

## Small Changes Have a Big Effect

Can you trust photographs to tell the truth? Is seeing really believing?

Artist **Catherine Yass** invites you to explore the 'slipperiness' of photography, consider how photographs are taken, why they're taken and what they are trying to tell us.



Oliver Laric, *Versions (Missile Variations)*, 2010

In the exhibition *Electronic Superhighway*, artist **Oliver Laric's** piece *Missile Variations* (2010) is made of several images, all of them alterations of a photograph from 2008 that supposedly documented a successful test of missiles by the Iranian military. This photo was later revealed by the French news media as having been digitally manipulated.

Your Task :( you will need a digital camera or mobile phone)

Work together in groups of 3, each of you must take on one of these roles; photographer, model, director.

- The director's job is to think of ideas and instruct the photographer and model.
- The photographers' job is to communicate these ideas to the model and take the photograph.
- The model's job is to follow the director and photographers' instructions.

Create a scene or scenario that is boring, apart from one detail that is a bit strange, weird or unexpected.

Take as many pictures as you like of this one scene, then after a short time everybody must swap roles.

After everybody has had a turn at each role, look back at all your pictures and edit it down to three different images (one from each sitting). Look at each other's photographs and consider if the director's original idea is easy to understand? How hard/easy was it to make the idea happen? Can we trust photography? Is seeing really believing?