



PHOTO 2021

Just wanted you to know

Parliament
of Victoria
Education

Photo 2021

Photo 2021 is a festival of photography that features artists from across Australia and around the world, with 94 exhibitions and projects hosted across Victoria.

The steps of Parliament House played host to one of these projects - a series of photos by Eliza Hutchison, Parliament's first ever photographer in residence.

Each image included in this artwork, titled 'Just wanted you to know', is a montage of political, personal and cultural narratives told through photographs that create associations between these areas of our lives by finding both the commonalities and contrasts.



About the artist

South African-born, Melbourne-based artist Eliza Hutchison uses photography to explore how truth and meaning can be manipulated and hybridised. Her experimental approach involves various modes of in-camera and digital abstraction. Hutchison has exhibited widely in Australia and Asia, with exhibitions including *The National 2019: New Australian Art* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales; *Image-Reader*, Centre for Contemporary Photography; *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria; and *Artificial and Supernatural*, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. Hutchison's first monograph *Family Photos* was published by Perimeter Editions and was shortlisted for the Australia & New Zealand Photobook Award.

Teaching notes

Taking this idea into the classroom, students can use photos – either from a site such as Pixabay or their own photos – and experiment with different combinations and layouts to see what commentary they can make about the political, personal and cultural and/or an issue that is important to them. The ‘Parts, People, Interactions’ thinking routine helps breakdown some of the key elements of the political, personal and cultural and may help students plan the types of photos they can take and/or use.

You may like to ask students to include a written or oral artist statement or rationale, or alternatively have students write what associations, comparisons and contrasts they see in each other’s work. The ‘Values, Identities, Actions’ thinking routine may be a useful tool to help students think about the perspective but also what actions, if any, the photographs may be encouraging them to take.

If you would like to extend this activity over a number of lessons, students can experiment with a series of photos on the same theme or issue, similar to what Eliza has done, or alternatively they can experiment with different combinations presenting different perspectives on the same theme or issue. The ‘Circle of Viewpoints’ thinking routine can help students brainstorm the different perspectives they may wish to represent.

Victorian Curriculum connections

The photo montage is easily adaptable to different grade or year levels and is also quite flexible in how much time it can take. It does have some really clear links to the Victorian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship ‘Citizenship, diversity and identity’ strand, but could be used across any number of subject areas, such as English, Humanities, Arts and also the Victorian Curriculum: Science ‘Science as a human endeavour strand’.

Additional resources

Photo 2021 at Parliament

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/news/4658-photo-2021-at-parliament>

