

IMAGINE...

WORLDS BENEATH THE REALM OF HUMAN PERCEPTION, REVEALED!

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF POLITICOS AND DISSIDENTS ALIKE!

THE GHOSTS AMONG US MADE VISIBLE!

MOTION ARRESTED WITH DETAIL UNBEKNOWNST TO THE NAKED EYE!

A VIEW OF EARTH FROM 2 BILLION MILES AWAY!

THE UNIQUENESS OF SNOWFLAKES, PROVEN!

***ALL THIS AND MORE, MADE POSSIBLE
WITH...PHOTOGRAPHY!***

...THAT!

"I OFTEN TRY TO PHOTOGRAPH

THINGS ***ABOUT A PERSON***

THAT ARE ***NOT VISIBLE"***

-DUANE MICHALS, photographer

**"THE ROLE
OF THE ARTIST IS TO
SHARE THE IMAGINATION"**

- HIROSHI SUGIMOTO, artist, photographer

PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE CREATED UNREAL PICTURES OF THEIR IMAGINATIONS!



ONG TUPKA

Victor Masayesva, 1997

American, b. 1951 C-print

Working with a computer, Masayesva created this surreal portrait evoking the Kachina spirits of his Hopi upbringing. His manipulations of imagery suggest a cultural importance of *animism*, or the presence of spirits and animals in the natural world.



A BREEZE AT WORK

Sandy Skoglund, 1987

American, b. 1945 Cibachrome print

Skoglund began using photography as a tool to document her large-scale installations in the late 1970s. She leaves the photographic image unaltered, but meticulously arranges and directs all of the elements of the scene, from objects to actors. As a result, her theatrical images present an altered reality free from digital manipulations.



LIBERTY HEAD, ILLINOIS

Ruth Thorne-Thomsen, 1978

American, b. 1943 Gelatin silver print

What may at first look like a century-old image is actually a small-scale scene of toy figures arranged on the shores of Lake Michigan in the late 1970s. Thorne-Thomsen used a homemade pinhole camera to photograph many such scenes, creating a rudimentary illusion and puzzling sense of place.



ATOMIC CAFÉ

Patrick Nagatani, 1983

American, b. 1945 Polaroid

Using an elaborate set and large format Polaroid camera, Nagatani brings us into an imagined scene of the instant an atomic weapon is detonated. What does his use of color, dramatic composition, and irony say about nuclear weapons in the modern age?



TREE SYMPHONY

Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison, 1997

American, b. 1968 and 1964 Mixed media

Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison animate our natural surroundings to create a mystical story about mankind's impact on, and interactions with, the environment. Using painted backdrops and materials staged in the studio, the artists present a world in which Man futilely tries to save a dying Earth.



WORLD 17

Ruud van Empel, 2005

Dutch, b. 1958 Cibachrome print

Van Empel constructs his imagery through a process of digital collage. He photographs each person and plant separately and then combines them digitally to create a fabricated environment and unnatural sense of place.



SAMOZVERI (AUTO-ANIMALS)

Aleksandr Rodchenko, 1926

Russian, 1891-1956 Gelatin silver print

Soviet photographer Aleksandr Rodchenko is most well known for his photographs of the industrial might of the USSR at its zenith. In this image, however, he used a close, overhead angle and hand coloring to playfully animate these paper dolls.

***“DON’T MAKE ME OUT TO BE AN ARTIST,
I AM AN **ENGINEER.** I AM AFTER THE **FACTS,**
ONLY THE **FACTS”*****

-HAROLD EDGERTON, photographer, engineer, inventor

***PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGIES TO CAPTURE IMAGES
INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE!***



BENGORE HEAD, GIANT’S CAUSEWAY, ANTRIM, IRELAND

Sir John Herschel, 1827

English, 1792-1871 Camera Lucida drawing



OLD SCHLOSS BADEN BADEN

Sir John Herschel, 1829

English, 1792-1871 Camera Lucida drawing

Before photography was introduced in 1839, Sir John Herschel used a device known as a Camera Lucida to aid in drawing the location he was visiting. The use of a Camera Lucida to produce accurate renderings diminished as photography became the dominant means to record images with objective precision.

