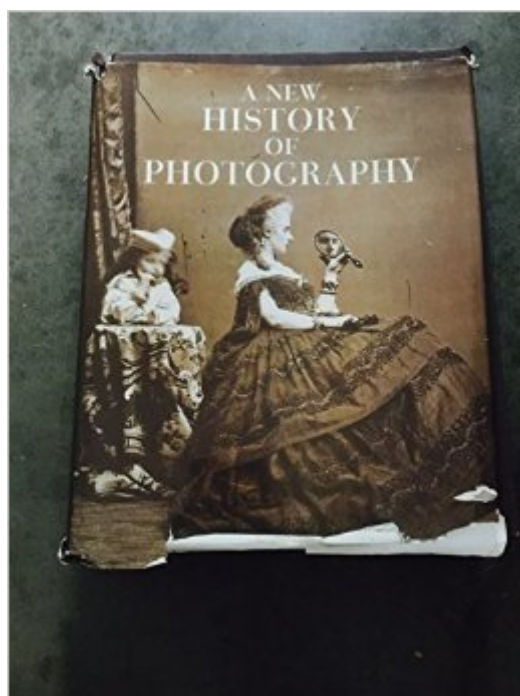


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A New History Of Photography



Synopsis

One can only imagine the amazement felt by L.J.M. Daguerre, when, in the summer of 1839, he gazed upon the first photograph ever made. An image of the view from his Paris apartment of the bustling Boulevard du Temple, it was remarkably detailed yet mysteriously vacant, save for a single man in the distance who appeared to be having his boots polished; the rest of the passersby evaded capture due to the necessarily long exposure. And thus began the world-shaking practice of photography. A New History of Photography was created after the French Ministry of Culture observed that there were no books produced in France that addressed the history of the art form. Rather than present the standard chronological survey, this book's creators chose to produce a volume that would encompass photography's historical evolution as well as its role in society. Editor Michel Frizot writes a substantial portion of the text, along with 29 additional authors who offer a plethora of analytical information and a wide variety of points of view. Periods, social practice, contextual analysis, historical questions, influential innovations, and aesthetic turning points are explored around themes ranging from chemistry to the snapshot, ethnography to color printing, evidence to advertising, and much, much more. This ambitious book includes many images not familiar to an American audience, offering a fascinating visual smorgasbord that demonstrates the breadth of applications and interpretations that photography has seen from its very inception. Put simply, it is a book about why people take photographs and what photographs can do. At a whopping 776 pages, this weighty volume has something for everyone. --A.C. Smith

Book Information

Hardcover: 775 pages

Publisher: Konemann; First Edition edition (January 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3829013280

ISBN-13: 978-3829013284

Product Dimensions: 12.2 x 9.7 x 2.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a lot of book. A lot, a lot of book. It's essays are well written to be easily accessible, clearly showing that the contributors understand and are passionate about photography. Clever thematic content allows you to browse at topics that interest you rather than get lost in a strictly chronological rendition of photography's development. The essays deftly weave together the various influences on the medium as it mutated over time. But best of all are the hundreds of photos, many that neither I nor other professional photographers I know have ever seen published elsewhere. Serious photographers are interested in the development of photographic representation. This book is the ideal place to begin to get to grips with that whole fascinating topic. Highly recommended.

The New History of Photography is just that as it breaches the subjects of the commercialization of photography, not as a demeaning factor, but as an evolutionary factor showing that even those in the pantheon of photography / artists contributed to this evolution. The other thing is that it shows a larger world view of photography and features great essays on Czech and Japanese photographers while also mentioning large and small movements or groups from western Europe, Russia and the United States of America. This book is a treasure trove of images printed in good quality that are hard to find. This is a must buy for any scholar of photography history and any student of photography that wants to understand how photography has reached where it is and how one is part of a very diverse form of art.

Yes, we all love Avedon, Bourke-White, Capa, Doisneau, etc. But do we all understand how photography evolved from gelatine and silver plates, to Man Ray and then Newton? If you want to have a general perspective of the history of photography, and access to wonderful pictures not previously divulged to the general public, I would recommend this comprehensive and well organized book

This is the most complete, impartial and accurate book on History of Photography. It tells everything about almost every area of photography. It's a great learning tool. Ideal for those who are making photography courses simply curious

Maybe the most important history of photography book I have come across. It re-invents the history genre and is a constant source of ideas for me. Chapters Titles Like: The Urban Machine, The Dream of Beauty, Forms of Looking and Automated Drawing tell you this book is not your typical college text book. It should be required reading by all students of any artistic medium since

photography has influenced pretty much everything since the Camera Obscura.

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