Photo 2021

<https://photo.org.au/>

Pixabay

<https://pixabay.com/>

Parts, People, Interactions, Harvard Project Zero Thinking Routines

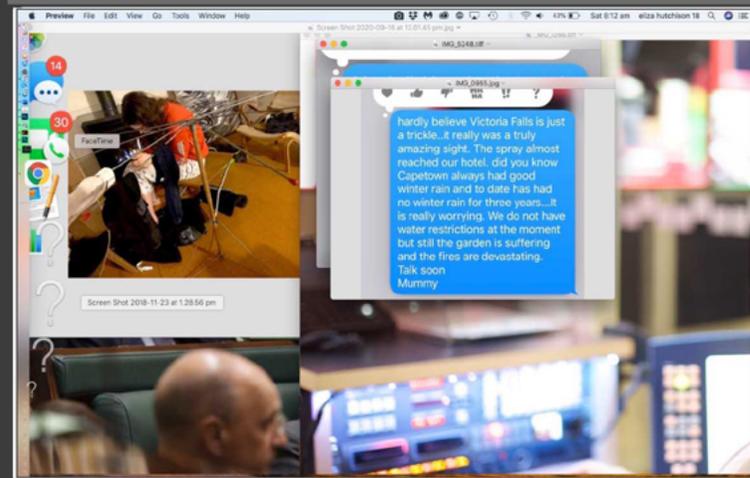
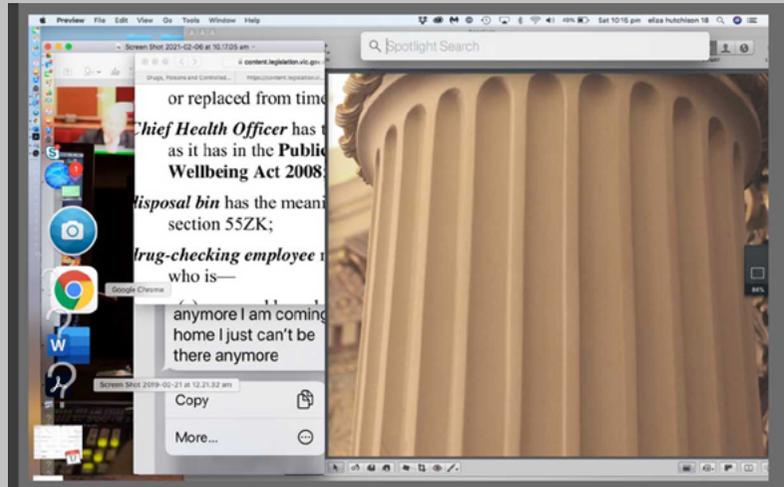
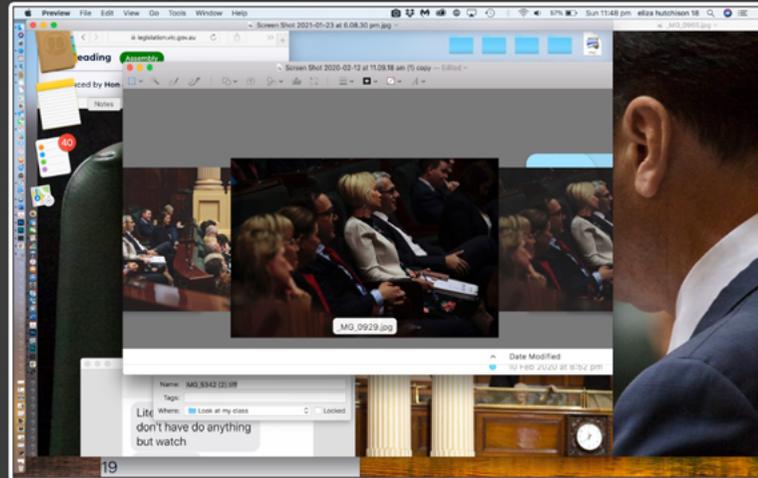
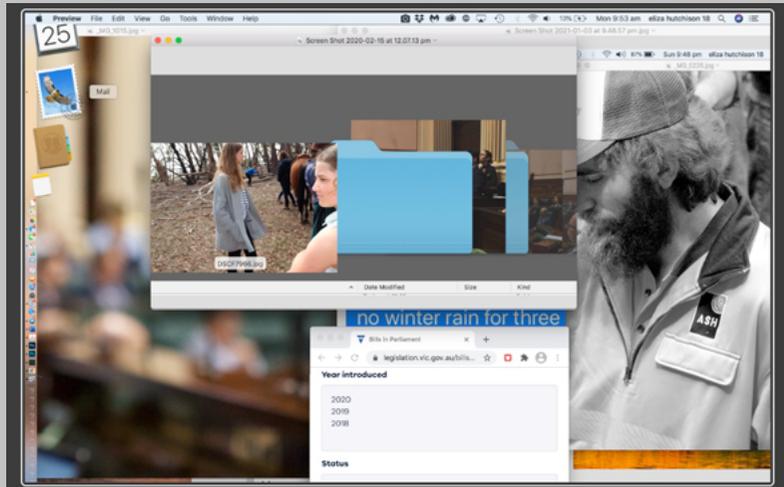
<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Parts%20People%20Interactions%20-%20for%20exploring%20complexity.pdf>

Values, Identities, Actions, Harvard Project Zero Thinking Routines

http://www.pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Values%20Identities%20Actions_0.pdf

