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Looking At Photographs: A Guide To Technical Terms, Revised Edition



Synopsis

From its origins at the end of the 1830s, photography has never ceased to evolve both aesthetically and technologically. The past decade has given rise to the new age of digital photography, so *Looking at Photographs*, first published in 1991, has been revised and updated to define and illustrate terms from the earliest processes to this new technology. At once a rich and informative glossary and a history of the medium, this fully illustrated guide will be invaluable to all those wishing to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the art of photography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Lavishly illustrated in color with images . . . that enhance both the instructional component and viewing experience. Highly recommended.”
“Choice”
“A great handbook for the serious museum and gallery visitor who has decided that a deeper understanding of creation . . . will give them a greater appreciation of the visual arts.”
“The Art Book

Gordon Baldwin, formerly associate curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum, is now an independent scholar who continues to write about and curate exhibitions of photographs. Martin Jürgens is a conservator of photographs in Hamburg, Germany.

Baldwin's slim lexicon is an excellent addition to the library of anyone interested in the history of

photography. The 122 headwords are well defined and are amply illustrated with color and monochrome images. The vocabulary covers photographic processes from the early 19th century through the early/middle of the 20th. The lack of terms from the 1940s to the present is the one significant flaw in this book. Unlike some dictionaries, one can easily sit down and read this from cover to cover, flipping around for definitions as necessary (terms elsewhere defined are printed in small-caps). Synonymous entries are cross-referenced to the primary entry. Coverage of digital photography is minimal, but given the time it was written (1991) this is understandable. Also missing are terms like Kodachrome or Ektachrome (though mentioned in the entry for "Chromogenic Print"). Other terms I had hoped to see included 'Colorama', 'Land', 'Polaroid' (though this is alluded to in the entry for 'Dye Diffusion Print'), Giclees/Iris Prints, Lightjet Prints, Image Transfer, Emulsion Transfer, SX-70 manipulation, and no doubt many others I'm not thinking of right now. The typography, layout, and printing of the book is outstanding. Heavy glossy pages do the reproduced images justice. Examples are well chosen and represent a range of photographer's and genres.

pretty much a dictionary dedicated to photography and photographers. easy read, really good book, i ordered it for a class and i decided to keep it because it was very helpful. the book came in great condition

Nice book but not the technical terms I was looking for

I'd missed this book. It was in the library of the museum I worked for previously. Now that I serve as a curator of education in a non-profit gallery with an entire gallery dedicated to photography, a guidebook to photographic processes is essential. The book's beautiful layout and illustrations makes it a delight. Anyone interested in understanding historical or contemporary photography will benefit from this book.

So you think you know it all? This slim, artfully produced, thorough glossary of terms is beautifully illustrated, has clear descriptions of all those mysterious processes on museum labels, including a few even you might not have known, and is as useful in a collector's library as in a contemporary practitioner's.

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