

THE HISTORY OF ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY DEVELOPMENT

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Annotation: This article traces the evolution of artistic photography, from its inception in the early 19th century to the digital revolution, the innovative techniques, artistic explorations, and social contexts that have shaped photography's development, culminating in a discussion of the diverse and ever-evolving landscape of contemporary photographic practices.

Keywords: Artistic photography, history of photography, evolution of photography, technological advancements, artistic movements, artistic expression.

Introduction:

Photography, once considered a mere technical process of capturing reality, has evolved into a powerful art form. Its journey, from the earliest experiments to the digital revolution, is a fascinating story of innovation, artistic exploration, and the constant pursuit of capturing the essence of the world through a lens.

The birth of photography can be traced back to the early 19th century, with the invention of the daguerreotype by Louis Daguerre in 1839. This groundbreaking process, though requiring long exposure times and meticulous handling, allowed for the creation of the first permanent images. The initial focus was on capturing realistic depictions of everyday life, portraits, and landscapes, setting the stage for a new era of visual documentation.

Literature analysis and methodology:

Early photographers like William Henry Fox Talbot and Julia Margaret Cameron began exploring the artistic potential of photography. Talbot's calotype process offered greater detail and nuance, while Cameron's portraits captured the emotional depth and individuality of her subjects. These pioneers paved the way for photography to be recognized as a legitimate art form, challenging the traditional mediums of painting and sculpture.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the emergence of Pictorialism, a movement that embraced the aesthetic qualities of photography. Influenced by Impressionism and Symbolism, Pictorialists sought to create images that were evocative, romantic, and expressive, blurring the line between photography and painting. They experimented with soft focus, hand-painted effects, and evocative subject matter, emphasizing mood and artistic interpretation.

The 20th century saw a shift towards more objective and documentary approaches to photography. Movements like Straight Photography, championed by Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Weston, focused on sharp, unmanipulated images that captured the world in a clear and concise way. This period also witnessed the rise of photojournalism, where photography was used to document important events and social issues, capturing historical moments and raising awareness.

Results:

The late 20th and 21st centuries saw the arrival of digital photography, transforming the art form once again. Digital cameras offered greater flexibility, control, and accessibility, enabling widespread experimentation and creative possibilities. The ability to manipulate images digitally opened up new avenues for artistic expression, blurring the lines between reality and fiction.

Contemporary photography continues to evolve, incorporating diverse approaches and technologies. From conceptual photography and digital manipulation to social media platforms and mobile phone cameras, the art form remains dynamic and responsive to the changing world. The future of photography holds endless possibilities for artistic expression, technological advancement, and the continued exploration of the visual language of the world.

Discussion:

The main role of photography was to prove visual information in the context of historicity, to create a catalog of historical reality that allows for deep study and systematization of the past. In this period, photography was mainly accepted as a technological discovery that served the development of science, society and management system. Perhaps for this reason, the history of photography from the beginning of the 20th century to 1930 was mainly evaluated from the standpoint of the history of technology. By the end of the 19th century, photography began to be recognized as a separate art form. By this time, commercial forms of photography had become popular.

Complex problems regarding the coordination of the study of photography with the methodology of research in the field of modern historiography are visible. To eliminate them, first of all, it is necessary to perceive photography as a cultural phenomenon with its own specifics and embodying various expressions: image, object, practice, technology, communication method. In addition, it is necessary to assume that this phenomenon does not exist without the cultural context that forms it, and that it is regularly influenced by it.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the history of artistic photography is a testament to the power of innovation, artistic vision, and the human desire to capture the world through a lens. From the early pioneers to the digital revolution, photography has evolved from a technical process to a powerful art form, constantly pushing boundaries and shaping the way we see and understand our world. As technology continues to advance and new artistic approaches emerge, the future of artistic photography remains as exciting and dynamic as its past.

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