

VHILLS PRISMA

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Teaching material for schools

Primary School

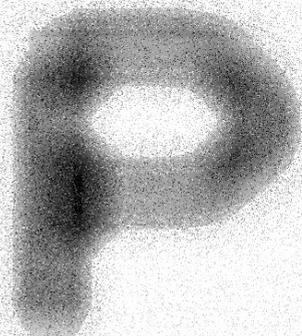
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The exhibition *Prisma* by the artist Alexandre Farto, aka Vhils, places us, inside the museum, in confrontation with his usual field of action: the city. Over eight years (pre-pandemic) the artist has been collecting images from nine cities where he has installed his works: Mexico City, Cincinnati, Hong Kong, Lisbon, Los Angeles, Macau, Paris, Beijing, and Shanghai. Internationally renowned for his large-scale interventions in public space, the city has been the stage for many hours of observation and, often, critical positioning.

The narratives he creates from each of these cities are presented as a complex universe of multiple and simultaneous images that confront us with the dissonances of each **metropolis*** represented here and the global problems that embrace all large cities.

In an invitation to belong to all these territories from an experience of relating to the screen (the one that has most dictated our lives in recent times), we challenge you to also question the experiences that most characterise the notion of city and the similarities and contrasts that the exhibition brings you in relation to your daily life and the way you read your city.

CONNECTED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Environmental Studies, Geography, Sociology, Arts and Crafts, Music, Drama, etc.

KEYWORDS

City, Globalisation, Pre-pandemic, Metropolis, Identity, City Centre-Periphery, Citizens

* Discover all the NEW WORDS at the end.

At the museum

The City in 3 frames

Each student must draw 3 frames/moments from the videos (draw those drawing spaces on the pamphlet) that surround them, without having to identify the city they belong to. The idea is to have a record of customs/actions belonging to the idea of living in a city and to give a title to those moments (for those who cannot write yet, say it orally and ask the teachers for that written record)

OBJECTIVES

To identify customs common to large **metropolises**; to work on the ability to concentrate and select moments among multiple information.

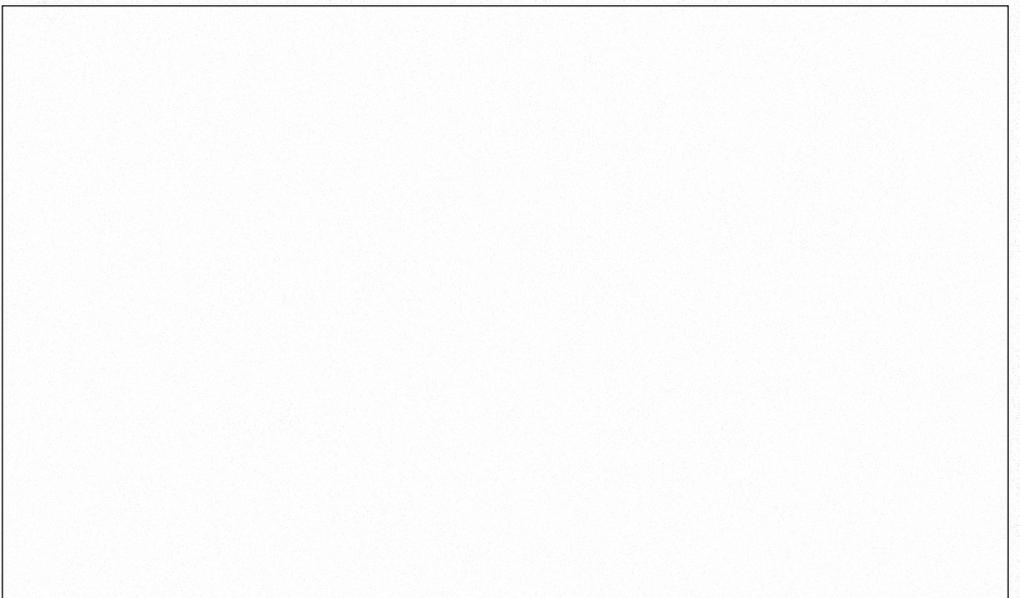
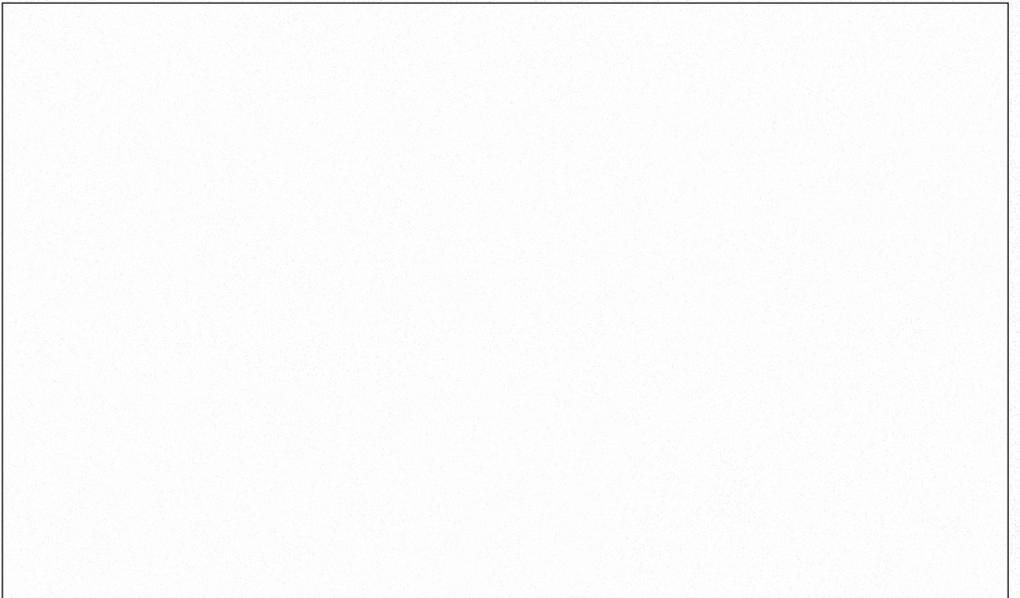
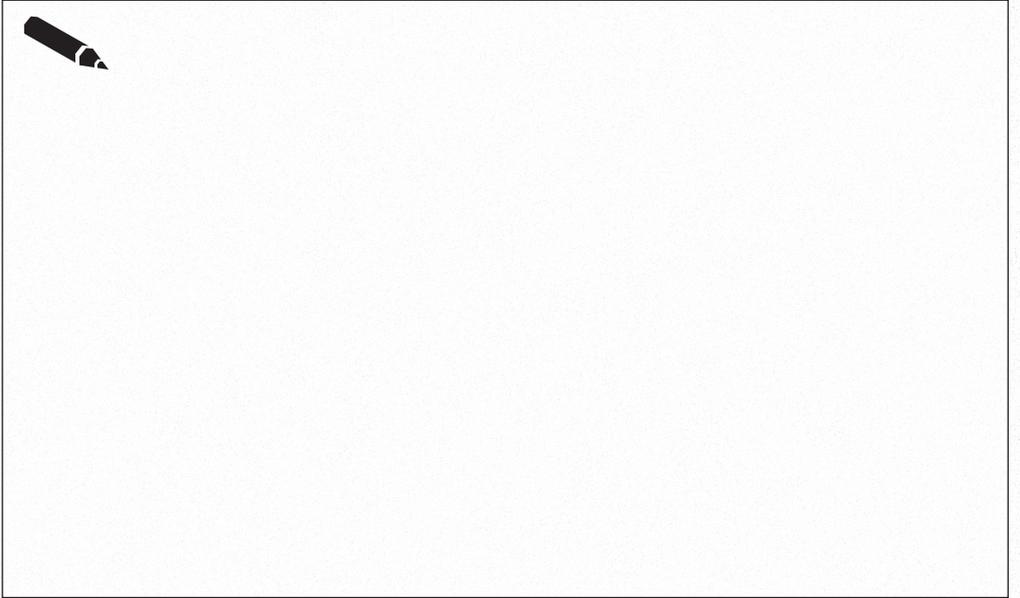
In class

