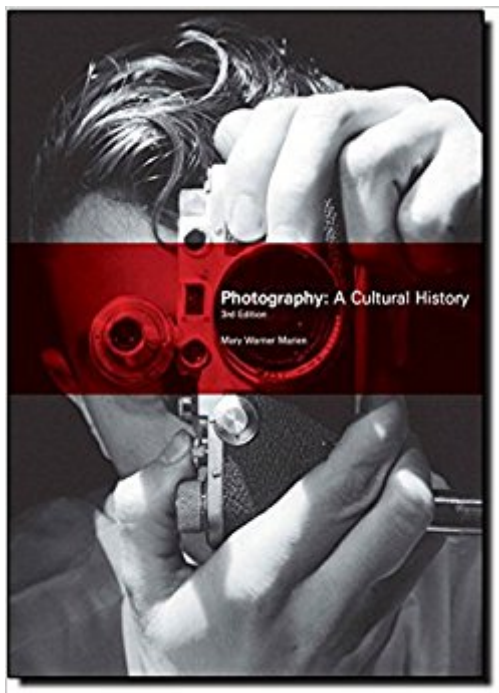


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# Photography: A Cultural History (3rd Edition)



## Synopsis

For one or two semester courses in the History of Photography. Mary Warner Marien has constructed a richer and more kaleidoscopic account of the history of photography than has previously been available. Her comprehensive survey shows compellingly how photography has sharpened, if not altered forever, our perception of the world. The book was written to introduce students to photography. It does not require that students possess any technical know-how and can be taught without referring to techniques in photography. Incorporating the latest research and international uses of photography, the text surveys the history of photography in such a way that students can gauge the medium's long-term multifold developments and see the historical and intellectual contexts in which photographers lived and worked. It also provides a unique focus on contemporary photo-based work and electronic media.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is the history we've been waiting for! erudite and entertaining she shows how pictures really did change the world. Her shrewd selection of over 600 fascinating photos (many in color) illustrate a history that meets the ultimate test: open to any page and you're hooked and it's free from tormenting academic jargon. Camera Arts

The third edition of this groundbreaking survey of international photography has not only been

expanded and brought up to date but restructured to offer readers even greater clarity and ease of use. It now comprises 14 shorter chapters each with an introduction and brief summary. Chapters are grouped into six Parts which begin with an introduction to the time period.

Part I: Introduction to Photography is examined through the lenses of art, science, social sciences, travel, war, fashion, the mass media, and individual practitioners. These broad topics complement a fully developed cultural context whose emphasis is more key ideas than individuals. The author has further enriched the third edition with the findings of the most recent research and exhibitions. These include fresh insights into Victorian photography's relationship to painting and to the expansion of the British Empire, as well as photography's involvement in German and Russian experimental art movements between the World Wars. The author also draws on publications that show the extent to which vernacular photography existed alongside art and commercial practice. Focus boxes highlight interesting cultural or controversial issues, for example Film and Photography, Photomontage or Photocollage, and Making an Icon of Revolution. In the revised final chapter, the author pays close attention to the impact of digital photography on photographic history and contemporary practice, particularly the ease and frequency with which people worldwide use digital cameras and camera phones. In addition to representing the canon of Europe and the United States, the book presents work from Latin America, Africa, India, Russia, China, and Japan. Portrait boxes feature certain photographers in greater detail and new to this edition are works by contemporary artists including Vik Muniz, Suzanne Opton, Tyler Hicks, Walid Raad, Anthony Goicolea, and Jean-Luc Mylayne.

My problem with this book is that it was required for a history of photography course and is thus way overpriced. \$130.00 for an f'n paperback? Are you nuts? I would have said "Rent it if you are really curious", but that was when the rental price was down around \$20. Not for \$40. Organization is OK and the history of photography is certainly well covered, although due to the amount of subject matter, some areas are lighter than others. In several instances, information on a particular photographer or process are not all in one chapter. This makes for some searching the index to find all relevant information. As is typical for a textbook, it is written for the academic and not for casual reading. If you are truly interested in the history of photography, then it's a pretty good book. If you want to know more about particular processes, photographers, or times, then there are other resources that are better, less costly, and easier on the brain. It will introduce you to a lot of folks

you probably didn't know and may lead you to find out more about them and their photographic/creative process.

I used this book for my class, read what I could due to my busy schedule. When I did read, MAN did this book open my mind to appreciate art and photography in many ways. This book inform readers about how photography first began, using chemicals and processing methods and so on all the way to modern day cameras. This book is pretty sweet!

This was required for a 400-level history of photography class. The pictures in it are gorgeous, and the history was pretty thorough in that it seemed to cover all the major photographers of a given era (then my professor would go into greater detail about them individually). This book covers a TON of photographers, eras, movements, and so on. It does get a little dry, but it's easy to read. It's a huge and heavy book, so try not to have to cart it around everywhere you go.

I felt like the content wasn't arranged very well. Sometimes they would include pieces of important info scattered. Like they would talk about Atget's history and other important stuff, then talks about other things only to write something important about him somewhere else. It's really hard to keep track of all main points of a certain subject. A lot of book turning and glossary hunting I would say

Amazing amount of photography history from beginning to contemporary times. This was a class assigned text that I enjoyed alot, so much that Ill return to it to continue exploring the dense content and to reinforce what I have already learned. It basically offers the roots of photography so we can all know whats been done and become inspired to build on this either by doing it all better or discovering something new to go down in history.

Had to get it for class, the reading is a little dense and includes a lot of history on it, especially on some of the images it tends to focus on. Overall, it was a good book and came within time! I rented the book and was able to return it back without any problems!

Worth every penny! I actually have to read each chapter for class, and if it weren't for that I wouldn't have read every word; but I'm glad I did! Fantastic book, beautifully put together, lots of information, incredible photography and simply the best text book I have every read in my entire school life! Beautiful as week to have on the coffee table for guests to read, if you don't plan on cramming

through.

An excellent text book that makes many connections across the history of photography. It is clearly written. The thematic structure makes it a more attractive text for teaching than most others. It is text to which I will compare others as I search for less expensive options to use in my class room.

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