

A New History of Photography

By Michel Frizot

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First Edition. Text examines the history of photography from a different angle, examining technical developments, the purpose of images, the aesthetics of creation, and the interpretations of contents. Over one thousand illustrations, both black-and-white and color. Only the slightest hint of wear. With the bookplate and pencil signature of Gavin Bridson. 775+ 1 pages. cloth, dust jacket. 4to..

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
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*

From School Library Journal
YA-This book is well worth its weight in gold-and it is very heavy. It covers the beginnings of the art form through 160 years to the present. While the 41 essays by 29 contributors have a European slant, American photographic movements are not slighted. There is much discussion of photography as art vs. photography as history and the commentary comes down firmly on both sides. War photos as well as images by Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen appear, and there is even a section on "Photographs as Memories." Walker Evans and Lewis Carroll are included as well as entire portfolios of important contributions, e.g., W. Eugene Smith's Pittsburgh. The writings are certainly useful and interesting, but the real impact of the book is the sheer abundance and diversity of its over 1000 black-and-white and full-color photographs. An extensive bibliography, notes, and index make this a useful tool for students of history as well as those studying art and photography, but the marvelous reproductions make it a browser's dream.
Susan H. Woodcock, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA
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