Circle of Viewpoints, Harvard Project Zero Thinking Routines

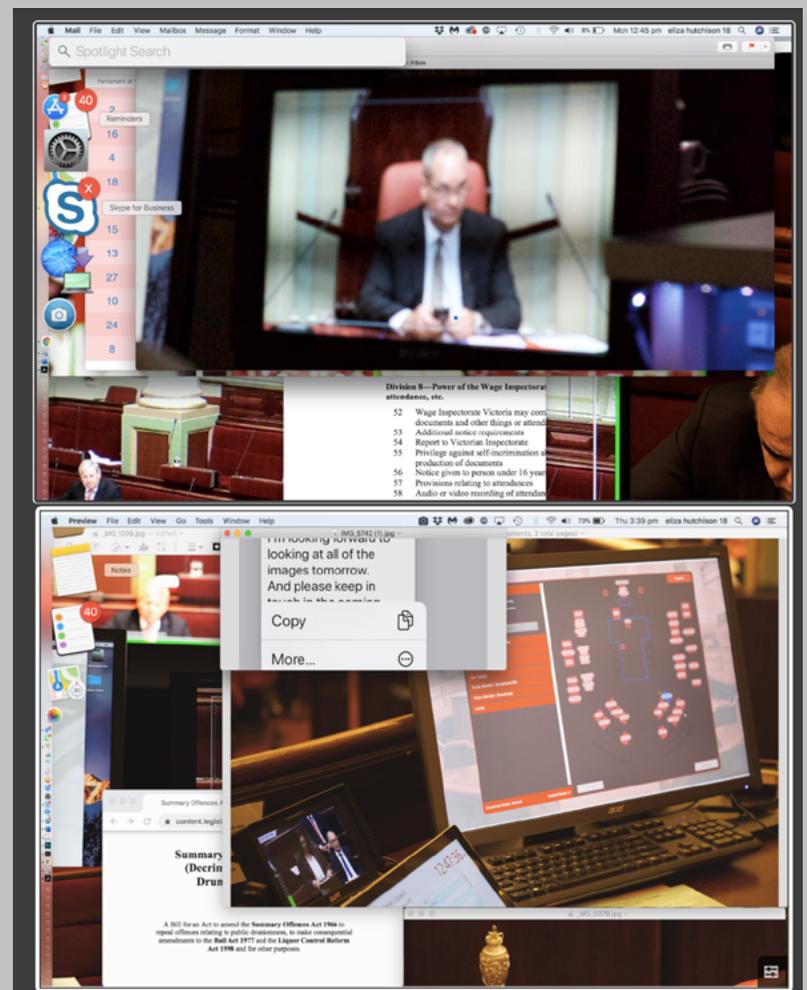
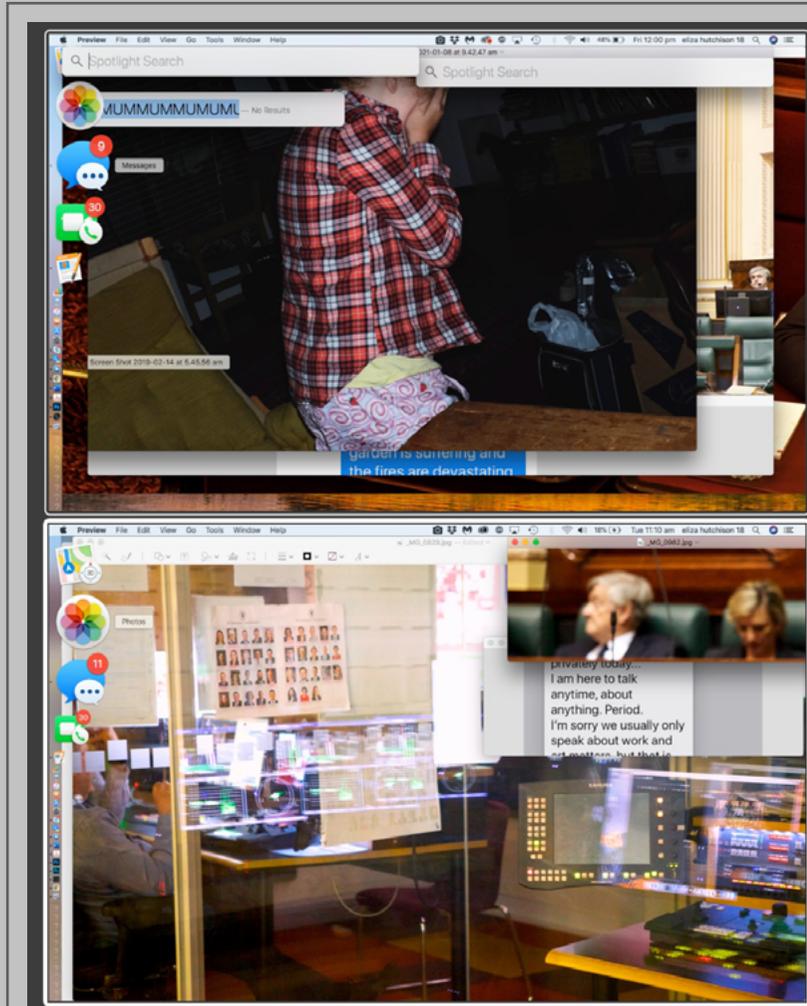
http://www.pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Circle%20of%20Viewpoints_0.pdf



Images from 'Just wanted you to know' by Eliza Hutchison, 2021, courtesy of Photo Australia

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