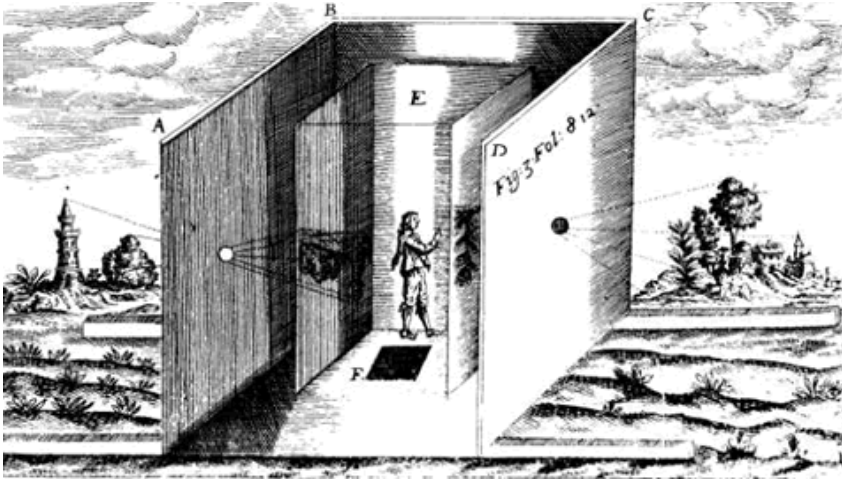


# A Brief History of Photography 1839 – Present

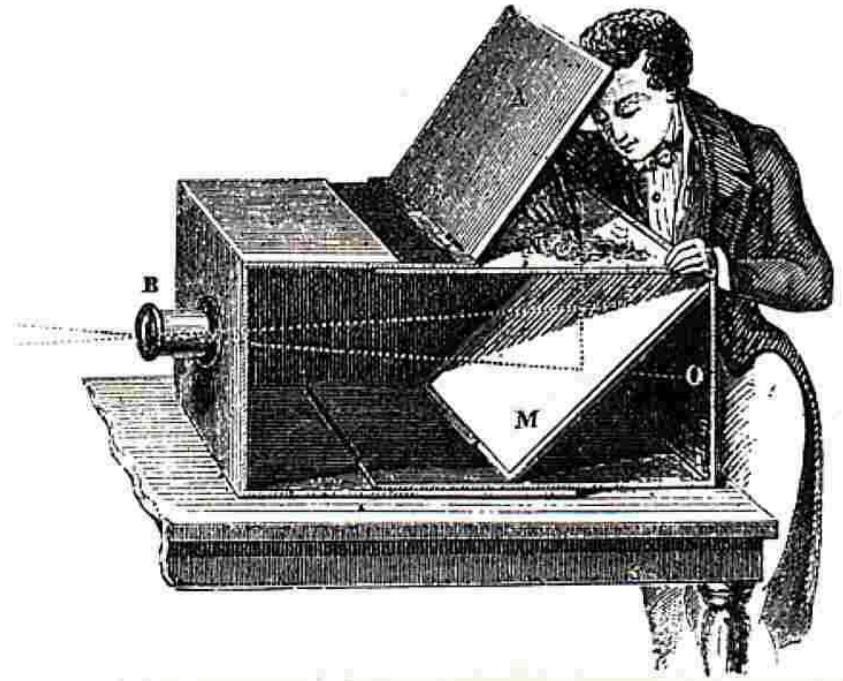
Andrew P. Smith

# The *Camera Obscura*

A “dark room” where light was projected through a small aperture, resulting in an inverted image on the opposite wall



Artists used a portable camera obscura to trace the images projected onto the ground glass



# Fixing the Image

- Light sensitive silver salts coated on a surface.
- Niépce discovered how to fix the image in 1826, but needed an 8 hour exposure.
- 1830s Louis Daguerre's technique resulted in a 15minute exposure, called Daguerreotypes.
- Daguerreotypes were on silver-plated copper developed in mercury.
- Subject was reversed and were unique.
- France purchased the process in 1839.



**Daguerreotype: Keokuk or Watchful Fox, 1847**

Daguerreotype by Thomas M. Easterly, 1847. Missouri History Museum Photographs and Prints Collection. Thomas Easterly Daguerreotype Collection.

# William Henry Fox Talbot

- Talbot's calotype process invented negative images, allowing for multiple prints in 1834.
- Uses paper soaked in silver chloride and fixed with a salt solution.
- Positive images made by contact printing onto another sheet of paper.



## Calotype

William Henry Fox Talbot, Nelson Column under construction, London, 1843. (Calotype: negative-positive, on paper, also described as 'salt' prints)

# Early Processes

- Wet plate collodion process (F. Scott Archer, 1851) resulted in sharper negatives than the calotype and cheaper than daguerreotypes.
- Used glass plates that had to remain wet.
- Replaced both methods.
- Dry-plate method (Maddox, 1871) using an emulsion of gelatine and silver-bromide.
- Commercialised in 1878.

# Wet-plate collodion

Yosemite Valley, Will Dunniway, 2009







## **Dry-plate method**

1890-1910. Poultney Historical Society

# Kodak's Contribution

- **1880:** George Eastman, age 24, sets up Eastman Dry Plate Company in Rochester, New York.
- **1888:** First Kodak camera, containing a 20-foot roll of paper, enough for 100 2.5-inch diameter circular pictures.
- **1889:** Improved Kodak camera with roll of film instead of paper
- **1900:** Kodak Brownie box roll-film camera introduced.

