History of Photography

OLLI Vanderbilt

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Course Outline

1 - The Origins of Photography to 1854
2 - The Expanding Domain (1854-1880)
3 - Photography and Modernity (1880-1918)
4 - A New Vision (1918-1945)
5 - Through the Lens of Culture (1945-1975)
6 - Convergences (1975-Present)

*Structure based on Photography: A Cultural History by Mary Warner Marien
The Origins to 1854

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The way we familiarize ourselves with the world around us fundamentally changed with photography.

Lisa Hostetler
Curator in Charge, Department of Photography
George Eastman Museum
Capturing Likeness

Johann Kasper Lavater, Silhouette Machine, C. 1780
Paper-cut silhouette portraits

c. 1845
Camera Obscura
Abelardo Morell View of Central Park, Looking North, 2009
Early prototype of the camera
“The basic ingredients of photography - a light tight box, lenses, and light-sensitive substances - had been known for hundreds of years before they were combined.”
The Inventor(s) of Photography
The person who ‘fixes’ it invents it...
The Heliograph

Joseph Nicéphore Niépce
1765-1833

View from the Window at Le Gras, c.1826
Heliograph on pewter
16.7 x 20.3 x .15 cm
The Daguerreotype

Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre
1787-1851

Edgar Allen Poe
Joseph Nicéphore Niépce 1765-1833

Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre 1787-1851
The Invention of photography was credited to Daguerre on

August 19, 1839

Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre
1787-1851
The

Calotype

William Henry Fox Talbot
1800-1877
William Henry Fox Talbot and Nicolaas Henneman at the Reading Establishment, 1846
The Cyanotype

John Herschel
1765-1833

“The Honourable Mrs. Leicester Stanhope,”
1836. Cyanotype.
Blueprint of amphicraft trailer parts provided to HMCo. by the Indian Motorcycle Company; from the Haffenreffer-Herreshoff Collection at the MIT Museum
Anna Atkins
1799-1871
Caroline Allison
Study of Passing Cycles
2019
22” x 30”
Cyanotype photogram of orb weaver web
Series of 4
Elizabeth Fulhame

“While Fulhame did not explicitly ‘discover’ photography, her ‘Essay on Combustion’ (1794) importantly proves that the chemistry necessary to a photographic process was known and widely available fifty years before Daguerre and Talbot’s announcements in 1839.”

The Woman Behind Photography
Sotheby’s Institute of Art
Was the Turin Shroud made using a light sensitive process?

The Turin Shroud
Positive of Shroud (Detail)

Negative of Shroud (Detail)
Skeptics of Photography

Honore de Balzac, 1842

Charles Baudelaire, 1863
The Portrait

Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre
Boulevard du Temple, 1839
Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre
Boulevard du Temple, 1839
Dom Pedro II, Emperor of Brazil, 1844
Daguerreotype
Jumping Silhouettes!!
Andre Adolphe Eugene Disderi, Prince Labkowitz, 1858. MOMA
“I Sell the Shadow to Support the Substance”
11 years ago today, Me & Britney invented the selfie!