A New Vision
(1918-1945)

History of Photography

OLLI Vanderbilt
July 23rd, 2021
What was the motive of the Pictorialists?
What were some of the visual characteristics that defined their aesthetic?
Alfred Stieglitz

Gertrude Käsebier

Edward Steichen

Julia Margaret Cameron

Robert Demachy
From Pictorialism to Straight Photography

Alfred Stieglitz *The Steerage* 1907
From *Camera Work*, no.34
Photogravure
Paul Strand, *Wall Street*, 1915
“My cloud photographs are equivalent to my most profound life experience, my basic philosophy of life”

Alfred Stieglitz *Equivalent*, 1930.
Gelatin silver print
Anthropometric data sheet of Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1914), a pioneer of the Scientific Police, inventor of anthropometry, first head of the Forensic Identification Service of the Prefecture de Police in Paris (1893).
Francis Galton, *Untitled*, from *Inquiries into Human Faculty and its Development*, 1883.
Bertillon hoped to use photography to find unique individuals within a vast photographic archive....

and Francis Galton sought to show general hereditary laws.

Francis Galton, The combined portrait of 12 Boston physicians, 1892
A New Vision
(1918-1945)

History of Photography

OLLI Vanderbilt
July 23rd, 2021
WWI
(1914-1918)
Olive Edis, “Commandant Johnson and two other women of the General Service Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Motor Convoy outside Nissen Huts, Abbeville, France” (1919)
The psychological devastation in the wake of the war seemed to clear a path of experimental and non-linear art.
DADA  (1907-1914)

• early 20th century art movement in the waning years of WWI

• gained momentum and influence after the conflict. Dadaists dwelled on the fragmentary - the incomplete, and instilled their work with postwar cynicism about human promise.
“there may be a threshold in human biological capacity at which the proliferation of mediated experiences provided by photography, film, radio, and sound recording alters the individual’s perception of the world.”

Raoul Hausmann, 1920
SURREALISM

Raoul Ubac,
La Conciliabule, 1938. Brulage Print.
“modern man hears and sees such an enormous amount of impressions, that already he is accustomed to unconsciously turn off.”

-Kurt Schwitters
In 2014, according to Mary Meeker's annual Internet Trends report, people uploaded an average of 1.8 billion digital images every single day. That's 657 billion photos per year. Another way to think about it: Every two minutes, humans take more photos than ever existed in total 150 years ago.

-The Atlantic
November 2, 2015