

## Playing with Photography Worksheet

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/soviet-imaginary/media-and-style/playing-photography/>

1. Take a look at the pages from the book *What is This?*. The first image is an example of defamiliarization: making something familiar look strange. Without looking at Image 2, can you tell what the object in the picture on Image 1 is? Calculate  $37+19$ .
2. Now look at the second image. Both riddles are solved. Are you surprised about the image or the number next to it, which answers the math problem? Do you think this book would be useful for learning math? If so, why?
3. Describe images 3 and 4. Even though the images come from different photographers and writers, do you think they are similar? If so, how?
4. Look at images 2, 3, 4, and 5. How do the photographers emphasize the place of machinery in their photographs? Based on what you know from Soviet history, why do you think machinery is so prominent in these images?
5. Both people in photographs 3 and 4 seem to be leaning forward diagonally. Do you think this portrays something about the mood of Soviet history at the time these books were made? If so, how?
6. Do you find the photographs on this page attractive? If so, why? How do these photographs compare to photographs you encounter every day in advertisements, in magazines, and at home?

**Optional activities:** Using the images from this page as your guide, take a picture of a piece of equipment in your school or neighborhood. You could photograph the machine by itself or have a friend pose in the picture. Think about how the machines you interact with every day change the way you live when you take your picture.