

Notes from: **What is documentary photography?** Interview with Miranda Gavin of Hotshoe magazine. (2011) Available at: <https://vimeo.com/29752787> [accessed January 2017] for exercise 1-1: What is Documentary Photography?

### Notes:

People are approaching the idea of documentary photography in different ways:  
Terms used - photojournalism

- Reportage
- Documentary

Need to go back to these terms and definitions and decide if they are still relevant...

Do we need different words?

Excited by the way people are approaching documentary:

Key changes -

- digital - making photography more accessible and available
  - technological shifts allows access to how people take photographs
  - new ways to present/show stories
- more women coming into photography
- topics changing

Wittingly/unwittingly provoking terms to decide/discuss/challenge what documentary photography is today:

-Who is it for?

-Where does it go?

-What is the outlet?

^ **does a shrinking editorial market mean going online?**

-What does going online mean about control over colour palette? (Aesthetics)

^ not always important e.g. Press photo - quality not as important as being a photograph of something specific, delivered on time, to a specific place

What if colour palette is important and this is not portrayed?

E.g. Fine art photography

^ printed photography important because allows control

Hotshoe magazine:

-separated in clear terms on contents page

^ e.g. Fine art, documentary...

-gives idea that it is easy to separate and define where different work sits but often real problems in doing this

^ particularly between fine art and documentary

^ often photographers will be quite specific about where there work sits

-Example **Monique Stouder**

^ Latitude Zero (book) - travelled around equator and produced beautiful black and white photographs

^ put into documentary category but Stouder said work is often put into other categories

^ fine art photographers say it is documentary and documentary say fine art

- Conclusion - genre depends on who is asking

-separation of contents in magazine is a tool to help navigation but gives a false impression of the ease of doing this

^ only a rough guide - too rigid, but no other satisfactory way of doing this

^ genres are falling into each other