



ARCHIVE SALVATION FORCE

35 EASY WAYS TO REACTIVATE AN ARCHIVE FOR DAILY ENJOYMENT

1. In your archive find an image of an object which does not resemble anything you recognise. Write down what its use you think might have been. Send this object to 10 other people asking the same question and compare the results.
2. While browsing through an archive, look for a place, building or a room depicted that evokes personal memories of a specific place you remember taking an image of. Now copy both images - the one from archive and yours, place them next to each other. Compare them. Make a collage.
3. Open an archive, look for an event documented that reminds you of something you have experienced together with a friend. Now send that image to your friend and make her/him guess the event you are referring to.
4. Set timer for 1 minute. During this one minute select 10 images from your archive. Try to do it intuitively and don't think about it too much. Then try creating a narrative out of your selection by adding small captions under each image you have selected.
5. Count to the 32nd image in your archive. Photograph it with your phone. Send it to 10 people you last had a conversation with without saying anything and wait for their response.
6. Select a random image from your archive without looking. Write in 3 sentences what this image makes you feel when you look at it. Put it in your wallet where you can see it well and carry it around for one month. After one month take it out, and write 3 sentences of how you feel about it now. Compare your results from a month ago and now.
7. Pick an image you for whatever reason strongly dislike. It can be a very personal choice. Now copy that image. Open Photoshop or any other image editor and start covering the elements of this image you find disturbing. Print the result and send it to an old friend.
8. Find an image in your archive of an object which does not resemble anything you recognise. Write down what you think its use might have been. Send this object to 10 other people asking the same question and compare the results.
9. Pick up a couple of books from an archive, balance them on your head for as long as possible. Make a video.
10. Open an archive and find images where the colour blue is the most prominent one. Print them out, open an empty notebook and glue your new archive in. Do the same with other colours, assemble a rainbow.
11. Try to remember what is your favourite short story. Now look at your archive and try collecting images which could tell the same story in its entirety without using any text. See if there are differences when the story is told using verbal language and when it is told through the use of images.
12. Choose three articles from today's newspaper that have illustrations. Now go to your archive and choose other 3 images from it that could suit the article. Print/copy them and replace the old images with your new findings.
13. Go on Facebook and observe your own public persona and how you have created a certain image of yourself. Go to an online archive and find two images from a century ago which represent you in the same way as your profile photo and cover image. Change them.
14. Choose an archive and create an alphabet out of it. Find images which represent letters from A-Z according to the main object/protagonist of the image. For example, if a photograph depicts a woman place it together with the letter "W".
15. Print out 10 images from an online archive. Rip up the prints while recording the sound of ripping and make a dj beat out of it.
16. Go to Google, search for an archive collection and find photographs of all ingredients of your morning breakfast.
17. Go to Google, search for an archive collection and find photographs that resemble your immediate family. Share your findings with them.
18. Find in your archive a familiar object, observe carefully its features, colour, texture and size. Now make a list of all other possible ways to use this object besides its initial purpose. Send this image to 5 other friends and collect their answers.
19. With your eyes closed pick a random image from your archive and write a poem about what you see in it.
20. Ask your partner or a friend to pick for you one photograph from an archive that has no title. Put that image on the wall of your bathroom and place a sheet of paper and pen next to it. Every day write down what could be the potential titles of this image. Every time you have guests over, remind them that they need to add their own ideas so that the list keeps on expanding.
21. Open an archive of your country's heritage. Pick one iconic location that has been depicted throughout decades in many ways. Try collect as many images taken of this place as possible.
22. Find an image that depicts a meal. Figure out the ingredients and cook the meal for dinner.
23. Read an article of your interest in today's newspaper. Make notes of what is the issue discussed. Now go to an archive and find as many images as possible to illustrate the article. Send the narrative of images to your friend and ask them to write the article, based on these images.
24. Imagine your pet was a person. Find the best image resembling your pet doing something they always do and post it on social media with a caption mentioning your pet's name.
25. Open a specifically themed archive and print out images from the first 5 pages. Now start looking for similarities and connections. Those can be connections in colour, form, medium, whatever you feel works. Start grouping them, create new sections and chapters for the existing archive.
26. Sit in a circle of people and have your laptops open. On the screen, each of you has one image from different archives. Now pass your laptop to the right. Everyone adds another image from an archive as a reaction to the image before. Do it until everyone's laptops have returned back to their owners and look at the stream of images created. Print them out and discuss the results.
27. Select an image which has at least 7 different elements in it. Print it out, or download it, separate all elements in photoshop or with scissors and form a new composition on a sheet of paper which tells a different story, see how objects/people/symbols become different characters by changing their position and context.
28. Find a portrait in an archive of someone you find attractive. Print it and burn the image over a candle fire as if it was your old lover.
29. Skip this exercise if you're not listening to music. If you are - go to an archive and while the music track lasts search for as many images that resemble it. Make a folder on your computer which has the title of this song and gather all the images there. Do it several times and create mind-maps of images representing music you are listening to.
30. Cover all the frames you have in your house with photographs of people you don't know found in archives. Keep them there for 2 weeks. Repeat the action with images of nature. Repeat the action with paragraphs of text, highlight one quote.
31. Write a simple storyline you would like to share. Now record a one-minute long video narrating the story with imagery found in a religious archive to illustrate the story. Upload it on YouTube.
32. In an archive find images where the main composition forms a sphere. With these images create a slideshow accompanied with the audio recordings of inspirational speeches found online.
33. In an archive find images where the main composition forms a triangle. With these images create a slideshow accompanied with the audio recordings by a famous philosopher found online.
34. In an archive find images where the main composition forms a square. Create a slideshow accompanied with the audio recordings of outer space sounds found online.
35. Find an image you find interesting, cut a piece from the bottom part of the image. Send it to a friend asking to continue without letting him see the whole image. Repeat the action 10 times with 10 different people. Come together and assemble the picture.

*Any type of archive is suitable for use. Exercises can be freely readjusted and transformed according to the situation. Experimentation is encouraged and appreciated. The list of proposed exercises is only a selection of constantly growing collection of ideas about reactivation of an archive. If you have ideas for the new exercises, feel free to share them. Send them on help@archivesalvationforce.com every contributor will be mentioned and honoured. Let's work collectively to revitalise the archives and use them to generate new unexpected knowledge. Archive Salvation Force is an initiative by Ola Lanko. Exercises are composed in a close collaboration with Annija Muizule. With generous support of Mondriaan Fund and Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography.