Learning to Look: Navigating the Mysteries of the Art World

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Weekly Themes

Week 1: Who am I? A Closer Look at the Art of Portraiture

Week 2: The Changing Nature of Landscape Art

Week 3: Whose History is it Anyway?

Week 4: Hidden Meanings in Still Life

Week 5: Photographs – Capturing the Moment

Week 6: “My kid could do that!” The Perils of Abstraction
Week Five: Photography
Origins: The *Camera Obscura*
Leonardo Da Vinci (from his Notebooks, c. 1500): “Let $a b c d e$ be the object illuminated by the sun and $o r$ the front of the dark chamber in which is the said hole at $n m$. Let $s t$ be the sheet of paper intercepting the rays of the images of these objects upside down, because the rays being straight, $a$ on the right hand becomes $k$ on the left, and $e$ on the left becomes $f$ on the right.”
The image of the New Royal Palace at Prague Castle (size approx. 4 x 2 metres) created at the attic wall by a hole in the tile roofing. (Photographer: Gampe, 2011)
“One advantage of the discovery of the Photographic Art will be, that it will enable us to introduce into our pictures a multitude of minute details which add to the truth and reality of the representation, but which no artist would take the trouble to copy faithfully from nature. Contenting himself with a general effect, he would probably deem it beneath his genius to copy every accident of light and shade.”

Henry Fox Talbot, from The Pencil of Nature, 1844
“The camera sees more than the eye, so why not make use of it?”

“My own eyes are no more than scouts on a preliminary search, for the camera’s eye may entirely change my idea.”

Edward Weston
“I have often said that the negative is similar to a musician’s score, and the print to the performance of that score. The negative comes to life only when ‘performed’ as a print.”

Ansel Adams, *The Print*, 1983
Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, creator of earliest known surviving ‘heliographic’ engraving, 1825 (Bibliotheque Nationale, France)
The first *Selfie*: Robert Cornelius, 1839, and oldest photograph in the U.S. *(Central High School, 1839)*
Louis-Jacques Mandé Daguerre: Portrait, and Boulevard du Temple, 1838 – earliest-known photograph to include people
Daguerreotypes: Académie, Félix-Jacques Antoine Moulin, c. 1845; Portrait of a young girl with hand on shoulder, Southworth & Hawes, c. 1850 (NGC)
Henry Fox Talbot (Portrait by J. Moffat, Edinburgh, 1864) and Latticed Window at Lacock Abbey, 1835 (first negative)
The Haystack, H.F. Talbot, 1844 (NGC)
Sore Loser: Photograph of Hippolyte Bayard, 1847; and Self Portrait as a Drowned Man, 1840
L: First durable colour photograph, Thomas Sutton, 1861; R: 1877 photographic color print on paper by Louis Ducos du Hauron (note irregular edges of the superimposed cyan, red and yellow colour components)
L: a comparison of common print sizes (in inches) used in photographs in 19th c. / R: props to keep the model still...
Louis Riel’s signed calling card (*carte de visite*), taken in Ottawa after being elected Member of Parliament for Provencher, MB, 1873 (Library & Archives Collection)
Early photographs of War...

Confederate dead behind a stone wall in Fredericksburg, VA, Mathew Brady, 1860’s
(U.S. National Archives #524930)

Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter, Gettysburg, Alexander Gardner, July 1863
(NGC) Albumen silver print
<table>
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<th>Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-79)</th>
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<td>Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1869 (Carbon print, Art Institute of Chicago)</td>
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<td>Alethia (Alice Liddell), Julia Margaret Cameron, 1872 (NGC)</td>
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Cameron’s portraits

Julia (Prinsep Jackson) Stephen, Cameron’s niece – later became Mother of Virginia Wolfe

Charles Darwin
Photography’s influence on artists: Place de la Concorde, Edgar Degas, 1876 (Hermitage Museum, Russia)
Oscar Gustave Rejlander (1813-75) The Father of Art Photography

His portrait of Tennyson

Self-portrait
Rejlander’s Epic *The Two Ways of Life*, 1857
Eadweard Muybridge’s *Animal Locomotion* Series (1887)
Muybridge’s studies of human & animal locomotion (collotype prints) NGC

“Lizzie M.” trotting, harnessed to sulky, 1877

Animal Locomotion series, Plate 369, 1877
School of Paris: Eugène Atget (1856-1927)
Atget’s Bread Woman, c. 1899-1900, Boul. de Strasbourg, 1912 (Both in NGC coll.; printed c. 1935)
Early Canadian Photographs in the NGC
William Notman (1826-91), Montréal photographer
Self-portrait, 1866-67; and Five Men Curling (Natl. Gall. Scotland)
Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill, Montréal, QC, 1885 / Weaving Homespun Cloth, Cap a l’Aigle, Qc, 1898 (Notman Photographic Archives, McCord Museum, Montreal)
Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952)

Self portrait, c. 1889

Princess Angeline (Duwamish), 1896
Apache still life, Edward S. Curtis, c. 1907 (Library of Congress)
Color portrait of Mark Twain by Alvin Langdon Coburn, 1908 (made by recently introduced Autochrome process)
Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1945)

Alfred Stieglitz, by Gertrude Kasebier, 1902

Georgia O’Keefe, 1918 photograph
The Terminal, A. Stieglitz, 1893
The Steerage, 1907; Old and New New York, 1910
Celebrating American architecture in painting: Charles Demuth’s *My Egypt*, 1927 (Whitney Museum, NY)
Lewis W. Hine (1874-1940): Albanian Woman, Ellis Island, 1905; and Power House Mechanic, 1920, printed 1975 (both NGC)
Lewis W. Hine: *The Logical Conclusion of the Laissez Faire Policy*. Norman Parker, said six years old...Kannapolis, NC, 1912; and Sandford Cotton Mill. Accident Case, Carl Thornburg Twelve-year-old boy, Sanford, NC, 1914 (both NGC)
Edward Steichen: The Flatiron Building, 1904; and Greta Garbo, 1928 (for Vanity Fair magazine)
Still life photographs by Edward Weston (1886-1958)

Nautilus, 1927

Pepper No. 30, 1930
Weston’s portrait of Tina Modotti, 1924 (left); and Nude (Charis, Santa Monica), 1936
Charis Wilson with Weston’s photograph of her
Ansel Adams (1902-84) c. 1950; and his 1939 photograph of Edward Weston
Adams’ Georgia O’Keefe and Orville Cox, Canyon de Chelly Natl. Monument, 1937; Church, Taos Pueblo, 1942
Adams’ *The Tetons and the Snake River*, 1942
Photojournalism: Margaret Bourke White’s *Kentucky Flood*, 1937 and *Mohandas K. Gandhi*, 1946
Dorothea Lange’s *Migrant Mother*, 1936; and Robert Capa’s *Death of a Loyalist Soldier*, September 5, 1936
Yousuf Karsh: Master of the Photographic Portrait

Winston Churchill, 1943

Self Portrait, 1951
Brett Weston: *Cracked Glass, California* 1955
"The camera is an instrument of detection. We photograph not only what we know, but also what we don’t know" — Lisette Model (1901-83)

Woman with Veil, San Francisco, 1949; Wall Street, New York, c. 1939-41 (printed 1980) NGC
First photograph scanned into a digital computer, 1957, by Russell Kirsch of his 3-month old son Walden.
"Dear Gloria and Wyatt, I know this is controversial, but I thought you should have it." I don't know why it was controversial. It's not cute—but Diane's work isn't cute. I read one article where someone said the sleeping baby picture resembled a Roman death mask, which has always stuck with me. But I don't find it disturbing—and a lot of her work is disturbing. My mom always had both photographs, original copies of them, framed and hanging up with Diane's note...I’ve always had it hanging up wherever I live.” Harper’s Bazaar, 2015
The baby - all grown up...
Photograph of Diane Arbus by Allan Arbus, 1949
Jackpot, Fred Herzog, 1961 (NGC)
Robert Mapplethorpe (1946-89) Cover photo of Patti Smith’s first album, and Self-portrait, 1980
Still-life images by Mapplethorpe
Imagery of mortality

Self-portrait, Arnaud Maggs, 1983
(12 gelatin silver prints) NGC

A Fine Line: Arnaud #4, Spring Hurlbut, 2016 (inkjet print) NGC
Joel Sternfeld’s ‘American Prospects’: Money Mississippi, 1994 / A Homeless Man with his Bedding, New York City, 1995 (both in Getty Museum)
Shaping the New Forest, Lorraine Gilbert, 1990; To Raise the Water Level in a Fish Pond (Close Up), Zhang Huan, 1997 (both details of dye coupler prints, NGC)
Contemporary Cityscapes

Times Square New York, Robert Walker, 2009 (chromogenic print) NGC

Anthropocène Exhibition, NGC (Sept. 2018) Ed Burtynsky, Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier

View of entrance to exhibition

Log Booms #1, Vancouver Island, Canada, 2016 (inkjet print)
View of exhibition with Log Booms and other works
Rainforest image from Anthropocène
Dandora Landfill #3, Plastics Recycling, Nairobi, Kenya, 2016 (inkjet print – view of image on gallery wall)
21st Century – cameras everywhere!
Photographer Annie Leibovitz capturing the moment Kanye captures the moment with Kim Kardashian and baby North (2014)
Pop Quiz: What is this picture about?
Shocked onlookers watch as Banksy’s print *Balloon Girl* self-destructs after selling for $1.4M at Sotheby’s on Oct. 5, 2018. [ArtFido/YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)