Seeing Photography through Questions

Select a photograph in the gallery. Look at it closely, think about what you see, and read the label next to it to respond to these questions. Consider researching the photograph later to learn even more about it.

Who:
Who is the subject (the person in the photograph)? If you don't know the subject's name, describe him, her, or them.

Who took the photograph (who is the photographer)?

Who, do you think, is the photograph’s intended audience?

What:
What objects do you see in the photograph?

What is going on in the photograph? What do you see that makes you say that?

What meaning do you think the artist wanted this photograph to convey?

Where:
Where was this photograph taken? If you don't know the exact place, describe the place or setting.

Where was the photographer positioned when this photograph was taken?
When:
When during the day was this photograph taken? How can you tell?

When in history was this photograph taken? What clues suggest this?

When in the moment of action was this photograph taken?

Why:
Why did the photographer take this photograph? If you don’t know, why do you suppose the photographer took this photograph?

Why might the photographer have chosen to include or exclude specific visual information?

Why might the photographer have chosen this location, subject, and/or moment?

How:
How did the photographer use tools of photography (depth of field, color / black and white, lighting, etc.) to make the photograph unique?

How do you think the photographer felt when the photograph was taken?

How does the photograph make you feel?