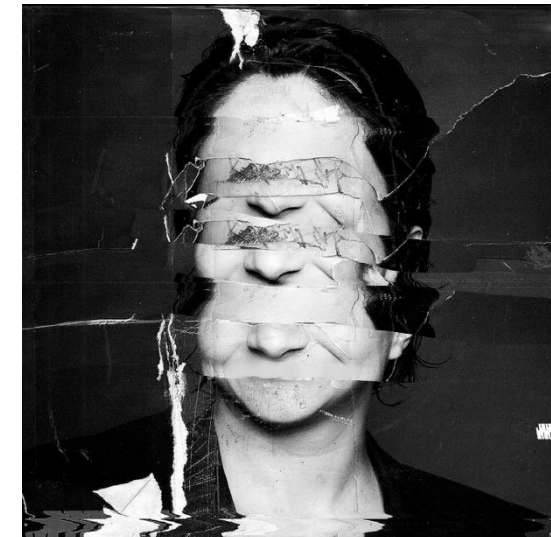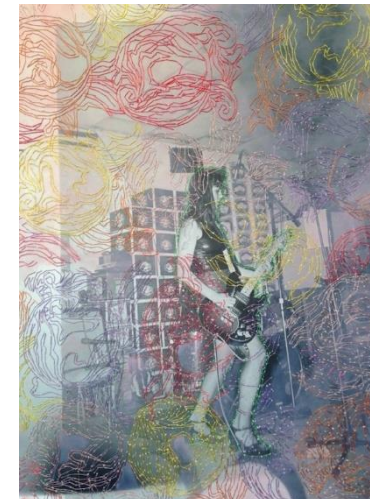# Summer Project
A-level Photography

Self Identity

Self **identity** is who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define you.
Consider your beliefs, family, friends, hobbies and interests, looks / expressions, style, personality, cultural background, location.

Read the following information and research photographers that explore identity.

Larry Sultan – Pictures from Home

The house is quiet. They have gone to bed, leaving me alone, and the electric timer has just switched off the living-room lights. It feels like the house has finally turned on its side to fall asleep. Years ago I would have gone through my mothers purse for one of her cigarettes and smoked in the dark. It was a magical time that the house was mine. Tonight, however, I am restless. I sit at the dining-room table; rummage through the refrigerator. What am I looking for? All day long I've been scavenging, poking around in rooms and closets, peering at their things, studying them. I arrange my rolls of exposed film into long rows and count and recount them as if they were lost. There are twenty-eight. What drives me to continue this work is difficult to name. It has more to do with love than with sociology, with being a subject in the drama rather than a witness. And in the odd and jumbled process of working everything shifts; the boundaries blur, my distance slips, the arrogance and illusion of immunity falters. I wake up in the middle of the night, stunned and anguished. These are my parents. From that simple fact, everything follows. I realize that beyond the rolls of film and the few good pictures, the demands of my project and my confusion about its meaning, is the wish to take photography literally. To stop time. I want my parents to live forever.

Larry Sultan's project 'Pictures from Home' explores his identity through photographing his childhood home and parents.

Richard Billingham – Black Country

Born in Cradley Heath, Billingham's work depicts his hometown and is the result of very long exposures in the light of street lamps showing what can be seen in sodium, neon and halogen colours.

Richard, nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001, said: "I wanted to prove you can take good pictures anywhere and the most 'ordinary' subject I could think of was the town I grew up in."
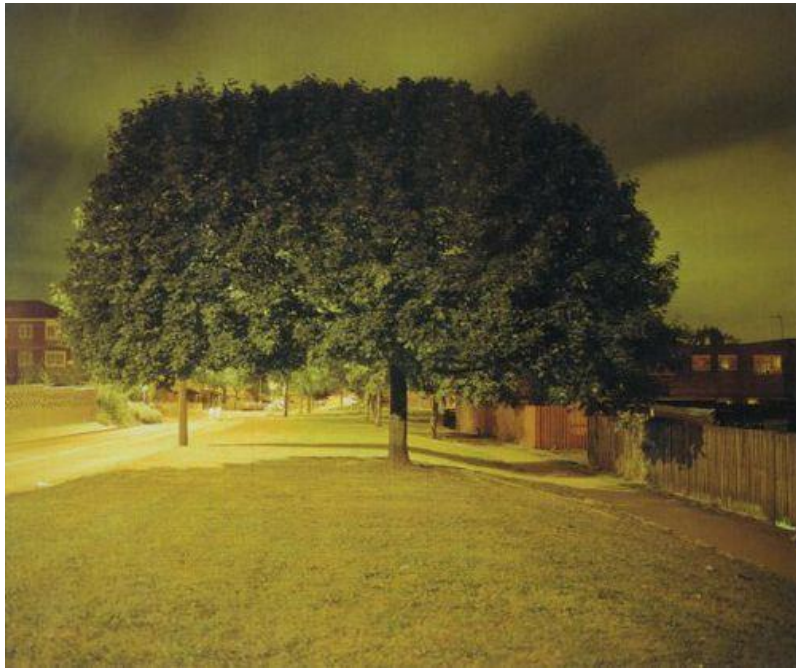
Tony Luciani – Portraits of his mother Elia

