Convergences
(1975 to the Present)

History of Photography
OLLI Vanderbilt
Convergences  (1975 to the Present)

- Postmodernism
- The Family
- ‘Neutral Vision’ & The Digital Age
- The Future of Photography
“To an ever greater extent, our experience is governed by pictures, pictures in newspapers and magazines, on television and in the cinema. Next to these pictures, first-hand experience begins to retreat, to seem more and more trivial. While it once seemed that pictures had the function of interpreting reality, it now seems that they have usurped it.”

Douglas Crimp
(from his 1977 essay that accompanied the “Pictures” exhibition)
Postmodernism
Modernism / Postmodernism

Paul Strand, *Wall Street*, 1915

Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Still*, 1978
“There was nothing more to say [through painting], I was meticulously copying other art, and then I realized I could just use a camera and put my time in to an idea instead.”

Cindy Sherman
Uta Barth, Ground # 42, 1994.
Uta Barth, Ground # 42, 1994.
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Agean Sea, 1990
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Union City Drive-In, 1993
The Family
Sally Mann, *The Last Time Emmett Modeled Nude*, 1987 from *Immediate Family*
Larry Sultan
“Mom Posing,” 1984
From the series, *Pictures from Home*
Larry Sultan
“Practicing Golf Swing,” 1986
From the series, *Pictures from Home*
Larry Sultan
“Business Page,” 1995
From the series, *Pictures from Home*
“I got my first camera when I was 21 - my boyfriend gave it to me for my birthday - but at that point politics was my life, and I viewed the camera as a tool for expressing my political beliefs rather than as an art medium.”

Carrie Mae Weems
*Kitchen Table Series*
1990
Carrie Mae Weems
*Kitchen Table Series*
1990
Carrie Mae Weems, Diana Portraits, from the Sea Island Series, 1992.
“Neutral Vision”
&
The Digital Age
Shirley Card, 1978

Shirley Card, 1995
Gordon Gahan, 1984
The shadow portrait, "says a lot with very little information."

Kara Walker
Abelardo Morrell
Camera Obscura Image of Houses Across the Street in our Living Room
1991
Abelardo Morrell
*Camera Obscura of Central Park Looking North, Spring, 2010*
Abelardo Morrell
*View of the Golden Gate Bridge from Battery East, 2012*
Erik Kessels, 24 hours in Photos, 2011
Doug Rickard
From the Series, *A New American Dream*
2011
Doug Rickard
From the Series, *A New American Dream*
2011
Andreas Gursky. Amazon, 2016
Andreas Gursky. Rhine II. 1999
The Future of Photography
Our relationship to the photograph is continuously changing...

“As technical images increasingly shift from the trace to the flow, the photograph may ultimately become obsolete. But the desire for such images will not disappear...Whatever forms these images take, the question of belief - how and why we believe in them - will remain crucial.”

- David Levi Strauss

*Photography and Belief* (2020)
“However much we must be on our guard for the negative social effects of new media, we have an equally important obligation to stay alert for and encourage new visions.”

Mary Warner Marien
Photography: A Cultural History
Thank you!

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