

MARTIN

PARR

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This resource is in presentation style, for use with Power Point or as a printed handout. It can be used as part of pre-visit preparation, to accompany a visit, or can stand alone. It consists of 2 parts:

Part One

Information, images and ideas for students

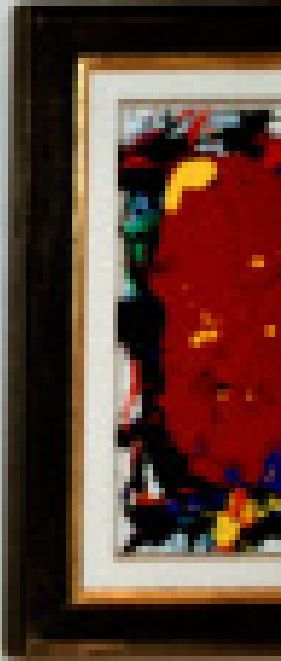
- About the artist
- About the work
- Things to think about
- In my opinion
- Here's one I made earlier...
- Further research

Part Two

Notes for teachers

- Cross curricular opportunities
- Useful links and additional resources

PART ONE



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Martin Parr was born in Epsom, Surrey in 1952. He started taking photographs when he was a teenager, encouraged by his grandfather, before studying photography at Manchester Polytechnic from 1970 to 1973. Parr's photographs have been exhibited and published all over the world. In 2008, he was commissioned by the Guardian newspaper to photograph ten UK cities, including Newcastle.



ABOUT THE WORK

Martin Parr's photographs are exhibited in galleries around the world and published in numerous books. Recently, he has also begun to work with film, advertising and fashion photography. Many of his photographs document aspects of everyday life which can be mundane, bizarre or humorous.

In his earlier work Parr concentrated on documenting society and culture in Britain, before beginning to take photographs in different countries around the world. His work is particularly concerned with consumerism, tourism and leisure. It highlights cultural differences and individual eccentricities but also points out the similarities caused by globalisation.

The people in Parr's photographs are usually unaware that they are being photographed and the results can be unflattering. Much of Parr's work uses exaggerated, saturated colour and is presented in series with variations on a theme.



ABOUT THE WORK

The Parrworld exhibition at BALTIC includes *Luxury*, a series of over 40 recent photographs which document wealthy people around the world. Parr visited events such as art fairs and fashion shows, where people often display their wealth through the clothes they wear, and the food and drink they consume. This series of images includes photographs taken at The Northumbrian Plate, 'Newcastle's premier horse racing event'.

The exhibition also includes photographs by famous photographers such as David Goldblatt, William Eggleston and Bernd and Hilla Becher, along with photography books, postcards and objects, all of which have been collected by Martin Parr. The collection includes a variety of mass produced objects incorporating photographic images such as crisp packets, watches, badges. Many of these objects portray famous historical figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Saddam Hussein and Barack Obama.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Look at the series of works called *Luxury* by Martin Parr. As well as looking at the people in the photographs, think about the photographer who has taken the images.

- Where do you think the photographer was standing when they took the photo?
- How much time do you think they spent watching and waiting before they took the photo?
- What did the photographer have to think about before taking the photograph? What decisions have they made?

Look at the photobooks on display. Think about why the books were originally produced; for example, they could have been made by an artist or they could have been made to advertise a product or a place. Can you find two books that were made for different purposes?



IN MY OPINION

Martin Parr has visited many different places to take photographs. Think about the difference between taking photographs in a new place where you have never been before and taking photographs in a place which you are already familiar with, such as the town where you live.

- Do you think your point of view is likely to be different in each place?
- Would you notice different things?
- Would you think or feel differently about the things you see?

Photographic images are a familiar part of daily life.

- How many different places can you think of where you might see photographs, for example, in a newspaper or on the internet?
- Does it matter where you see a photograph? Does the location make you think about or respond to the photograph differently?
- Do you think about the photographs in the exhibition differently because they are in an art gallery?

Martin Parr has been collecting postcards for 35 years and has a collection of 20,000 cards.

- How do you think people choose what to collect?
- Have you ever collected anything?
- If you were going to start a new collection what would it be?



HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER

Make a postcard for the place where you live.

- Take digital photos of the place where you live.
- Discuss the different things which you might photograph, for example, people, views, objects, important places, everyday scenes, indoor spaces and outdoor spaces.
- Download your photos and design a postcard using the images you have taken. Decide whether to use one image or combine several images together. Decide whether you want to add text.
- Print out your design on postcard-sized paper.

Look at the examples of Martin Parr's photobooks on his website, www.martinparr.com

- Can you use your photographs to make a book about where you live?
- Design the pages of your book on the computer.
- Print them out and bind or staple them together.