Global Landscape

Create a global landscape, using magazine clippings, with images that may belong to different cities and experiences. On a rectangle of kraft paper, glue all these moments and characters, overlapping realities that do not belong together, not allowing there to be empty spaces on the paper. The idea is for the rectangle to be completely covered by many images simultaneously, as if it were a total screen, full of information, where it is no longer possible to identify the identity of each place cut out.

OBJECTIVES

To work on the idea of **globalisation** and global identity. Question the fact that our cities are no longer the result of one nationality but of multiple experiences and references. When applicable, work on the multicultural aspects of the class.



Conclusion

Living in a city every day, travelling to another urban destination or being confronted with screens that bring us a filter, a view of the other person regarding known or unknown territories leads us to different moments of reflection.

In the exhibition *Prisma*, the artist Alexandre Farto, aka Vhils, confronts us with video documents that helped him characterise different cities and that, now transformed into an artistic installation, allow us to wander through nine cities simultaneously, in a conflict of visual and sound information. The characters presented in slow motion make us think about waiting for a future they don't know about. In everyday life we never have this time to observe and the city escapes us at a hallucinating pace. What changes in our understanding of the global city after this experience?!

New words

METROPOLIS

Metropolis is a Greek word that comes from *mētēr*, meaning “mother”, and from *pólis*, meaning “city”. It is usually used to refer to large capital cities, as they generate various urban fabrics around them. These are territories that, due to their scale in relation to economic and political power, are larger than most cities.

GENTRIFICATION

It is a phenomenon that usually affects areas of the city that are not usually considered central and that start to receive housing, commerce and services different from those that originally characterised this area, creating a difficult dialogue between the local population and the new inhabitants of these areas.

URBANISM

It is a discipline that promotes the design, planning and organisation of cities, as well as studying existing urban characteristics in order to create critical and reflective thinking about cities, so as to enable, in combination with other disciplines, a better quality of life in such territories.

VOYEURISM

The act of observing others without them knowing that they are being observed. In the context of this exhibition, it is associated with the fact that we are analysing the lives of citizens who are distant in geography and time, in a logic of these citizens not imagining that this moment would take place.

CACOPHONY

Designation normally used for the creation of some discomfort or confusion caused by the overlapping of sounds / noises and the difficulty of deciphering them.

GLOBALISATION

It is the process of bringing the various societies and nations around the world closer together, whether economically, socially, culturally, or politically. Especially in the Western world context, it is increasingly used, and also promoted, by the digital age, which has created new models of proximity.



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