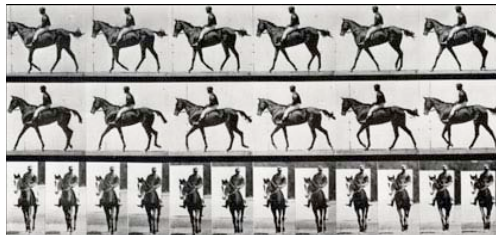


LACE

William Henry Fox Talbot, 1842, modern reprint

English, 1800-1877 Salt print

One of Fox Talbot's greatest contributions to photography was the negative/positive process, which was the first technique that enabled photographs to be reproduced. In early experiments, he would make a contact print of objects by placing them directly onto the surface of paper he had sensitized, such as this rendering of lace made in 1842.



ANIMAL LOCOMOTION, PLATE 29

Edweard Muybridge, 1887

English, 1830-1904 Collotype

Muybridge's motion studies were the first examples of sequential images recorded with such precision. His pioneering work used multiple cameras to capture images of the subject in motion and led to the eventual creation of moving pictures.



FOOTBALL KICK

Harold Edgerton, 1938

American, 1903-1990

Dye transfer



RISING DOVE

Harold Edgerton, 1934

American, 1903-1990

Gelatin silver print

An engineer, Dr. Harold Edgerton developed a stroboscopic flash so fast that it could be used to photograph a speeding bullet in flight, allowing us to see objects in motion at a level of detail impossible with the naked eye. Though his career began as a pursuit of fact, a lyrical tone is evident in much of his work.



MORAY EEL

Sandra Raredon, 2004

Digital print

American, b. DATE

A Museum professional at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Sandra Raredon has used x-ray imagery to create anatomical studies of the specimens she works with. Raredon's artful composure and exotic specimens evoke more than the object's scientific significance alone.



POMEGRANATE

Catherine Wagner, 1999

American, b. 1953

Iris print

Since its beginnings, photography has been used for both scientific and artistic purposes. A photographer, Catherine Wagner uses MRI imaging to reveal multiple cross sections of a pomegranate. The image you see here shows what an artist can create using medical technology.



SNOWFLAKE

Wilson Bentley, 1905

American, 1865-1931

Gelatin silver print

In order to capture this and other microscopic images of snowflakes, Wilson Bentley would catch and photograph individual snowflakes on a piece of black velvet. He had roughly 15 seconds to capture the image before the snowflake would melt. His body of work was the first proof that no two snowflakes are alike.



PALE BLUE DOT

Voyager I, 1990

Digital print

DO YOU SEE THAT PALE BLUE DOT SUSPENDED IN THE GLARE?...The Voyager I Satellite, equipped with photographic equipment, was launched in 1977 on a trajectory that would take it well beyond the edge of our solar system. In 1990, after 3.2 billion miles of travel, it turned to gaze back towards Earth and capture the image displayed here. The Earth is visible at middle right and took up only 1.2 pixels on the original photograph. In this remarkable image, our hulking planet appears tiny and fragile.



THE MOON, CONSIDERED AS A PLANET, A WORLD, AND A SATELLITE (BOOK)

James Nasmyth, 1885

Scottish, 1808-1890

A businessman and inventor, James Nasmyth produced this book in his retirement. He used a variety of media to achieve a photographic illusion of the lunar landscape, regarded as accurate at the time of its creation.

A businessman and inventor, James Nasmyth produced this book in his retirement. Making and recording detailed observations of the moon with a homemade telescope, Nasmyth was unable to photograph his discoveries due to the limited photographic technology of that time. He later used a variety of media to achieve this photographic illusion of the lunar landscape, regarded by many as fact at the time of its creation.



MOREHOUSE'S COMET, PHOTOGRAPHED AT YERKES

Keystone Viewing co. ca. 1910 Stereograph card

The Morehouse Comet was discovered by accident on photographic plates that were intended for other purposes. It represents one of very few comets to be discovered through the use photography. This view of the comet was used to create a 3D illusion when looked at through a stereograph viewer, enhancing its sense of realism.



UNTITLED STUDIO PHOTO

Unknown

The century-old tradition of posing and being photographed in two dimensional cutout environments is still popular in theme parks and carnivals today.

This portrait studio we've created is reminiscent of early studio backdrops like the one used in the image you see here. We invite you to participate in this activity and share your pictures with us. See if you can fool us into thinking your picture was made in 1914.

PEOPLE SAY **PHOTOGRAPHS** DON'T LIE...

