

Suspended in midair, legs splayed, this pole vaulter must have been photographed in the split-second that he catapulted over the photographer's head. Rodchenko liked to use radical points of view, such as extreme up and down angles and tilted horizons, as a way of looking at things in a new way.



Alexander Rodchenko (Russian, 1891–1956).
Untitled (Pole Vaulter), c. 1936.
Silver-gelatin print.
Wirt D. Walker Endowment.

Children in Motion



- What is this man doing? What does he have in his hand? Why are his feet off the ground? Explain pole vaulting.
- The energy of this photograph comes from capturing this man in motion. Explore different types of quick movements with the students. Play a game where you have students jump up and down, turn around, run in place, wave their arms in circles, etc. As they're in motion, say "freeze" and have them hold their poses as if they have become a photograph.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 19, 25, 26

Sports Photography



- Have students take pictures of their classmates while playing sports at recess or in physical education class.
- Have students title the pictures and create an exhibition with the photographs. Invite parents and family members to see.

Illinois State Goals: 19, 25, 26

Points of View



- Explore different points of view with your students. Create paper frames by cutting a small square in the middle of a piece of paper for each student.
- Have students look through their frames at various objects from below, above, at an angle, close up, far away, etc. For instance, a student may lie down on the floor and look up through her frame at a classmate.

Illinois State Goals: 25, 26



What's in your photo album?

