



## St. Helena Images Project (SHIP):

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The St. Helena Images Project is a four-part initiative designed to create a "point in time" visual record of the unique people, environment, and architecture of the island of St. Helena prior to the tremendous changes that will occur with improved access.

The project will consist of the following four components:

**Island Portraits.** To create a series of photographic portraits of the people of St. Helena. These photographs would depict the diversity and individuality of the island's population.

Procedure: Create a series of posed and candid photographs of the island's residents. Photographs could include documentation of Saints involved in everyday activities, significant people and events, school groups, as well as organizations and clubs. The goal would be to create a composite portrait of the island's residents by photographing as wide a variety of individuals as possible

Individuals photographed would be asked to fill out a basic questionnaire to provide information regarding their background, life on the island, and feelings about life on St. Helena. These biographical sketches could be used in conjunction with the photographs to provide the viewer with a glimpse into the personality of the island's population. Images would be taken throughout my time on the island.

**Images of St. Helena.** To create a "point in time" photographic record of every building, structure, and significant geographic feature on St. Helena. Each of the images would be accompanied by a brief description. This project is comparable to the "Images of England" project presented by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage.

Procedure: Each structure would be documented with at least one representational image to create an architectural portrait of its current condition. Additional photographs would be taken to create an overall context for various streets and locations throughout the island. Each image's location would then be systematically documented on a topographical map using GPS data. Larger geographical regions would be documented with a series of photographs to create an overall record of their current state. Additionally, each photograph would include a brief written

description of the property. The owner, proprietor, or another knowledgeable individual would be asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding the basic facts of each particular image. This description would include the location of the structure (address) as well as information regarding current use, and history, of the property.

**St. Helena Visual Diary.** To document the everyday life of the population of St. Helena through the distribution and sharing of a large number of individual cameras. All islanders would be encouraged to share ; visual sampling of their daily lives at home, play, school, and work.

Procedure: During the span of the project, people on St Helena would be encouraged to submit their own photographs depicting "a day m the life" on the island. To assist in this part of the project, a number of digital cameras would be made available for people who do not have access to a digital cam era. Project cameras could possibly be loaned out via the museum or through a local organization such as the library. People with digital cameras of their own could submit their photographs on disc, or via e-mail. Additionally, I would seek to have the island's youth involved in taking part in this project by contacting local organizations such as New Horizons and the Education Department. Youth, as shareholders of the future, could be used as "roving reporters" documenting current life from their perspective. Those taking part would also provide a brief description of the events that they photographed

**Art on St. Helena.** To create artistic renderings mat capture the feeling, emotions, and beauty of the island's environment. Through a series of art discovery classes and outings, islanders and visiting artists would be encouraged to create paintings and drawings that go beyond the representational or documentary and capture the essence of the unique people and environment found only on St. Helena. Additionally, examples of unique St. Helena arts and crafts items would be collected, documented, and photographed to preserve the island's artistic traditions.

Procedure: The goal of this portion of the project is to expand the visual documentation of St. Helena beyond the representational image. A series of outings would be organized to teach the basics of landscape drawing and painting. Classes would be open to anyone. Lessons would include the teaching of lineal' and atmospheric perspective, use of color and light, and proportion and design.

Additionally, this portion of the project could be advertised internationally to promote tourism in the same way as the "Walking Festival." By combining **Art on St. Helena** with events such as the Festival of Arts & Culture and the Art and Crafts centre, local artists and artist/tourists from around the world could be invited to depict St. Helena's beauty. The culmination of this project could result in a gallery opening to highlight the artwork that has been created. Selected artwork could be retained on the island, and the art could be documented digitally and cataloged for future use. Along with the creation of unique arts depicting views of St Helena, local

artisans would be encouraged to have their work available for display and cataloguing to become part of a permanent record of art on and from the island.

### **Use and Presentation of Works Created**

The images and artwork created for this project could be compiled into displays, used in education, published in print, and placed on web sites for island organizations, such as the St. Helena Heritage Society and St. Helena National Trust. The images could also be published as a resource for tourism and development, showing St. Helena's extraordinary qualities. Additionally, the images could provide a visual record of the island's environment as part of the "Social and Environmental Impact Analyses" for the Department for International Development

Images could be part of a demographic study and documentation of the island's current population. Images could form the basis for a visual representation of Maarten Hogenstijn and Daniel Van Middelkoop's article "Saint Helena: Citizenship And Spatial Identities on a Remote Island" (Tijdschrift voor Econonusche en Sociaie Geografie 96 (1), 96-104. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9663.2005.00441.x: 2005

Images could also provide visual representation for the Geographical Information Systems study that is currently being undertaken on St. Helena.

Images could be combined with GPS data to create "Position-Annotated Photographs " The images could then be used as a database or virtual tour of the island. Tins would be similar to the work of Diomidis D. Spmellis at the Department of Management Science and Technology, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece. (<http://www.spinellis.gr/pubs/jral/2003-PC-GTWeb/litml/gtweb.html>).

The images created could be used in education. The "National Curriculum requires students to study their locality in a number of sub} sets including History, Geography and Citizenship at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. OCA guidelines for many units, including History Unit 18 'What was it like to live here in the past?', and Citizenship unit 9 section 4 'New uses for empty buildings' make specific reference to examining aspects of the local built environment. People have a natural curiosity about the area where they live mid how it evolved, which can be exploited with pupils. They will be far more motivated to look at the sources needed to acquire basic skills, such as maps and aerial photographs, if these are based on places they know. Pupils who know more about the community they live in are more likely to care for it and develop a sense of identity, an essential strand of the citizenship agenda." ([http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/Learnmg\\_Zone/'lz/starthere.aspx](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/Learnmg_Zone/'lz/starthere.aspx)).