...**MINE DO.**

-DAVE LaCHAPELLE commercial photographer, artist

**PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIES TO
ACHIEVE ILLUSION IN THE MINDS OR EYES OF THEIR AUDIENCE!**



STALIN (W/TRUMAN RUBBED OUT)

Yevgeni Khaldey, 1945

Russian, 1919-1997

Yevgeny Khaldey, a photojournalist in the Soviet Union during World War II, covered many different aspects of the experience of war. Here, the political side of war is evidenced by the removal of President Truman pictured with Stalin and other Soviet leaders in order to artificially shape the public's opinion.



RENE MAGRITTE IN BOWLER HAT, MULTIPLE EXPOSURE

Duane Michals, 1965

American, b. 1932

Gelatin silver print



RENE MAGRITTE AND HIS EASEL, DOUBLE IMAGE

Duane Michals, 1965

American, b. 1932 Gelatin silver print



UNTITLED SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPH

Unknown, ca. 1870's

In the early years of photography, a portrait could be purchased by a sitter for a dime. But many self-proclaimed Spirit Photographers would charge up to ten dollars or more to conjure a photographic image of a person's 'ghosts'. One Spirit Photographer, John Beattie, offered this observation after viewing a spirit photograph taken of him:

"If the figures standing by me in the pictures were not produced as I have suggested [ie. Real spirits appearing through the medium's presence], I do not know how they were there; but I must state a few ways by which they were not made. They were not made by double exposure, nor by figures being projected in space in any way; they were not the result of mirrors; they were not produced by any machinery in the background, behind it, above it, or below it, nor by any contrivance connected with the bath, the camera or the camera inside.

Such fervent testimonials from Spirit Photographers and their clients alike led many to believe in the validity of these images and their powers to conjure the dead. On the other hand, another widely esteemed Spirit Photographer, William H. Mumler (1832-1884), died penniless after he was found guilty of defrauding his sitters.



SELF PORTRAIT

Harold Haliday Costain, date unknown; ca 1930

American, 1895-1994

Gelatin silver print



DEATH TO THE OCTOPUS OF WAR

John Hartfield, 1937

German, 1891-1968

Photogravure

Having fled Nazi Germany in 1938, Hartfield produced and published such photomontages in magazines and quarterlies to undermine the Nazi regime. He utilized the mass media as a means to distribute his imagery and message, and had a readership similar to that of modern day political cartoonists.



CAMERA OBSCURA IMAGE OF THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO

Abelardo Morell, 1998

American, b. 1948 Gelatin silver print

Abelardo Morell placed a camera inside of a room at the Hotel Del Coronado for a day-long exposure. Creating a light tight environment and a lens from a small hole in the window, the long exposure and ambient light allows for a projection, created by a **Camera Obscura**, to be seen on the walls of the room.

INTERACTIVE: Leave a title

In constructing an imaginary, surreal, or abstract image, a photographer can often rely on a title to direct the audience's interpretation of the work. Leave a name and new title for the imaged displayed at left. Select titles will be posted and viewed by future museum visitors.

INTERACTIVE:

As you may know, photography is not allowed in the gallery at MoPA. We do this to honor the copyright holder of each photograph, which is to say, the photographer whose images may be on view in the gallery.

Here, we have created a special area where you can take photographs inside the museum. Not only are we encouraging you to take a picture in this space, but we'd also like to see it. Email your image to edudept@mopa.org or become a fan of us on **facebook** and post your images on our **wall** for others to enjoy.

CAMERA OBSCURA:

A Camera Obscura is a naturally occurring phenomenon which happens any time that light is forced through a small hole into a darkened area. When light passes through the tiny opening, it projects an upside down image on the opposite wall of the enclosure. There is evidence that this phenomenon was used by people as early as the 4th Century B.C. to observe and record solar eclipses and many other elements of the natural environment. A Camera Obscura exists in every optical device, from the iPhone to the human eye.

CAMERA LUCIDA:

A precursor to modern photography, the Camera Lucida was first patented in 1807, and was used by artists to create accurate drawings of perspective. The Camera Lucida does not project an image, but uses a prism, placed close to the eye, which allows the artist's pencil and subject to be seen simultaneously, thereby facilitating a precise means of reproducing images from nature.

THAT'S RIGHT! WITH PHOTOGRAPHY, YOU HAVE INSTANT ACCESS TO ALL THE WONDERS OF
THE WORLD THAT YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED!

WHAT **CAN'T** YOU DO...

...WITH **PHOTOGRAPHY?**

TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH OF **ANYTHING...**

...WITH JUST ONE *CLICK*

IT'S ALL OUT THERE FOR YOU

AND YOUR CAMERA!