

Photography Workshop



Project
2-3 hours
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A portable digital device

Ideally a laptop or tablet, but a smart phone will be great for most things you will need to do



An internet connection



A good camera on your phone

The brief



This week's project is on the theme of Fluidity.

Fluidity is:

1. "the ability of a substance to flow easily."
2. "smooth elegance or grace"
3. "the state of being unsettled or unstable; changeability"

Your brief is to explore ideas around 'Fluidity' then create a photo series of 3-5 images that depicts the theme. If you decide to expand on your finished photo You can then go on to make your own outcome or build/develop on what you create in whatever discipline you like. It's up to you!

Research

First, research ideas and inspiration on existing ideas around Fluidity. You can look at anything from videos, songs, or even look out your window or go for a walk. Absolutely anything that comes to mind or catches your eye will help in shaping your final outcome. Because fluidity is about flow and movement, there is inspiration everywhere, literally!! Gather examples that speak to you!

Here is a list of things to explore when thinking about fluidity that may not be as obvious:

- Paintings/artwork
- Evolution
- Gender
- Human growth/biology

Research (cont.)

Using the follow prompts Research & Write out in full sentences: what you feel when you see (in real life or in your mind), hear and feel which each one of the following:

- Soundscapes
e.g. flowing river or forest
- Dancers that move gracefully
e.g. ballet or capoeira
- Dancers that chop and change abruptly
e.g. breakdancers
- Nature movements
e.g. birds flying, clouds moving, trees blowing in the wind
- Your self
Start with your left hand on your right shoulder and move to the back of your neck slowly move your hand to your forehead, repeat this and note the seamless movements of your hands, fingers, arm, head and eyes etc.

Identifying flow and movement

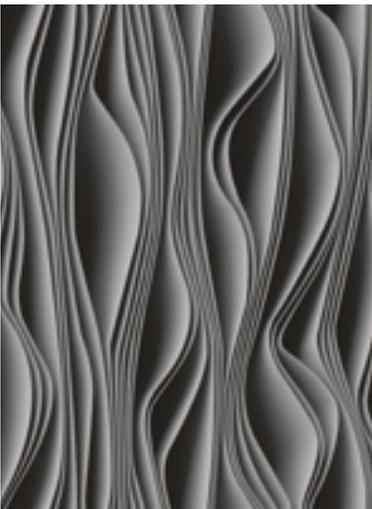
Now that you identify what you feel, see and hear. Write down in as much detail as possible the identifying factors that tell or show you movement/flow. Some things are going to seem very obvious, important to identify the obvious and the not so obvious for the next steps.

Identifying fluidity as an image

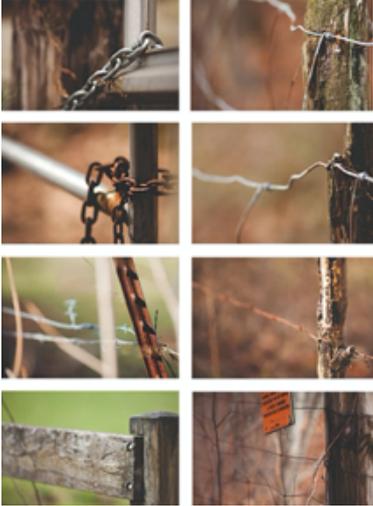


Up until now we've explored the obvious. Actual movement and sound. Your final photo won't have movement or sound so it is important to make sure we know how to identify Fluidity captured as an image or painting. Something not in motion but can still depict motion, movement or flow = fluidity.

I would like you to find 5 photos/paintings that depict fluidity in different ways and explain how they are different but still all display fluidity.



Your fluidity photo series



Your photo series will be 3-5 photos, themed “Fluidity”. Your images can be of anything or anyone (as long as you have their permission) and it can flow from one to the other however you see fit. You can take them with any camera you have to hand and you must be the photographer—they must be all taken and or edited by you.



What is a photo series?

A series of photos is a set of images that are presented together on the same theme, edited in the same style and with the images linking together visually. Your photo series will link together because of the theme “Fluidity” but think about visuals ways you could link your photos like the same subject in each photo, or a reoccurring colour/s etc. Check out the examples to the left of the page.



Colour theory—emotion



Different movements evoke different feelings, from how fast the movement is or the flow of movement. As your images will be still and not moving it would be wise to consider the colours you'll use in your final images that can help you evoke an emotion that will suit the Fluidity of your photos. You could decide to have them all black and white which can show depth!

For reference, below are colors and some of their associated meanings and emotions as well as 2 colour wheels with some alternatives associations. Although like so many theories in photography, it's OK to break the rules sometimes!

- Red – energy, excitement, passion, anger.
- Orange – warmth, happiness, enthusiasm.
- Yellow – cheerfulness, friendliness, creativity.
- Green – calm, natural, balance, growth.
- Blue – serenity, cold, sadness, trust.
- Purple – spirituality, mystery, luxury.
- Magenta (strong pink) – innovation, transformation, non-conformity.

Setting up the scene

This where you actually think about what you want your photos to look like. It's best to have at least a basic idea of what you want, so you have a clear vision but loose enough for you to play around while shooting. So now you can set the scene. It can take a while to get everything just right so be patient with this process and have fun with it, you might be surprised at what you might learn.

We break this down into sections!