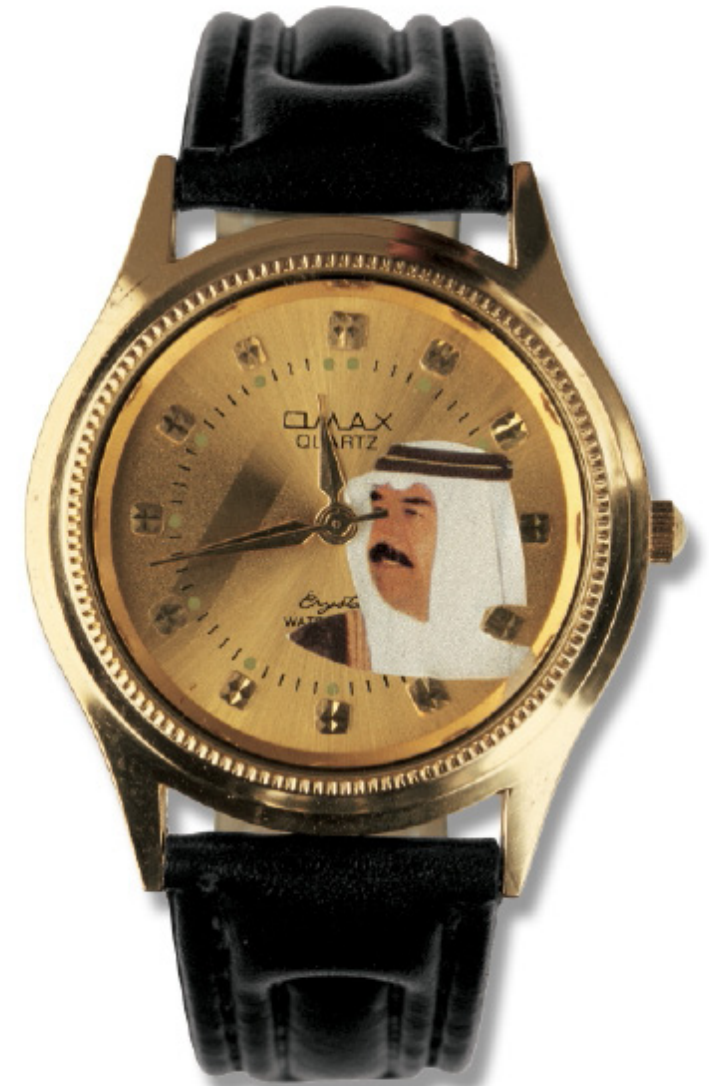


HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER

Here's one I made earlier....

Choose an object which is cheap and easy to collect; for example: crisp packets, bus tickets, carrier bags, or anything else you can think of!

- Experiment with your collection and try to find different ways in which you can sort, group and order the objects.
- Find a way to present your collection.
Will you present the actual objects or photographs of them?

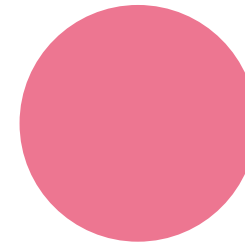
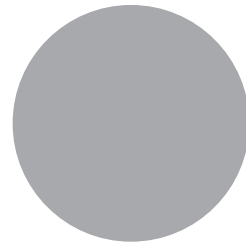


FURTHER RESEARCH

Bernd and Hilla Becher
Chris Killip
David Goldblatt
Frank Breuer
Gary Winogrand
Ian Macdonald
Jem Southam
John Gossage
Karen Knorr
Keith Arnatt
Mark Neville
Osamu Kanemura
Paul Graham
Paul Seawright
Richard Billingham
Rinko Kawauchi
Tony Ray Jones
William Eggleston

LITERACY KEY WORDS

advertising

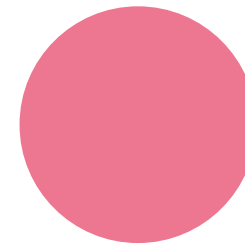


bizarre

culture

humorous

mundane



publish

commission

documentary

everyday

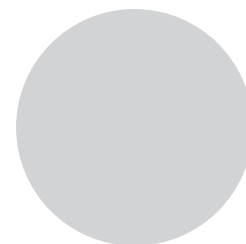
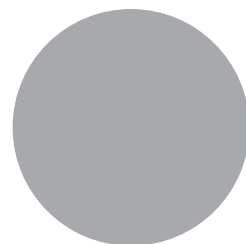
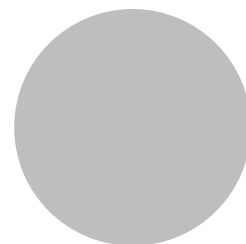
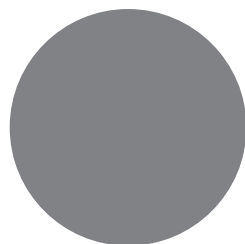
leisure

photograph

place

society

consumerism



PART TWO

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Contemporary art is incredibly diverse and wide ranging and can be used to support teaching and learning as part of an entire learning experience. It can be used to generate creative thinking in all subject areas and to support learning across curricular dimensions, as well as contribute to personal development and personalised learning.

CROSS CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Art and Design
- Citizenship
- History
- ICT
- Science

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BALTIC

www.balticmill.com

QUAY

www.balticmill.com/quay

Library and Archive

<http://archive.balticmill.com>

'In my opinion' toolkit to help pupils approach artwork, formulate questions and contribute opinions

<http://www.balticmill.com/learning/Downloads.php>

Blank presentation template: pupils can use this to present their own research and ideas

<http://www.balticmill.com/learning/Downloads.php>

Baltic Secondary Resources Bank: pupils can use this to search for and download images and other information

<http://www.balticmill.com/learning/Downloads.php>

IMAGE CREDITS

Slide 3

Martin Parr

Abstract painting with abstract shirt

United Arab Emirates. Dubai. DIFC

(Dubai International Financial Centre) Gulf Art Fair, 2007

© Martin Parr

Slide 4

Martin Parr

Self Portrait

© Martin Parr

Slide 5

Martin Parr

Dubai

The Cartier International Dubai Polo Challenge, 2007

© Martin Parr

Slide 6

Mark Neville

Port Glasgow Town Hall Xmas Party (Betty), 2005

© Mark Neville

Slide 7

Martin Parr

Moscow

Moscow Fashion Week, 2004

© Martin Parr

Slide 8

Martin Parr

Man holding binoculars, man wearing top hat

G.B. England. Epsom. The Derby, 2004

© Martin Parr

Slide 9

Martin Parr

Newcastle upon-Tyne. Gosforth Races Ladies Day, 2008.

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos

Slide 10

MARTIN PARR

OBJECTS

Images © Chris Boot Ltd