

2. THE PHOTONOVEL

DURATION

230' to 390'

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

To experiment how photography can represent a common and shared collective identity. The power of images to communicate narratives, using mostly portrait pictures. Using photonovel format to tell meaningful stories for a group or a community.

In this workshop, after analyzing the format of the photonovel, participants will make their own photonovel, but experimenting with the concepts of linear and non-linear, or with themes and concepts not traditionally used in the photonovel format.

GOALS

- › Increase competence in organising digital content.
- › To raise awareness that people belong and identify with several cultures.
- › To raise awareness that culture is fluid and dynamic.
- › To experiment new digital tools to create and edit images.

PREPARATION

Before the activity:

- › Prepare the LINKS to video examples.
- › Install Improvisa App (see [Toolkit](#)).
- › Prepare a private social media platform to share the participants' photographs (e-portfolio, padlet...).

Prepare the space/room:

- › Chairs and tables.
- › Internet access.
- › Video projector and a computer to project.
- › One smartphone per group of participants (minimum).

OPTIONAL: image edition apps.

DIGITAL SKILLS

LEVEL 3: learning of new digital tool.

STEP BY STEP

45' to 60'	The facilitator presents the workshop objectives the Photonovel format: "to work and experiment around the construction and deconstruction of popular and classic narrative formats such as the photonovel. The photonovel is a traditionally linear format, in which image and text are combined to build stories, generally of love, passion, betrayal, etc., through the narration of daily life events, and with the use of characters with personal and physical characteristics very marked and easily identifiable. Elements such as body posture or clothing are essential to convey the desired emotions and values, and to facilitate the immediation, or the distancing of the viewer towards one or another character. The workshop aims: to combine languages for a rich narrative of a multidimensional perception and construction of personal meanings; to discuss about self and collective representation and imaginary; to perform Collective creation as artistic and expressive practice. The activities will be alternated with photography of the environment, sound editing, image and sound combination, collective creation through collaborative activities, interpretation and re-interpretation.
	Install and access the Improvisa App. The facilitator presents the history, functioning and potential of the App, as well as some examples (1). Participants take some time to play with the App.
	The facilitator helps participants to learn about photonovel – the history, the types of images and aesthetics used, the melodrama: Visualization of photographic material of photonovels. Analysis of images, especially from the perspective of aesthetics, artistic and communicative intentions.
50' to 60'	PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION to create sequences of still images: The facilitator helps organizing the work of this session and the creation of working groups. Participants must think on what type of sequences they want to carry out and make a workplan (very small Storyboard). This session can be held in different locations, depending on the work plans. For example, groups can capture images in the street or you can make a set in a room.
45' to 60'	WORKING WITH SOUND: The sound will be worked as an essential element for a multimedia narration. The facilitator plays different sound materials related to the urban environment, music, ambient sound, etc., from the Improvisa's collection (2). Participants listen to and analyse.
	The facilitator explains some relevant topics on copyright and some of the possibilities of using existing visual and sound material.
	Explore the sound material and use the Improvisa App for a first experimentation with the combination of sound and image.
0' to 90'	SOUND SESSION: The facilitator helps participants learning how to use the Audacity software to create their own samplers - Audacity Manual (3). Participants explore Audacity software and experiment in creating samplers using such software and royalty-free audio material made available to them. Participants can capture sounds or use sounds from FreeSound (4) or Improvisa's collection (2) to be re-edited creating new sounds. Notice: You can SKIP THIS STEP and use sounds from the FreeSound (4) or Improvisa's collection (2) without editing them on Audacity. This sounds can be used to be combined with the images.
45' to 60'	Participants create with the Improvisa App. First, the facilitators helps them how to learn about how to create and share albums with the Improvisa App IMPROVISA APPTUTORIAL (5). Groups of participants can create its own albums in the Improvisa App combining images and sounds. Jointly, groups decide which and how many albums they will publish to be used by others. About the use of other's people's images and creations, the facilitator can look for "image rights" in the Educator's Guide Appendix > Learn More > Legal Resources.
45' to 60'	In group, briefly present the albums created/shared (maximum 3 minutes per group). Each participant can, interact with the albums created by other groups and create their own compositions and audiovisual recordings. The facilitator orients participants to discuss the workshop's process of combining languages for a rich narrative of multidimensional perceptions and construction of personal meanings. Discuss about self and collective representation and imaginary; how each group performed a Collective creation as artistic and expressive practice.

Ethics

The participants works can be shared online with the consent of participants or it can be kept offline. For more on privacy and personal data protection, consult [Educator's Guide Part 1, point 4, p. 5](#).

Other options

The facilitator can change the structure of the workshop according to his/her will, imagination and knowledge, skipping or adjust any activity to the group's needs and interests.

Assessment

Here the facilitator can find resources to carry out the assessment of the workshop.

Description and reference links

(1) Discussion on what is a photo novel:

<https://necus-ejms.org/the-photo-novel-a-minor-medium-by-jan-baetens/>

https://elpais.com/cultura/2018/01/08/babelia/1515414579_173485.html

(2) Improvisa's collection - Urban SOUNDS and MUSIC

[Link to pdf](#)

(3) Tutorials - Audacity Manual audacityteam.org

(4) <https://freesound.org/> (requires login)

(5) IMPROVISA APPTUTORIAL [Link to pdf](#)