

- Discuss with the class the different kinds of photographic and digital media that students can present
- Brainstorm the ways that exhibitions, galleries and museums might be different to a photographic or digital market
- Discuss the different frames and how they allow relationships between the photographer, the still, interactive and moving image, the world and the audience

### During your visit:

- Students to take notes in their art diaries on the style, form and influences of Montgomery
- Note how meanings are constructed by Montgomery
- Identify how these meanings are read by the student as an audience in the photographic genres of travel and landscape photography
- Identify the personal, imaginative, and environmental responses by Montgomery reflected in his work

### After your visit:

- Explore the early works and influences of black and white photography, in particular of Ansel Adams as a significant influence on the artist - where can students see his stylistic and technical influences on Montgomery's work? (*see resources for some starting points*)
  - How significant was the development of technology on Montgomery's work, and the work of other similar artists in Australia at the time?
  - Students practice an element of black and white photography using personal experience to inform their subject and chosen style
  - Discuss the following quote given by Montgomery "*the key to my personal freedom of expression, lay in the very basis of meaningful photography; **the ability to produce a desired result: knowingly***".
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## Resources:

- **Ansel Adams Gallery** <https://www.anseladams.com/> (accessed 2023)
- **The Art of Photography Ansel Adams** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV SXVFEFSfQ> (2015)
- **The Independent Photographer: Rosie Torres** *A Brief History of Black and White Photography* <https://independent-photo.com/news/a-brief-history-of-bw-photography/> (2021)

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## Fifty Fine Photographs: Bob Montgomery

4 March to 30 July, 2023

### Stage 6 Visual Arts Outline:

In exploring the exhibition, students can understand the representation of photography in the visual arts in a unique regional Australian context.

#### Syllabus Links:

##### Students learn about:

- the importance of representation in the visual arts in their making of artworks and in viewing the work of others. They consider the nature of representations as complex responses to the world through subject matter and form in artworks

#### Objectives:

##### Students learn to:

- understand how the conceptual strength, meaning and resolution within an artwork, or body of work, are concerned with representing artistic intentions and holding an interpretive position
- knowledge of how audiences interact with and respond to the strength of concepts and layers of meaning of their works



## Activities:

### Before your visit:

- Discuss the different kinds of photographic and digital media that students can interact and engage with
- Brainstorm the ways that exhibitions, galleries and museums can influence artistic representation
- Discuss the different frames and how they allow relationships between the artist and their concept or layers of meaning

### During your visit:

- Students note in their Visual Arts Diaries how they interact with the artworks as an audience - what aspects of the works are they drawn to, how have you been positioned as an audience to view this work?
- What artistic intentions can you recognise in Montgomery's work: how does it resonate with his quote "*the key to my personal freedom of expression, lay in the very basis of meaningful photography; **the ability to produce a desired result: knowingly***"?

### After your visit:

- Discuss: how important is representation in Montgomery's work?
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## Resources:

- **Widewalls: Amy Lin** *Perfect Examples of Framing in Photography* <https://www.widewalls.ch/magazine/framing-in-photography> (2016)
- **Museum of Modern Art** *Participation and Audience Involvement* [https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/themes/media-and-performance-art/participation-and-audience-involvement/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/media-and-performance-art/participation-and-audience-involvement/) (accessed 2023)
- **The Photo Argus: Steph Nelson** *30 Fantastic Examples of Fine Art Photography* <https://www.thephotoargus.com/fine-art-photography/> (2021)