# Early Developments

- **1880:** First half-tone photograph appears in a daily newspaper, the *New York Graphic*.
- **1889:** First photo published in *National Geographic*
- **1907:** First commercial color film, the Autochrome plates, manufactured by Lumiere brothers in France
- **1924:** Leitz markets the "Leica", the first high quality 35mm camera, using the modern 24x36mm frame and sprocketed 35mm movie film
- **1931:** Development of strobe photography by Harold ("Doc") Edgerton at MIT

# Uses of Photography

- Recording of Information
- Fine Art/Aesthetics
- Documentation
- Social Change
- Scientific
- Advertising

# Genres & Practitioners

- Portraits
- Landscapes
- Photojournalism/Editorial Photography
- Fashion & Glamour
- Still Life/Commercial
- Fine Art/Abstraction/Special Effects



**Alexandre Dumas by Nadar, 1855**



**Sarah Bernhardt by Nadar, 1864**



Lake Marian, summits of East Humboldt Mountains, Nevada, 1868.

***Lake Marian, Nevada***  
**Timothy O'Sullivan, 1868**





**American Civil War dead at Antietam.  
Matthew Brady, 1862**



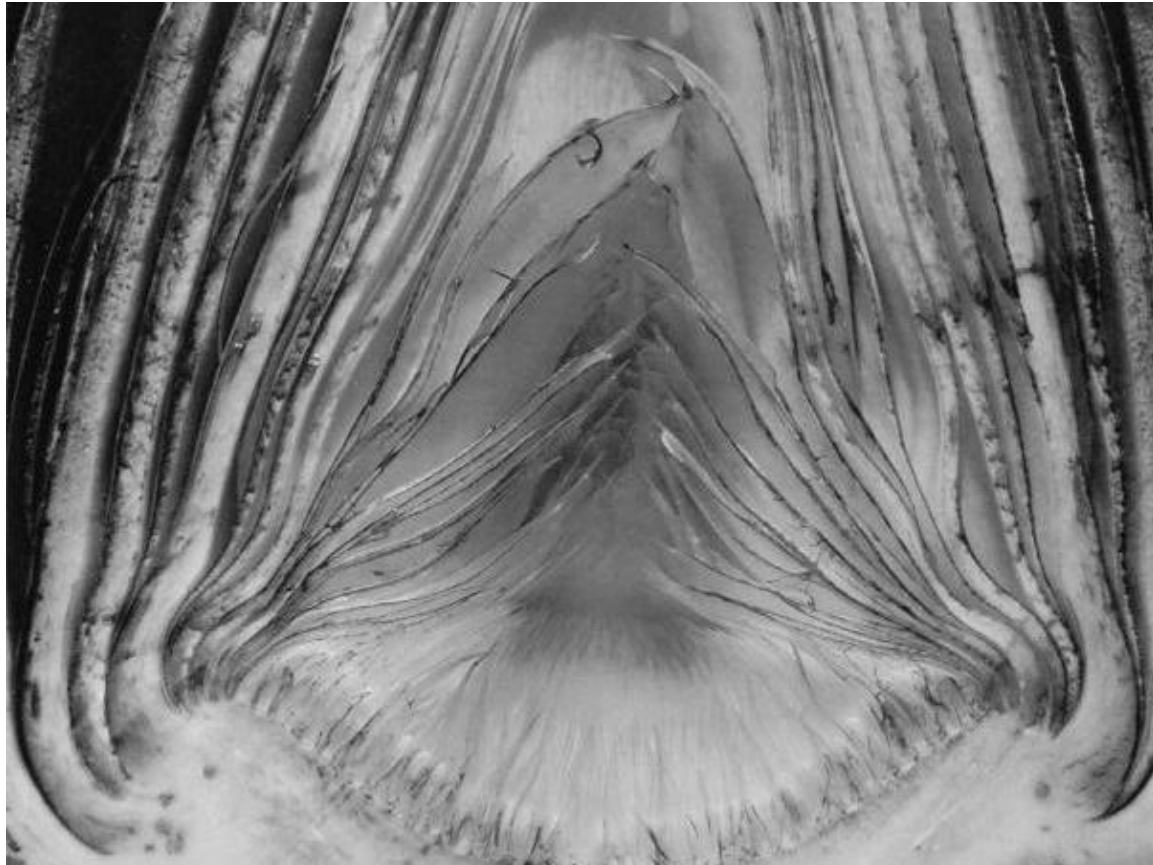
**Children sleeping on the streets of New York.**

**Jacob Riis, 1890.**

Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.



**Pepper No. 30 .**  
**Edward Weston, 1930**



**Artichoke, Halved**  
**Edward Weston, 1930**



**Rayograph,  
Man Ray 1923**



**Moonrise, Hernandez,  
Ansel Adams 1941**



**Seville, Spain, 1933**  
**Henri Cartier-Bresson**



**Nastassja Kinski and the Serpent**  
**Richard Avedon, 1981**





**Jack Daniels Whiskey**  
**Steve Bering Wegener**



**Untitled**  
**Jerry Uelesmann, 1969**



**Haiti, 2010**  
**James Nachtwey**

# Digital Revolution

- **1990:** Adobe Photoshop released.
- **1991:** Kodak DCS-100, first digital SLR, a modified Nikon F3
- **1992:** Kodak introduces PhotoCD
- **1999:** Nikon D1 SLR, 2.74 megapixel for \$6000, first ground-up DSLR design by a leading manufacturer.
- **2003:** Canon Digital Rebel introduced for less than \$1000
- **2004:** Kodak ceases production of film cameras
- **2005:** Canon EOS 5D, first consumer-priced full-frame digital SLR, with a 24x36mm CMOS sensor for \$3000.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Photography

- From print to on-line – Flickr, websites & blogs
- Digital manipulation
- Copyright protection
- Citizens journalism
- Galleries
- **Quality of Work**