



# 3. VIDEO PORTRAITS

## DURATION

185' to 420'

## INTRODUCTION

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The photographic portrait allows us to represent ourselves in public and private contexts in our daily lives. Sometimes the barriers between public and private are blurred, giving rise to uncomfortable situations. In this activity we will create a live portrait, as if an action became frozen. We will go through a set of activities in which visual narration, through photographic images, is combined with sound, through musical fragments and / or ambient sounds. The combination of languages will allow for collective creations around urban landscapes and urban cultures, constructed from the double dimension of individual and collective.

## GOALS

- › Increase competence in organising digital content.
- › To stimulate thinking about own and others' privacy.
- › To experiment new digital tools to create and edit images, sounds and videos.

## PREPARATION

Before the activity:

- › Prepare the links to video examples.
- › Install Improvisa App (see [Toolkit](#) with instructions).

Prepare the space/room:

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

## DIGITAL SKILLS

LEVEL 3: learning of new digital tool.

## STEP BY STEP

50' to 60'	The facilitator presents the workshop activities, that will be alternated with photographs of the environment, sound editing, image and sound combination, collective creation through collaborative activities, interpretation and re-interpretation. Participants watch examples of video works by Nan Goldin (1) and Robert Wilson (2).
	Install and access the Improvisa App. The facilitator presents the history, functioning and potential of the App, as well as some examples (related to the topic of the workshop). Participants take some time to play with the App.
	Participants search photographic material related to simultaneously private and collective environments of someone (like Nan Goldin's (1) photographs), like groups of friends, etc . Facilitators help presenting and discuss examples and help to analyse some of the images (according to the Model for image's analysis on Part I - 7 on the Educators Guide).
0' to 90'	PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION PREPARATION: Facilitator helps organizing the work of this session and the creation of working groups. Each group, independently, decides who will be photographed and what type of private-collective environment they will photograph, and prepares the photography session. The photographic place, the necessary means, schedules, etc. are planned. TIP: each group can make a table with the topics of the photo plan.  PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION: Each group meets for the scheduled photo session. Notice: in alternative, search for images from people gathering in the place you live in, on the internet, magazines, etc. About the use of other's people's images, the facilitator can look for "image rights" in the <a href="#">Educator's Guide Appendix &gt; Learn More &gt; Legal Resources</a> .
	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 (4) and shows Robert Wilson video fragments (2) in which the image/sound ratio is especially relevant. 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 (5) or Improvisa's collection (4) to be re-edited creating new sounds.  Notice: You can SKIP THIS STEP and use sounds from the FreeSound (5) or Improvisa's collection (4) 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 to learn about how to create and share albums with the Improvisa App (6). 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.
45' to 60'	In group, briefly present the albums created/shared (maximum 3 minutes per group). Each participant can, individually, 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](#).

## Assessment

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

## Description and reference links

Examples of artworks comping image and sound:

(1) Nan Goldin:

<http://search.freefind.com/find.html?si=61902956&pid=r&n=0& charset =UTF-8&bcd=%C3%B7&query=nan+goldin>

[https://ubu.com/film/goldin\\_life.html](https://ubu.com/film/goldin_life.html)

<http://collection.emst.gr/en/projects/Ολομόναχο/>

(2) Robert Wilson - Video Portraits:

<http://www.robertwilson.com/video-portraits>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AROzD3YStGI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIDq0TIPHwo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmKrrovneTU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md-WjgFpB5A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yAlNdMT2c>

(3) Tutorials - Audacity Manual:

<https://www.audacityteam.org/>

(4) Improvisa's collection - Urban SOUNDS and MUSIC:

[Link to pdf](#)

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

(6) Improvisa App tutorial

[Link to pdf](#)