Her hands and face adorned in wrinkles that tell her age didn't stop Elia from thinking of herself in her youthful years and transporting mentally back to that time. Tony realized that when Elia would dress up for him to photograph her, she would come back to life and have so much fun participating. So, he continues to photograph her, and she thrives on it. Tony says that his mother modelling for him is her contribution to the household which admittedly, made me chuckle. His photo sessions with Elia activate her mind while also capturing her spirit. His love for the woman who birthed him shines through and is evident in the portraiture he creates of her. Elia now collaborates with Tony on portrait concepts.
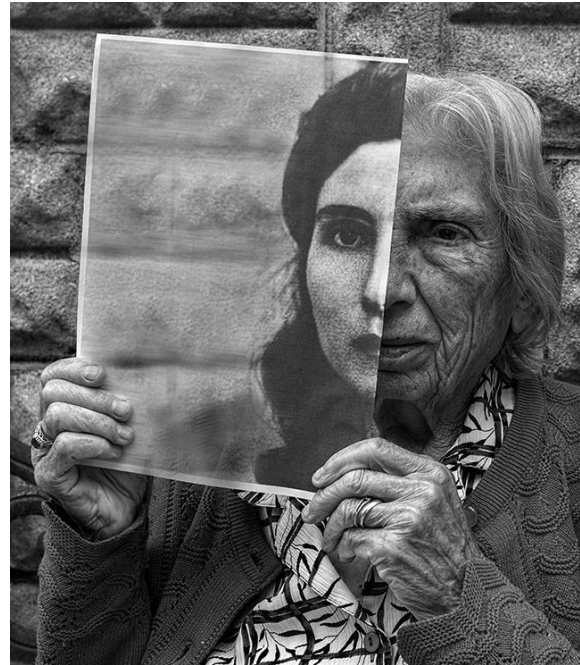
Tomoko Sawada

Sawada uses photography and techniques of performance art to explore ideas of identity, status, culture, individualism, and conformity through traditional and contemporary cultural methods of portraiture. Sawada's photographs are each part of a themed photo series in which she makes use of make-up and costume to dramatically alter her identity, such that each photograph appears to represent a different individual or group of individuals, when all subjects are Sawada herself. Sawada uses commercial photographers, photo booths, and her own studio environment with digital photo editing to represent hundreds of different identities. Tomoko's use of costume in her self-portraits draws inspiration from the work of [Cindy Sherman](). Her work also explores the way assumptions about personality are largely driven by Japanese cultural responses to gender, job occupation, and other socio-cultural stereotypes.
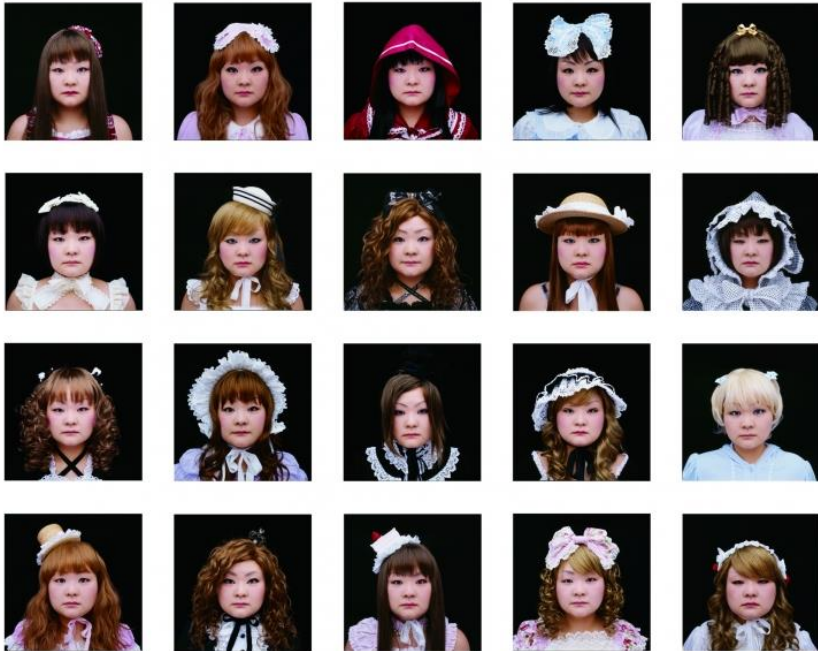
Self Identity

What does identity mean to you? Produce a series of images exploring your identity.

- Your series must contain 3-6 finished images. You can use your mobile phone.

- One of these must be a self portrait.

- Each image should stand out in it's own right, this is about quality not quantity. Be critical selecting your best images.

- Attention to detail. All images must be well composed, considering formal elements, lighting and technical aspects of photography.

- Post production – editing. Every image should be edited to a high quality, this could be by hand or in photo-shop.

Evaluation. Have a reason for everything you do. Along with your images you must write an **<u>extensive</u>** description of your project including:

1. Subject matter.

2. What has inspired you?

3. The best visual aspects.

4. The best conceptual aspects.

5. Manipulation / editing you have done and why?

IMAGES AND EVALUATION TO BE PRESENTED IN A POWER POINT DOCUMENT

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