



## THOMAS EAKINS: SCENES FROM MODERN LIFE

### Lesson 4: Photographs as an Artist's Tool

#### Handout One

#### Project Handout

##### 1. Plan your composition

- Decide on a landscape you wish to use
- Decide on the time of day for the landscape
- Decide on a typical weather condition for the landscape
- Decide on the actions of individuals or groups of people who will be placed in your composition. What event is taking place?

##### 2. Photography

- Take photographs of the landscape during the time of day and typical weather conditions you planned for
- Take photographs of individuals or groups in the action you planned for (you may need to pose people for these purposes)
- Select and print photographs for your composition

##### 3. Implementation

- Place prints from your photographs where you can see them to use as a reference during your painting
- Sketch out your composition for placement of people within the landscape
- Pay attention to how people are sized in relation to the landscape (Are they in the foreground, middle ground or background? How much detail can you see? Are the contrasts distinct or muted by distance and atmosphere?)
- Make sure the people are solidly placed on a surface in the landscape and their position makes sense with the contours of the surface (In reality would they fall over or lose their balance?)
- Make adjustments to the landscape or placement of people to ensure the composition reflects the reality of physical laws of gravity
- Pay attention to the light source and shadows. Make sure all shadows would occur from the same light source

Your artwork is due \_\_\_\_\_

#### Grading/ Assessment

- Composition is completed when due
- Composition uses individuals and/or groups of people in a landscape
- Composition reflects the reality of physical laws of gravity

- Composition captures event based on reality
- Composition conveys a mood or evokes an emotion
- Composition shows a unique perspective of a common event