Lighting

Light is arguably the most important factor in a photo. You can have everything in order but if your light source is too much and it ends up over exposed but not enough and it is under exposed either way your camera won't capture the image correctly. The wrong angle and it might not give the right feel to your photo.

Make sure you take some test shots before to make sure your light isn't too dark or too bright and that it is in the right place—if it's natural light you might have to move your whole scene because you can't move the sun. If you're using additional lights like a torch, phone light or lamp, move the light around and take shots until you get it how you like it.

You might have to come back to tweak the lighting again after everything else is set—just to make sure it's all lit the way you want.



Here is a great light tips using whatever light you have access to:

[instagram.com/p/CAXye1ED7LO](https://www.instagram.com/p/CAXye1ED7LO)

Subject and location

Subject

Who or what is your subject? This is the main thing/s that will fit into the scene you set. Everything has to complement the subject/s and not over power it. You can have more than one subject in the same photo. Now lets build around the subject.

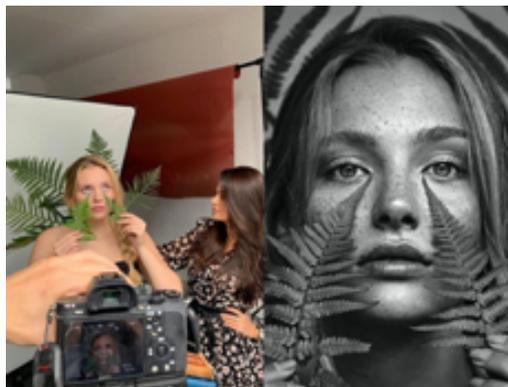
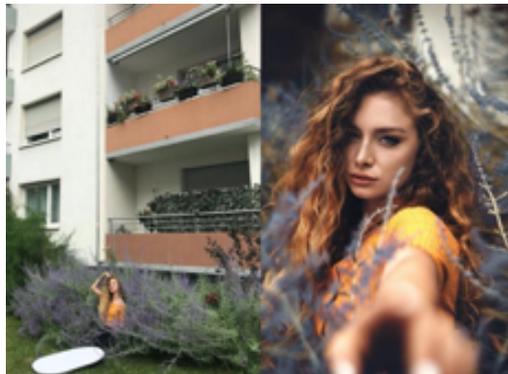
Location:

What do you want in the background of your image? What background will enhance the subject and complement the theme too? For example if you wanted nature/greenery, it might be best to shoot outside where there are trees/grass. However if you wanted the background to not be a focus you might choose the shoot inside with a plain wall as your background. It all has to make sense with your theme. Your location can affect the lighting too so be aware of that.

Props

You don't have to have a prop but they can be useful in enhancing your final outcome, it can be anything (anything) and a place anywhere is your final photo. Is there a prop(s) that will further push the theme and subject? Remember Props can also be things like light: water & wind, which can be natural like rain and breeze or can be manufactured by you like the shower or a fan and they don't have to be IN the photo to have great results. Use your imagination and what you have it does not have to be fancy or expensive:

Here are some great examples of setting the scene and the end results:



Taking the shot hands free

If you want to be the subject of your photo or maybe you want to hold a prop in place while the photo is being taken. You'll need to set up your camera, (phone or digital camera), somewhere that is still and steady. Either on a tripod or a stack of books or leaning on something. Be sure to make sure your camera is safe and secure to avoid any accidents.

On your camera or phone there should be a timer option or you may have a remote that will allow you to take photo's hands free. Search online for your camera or phones Make and model to get specific instructions on how to find and use those options specific to what you have.



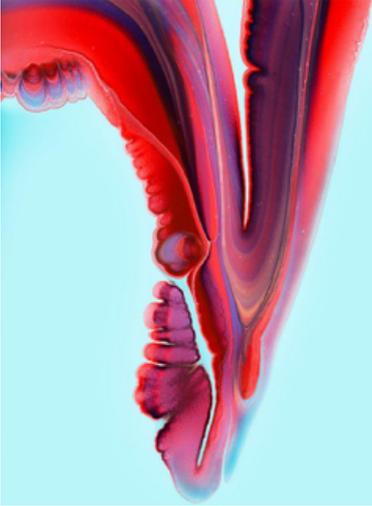
Here are examples that can help with taking pictures hands free & no tripod!

youtu.be/Uc5O5xLP0tY

youtu.be/aKyr8hSvRXM

youtu.be/l4LHtxgrDi0

Fluidity outcome



Fluidity Outcome

Now you've taken your still life photo, you can choose whether you want to develop and build on it for your final outcome you can take the ideas and concepts you've developed and turn them into a new outcome based on the theme Utopia. Here are some outcomes you could consider.

- Illustration (2D/3D)
- Animation
- Textile/outfit
- Painting/Artwork
- Soundscape
- Collage
- Lots more!

Useful resources



Fluidity photo examples:
pinterest.co.uk/texasdiva74/fluidity

Tips on creating a Photo series:
clickinmoms.com/blog/5-steps-to-producing-a-powerful-photography-series

Lighting tips and examples:
expertphotography.com/diy-studio-photography-lighting

Ravensbourne Outreach tutors and students have produced a new series of online projects and courses to help you stay creative at home

If you'd like to find out more please visit our website makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk or email us at outreach@rave.ac.uk

Instagram: [@raveoutreach](https://www.instagram.com/raveoutreach)

Twitter: [@ravensbourneWP](https://twitter.com/ravensbourneWP)

#letsmakeitcreative

