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Early Photography



The First Photograph, or more specifically, the earliest known surviving photograph made in a camera, was taken by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827. The image depicts the view from an upstairs window at Niépce's estate, Le Gras, in the Burgundy region of France





The exposure time required to make it is usually said to have been eight or nine hours. A later researcher who used Niépce's notes and historically correct materials to recreate his processes found that in fact several days of exposure in the camera were needed to adequately capture such an image on a bitumen-coated plate.

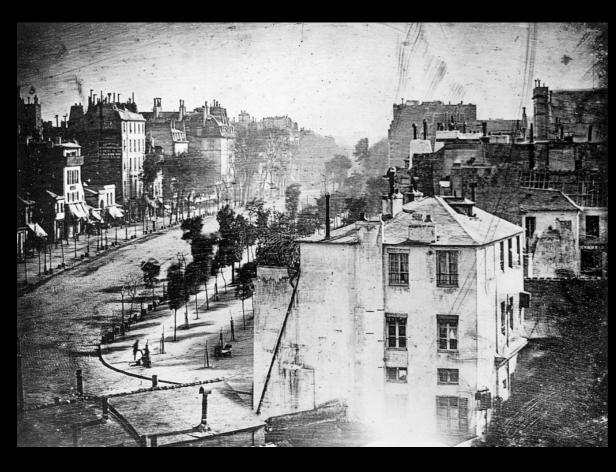
Early Photography



"I have seized the light – I have arrested its flight!"

Louis Daguerre invented a new process he dubbed a daguerrotype in 1839, which significantly reduced exposure time and created a lasting result, but only produced a single image.

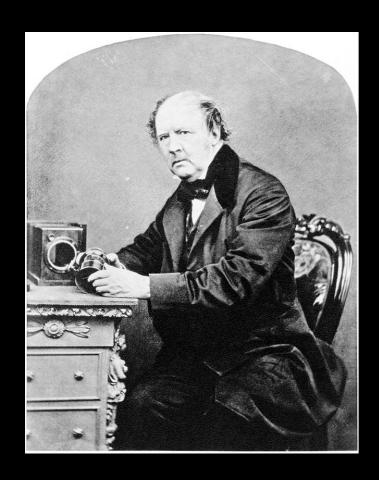
The process which was eventually named the Daguerreotype

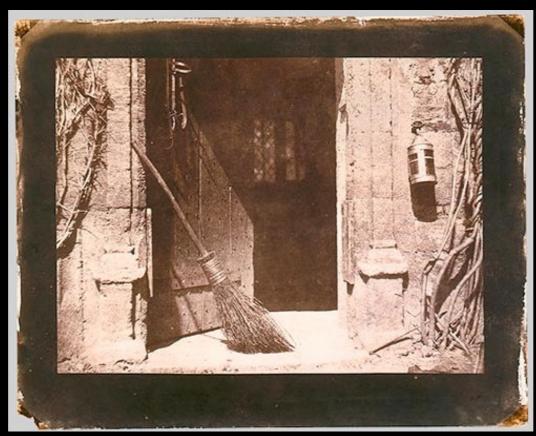




"Others were walking or riding in carriages down that busy street that day, but because they moved, they didn't show up. Only this guy stood still long enough - maybe to have his boots shined - to leave an image."

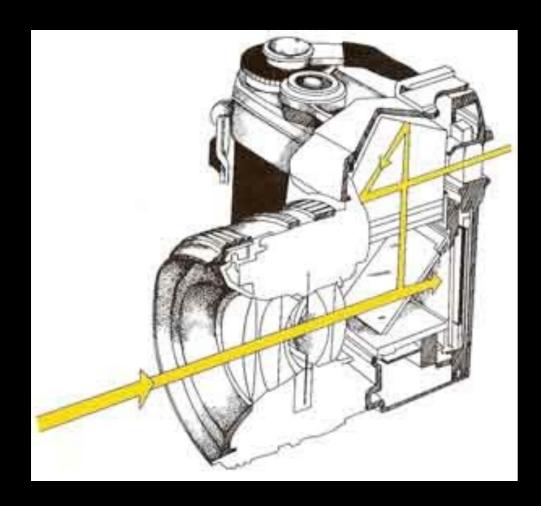
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At the same time, Englishman William Henry Fox Talbot was experimenting with his what would eventually become his calotype method, patented in February 1841. Talbot's innovations included the creation of a paper negative, and new technology that involved the transformation of the negative to a positive image, allowing for more that one copy of the picture. The remarkable detail of Talbot's method can be see in his famous photograph, The Open Door (1844) which captures the view through a medieval-looking entrance.

How It Works

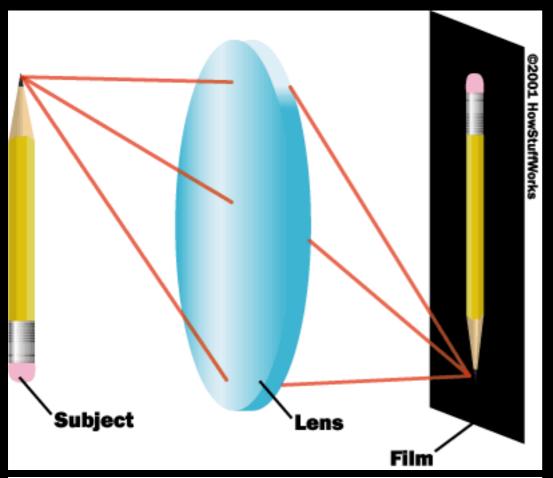


Cameras, from the most sophisticated to the most basic, share four common components:

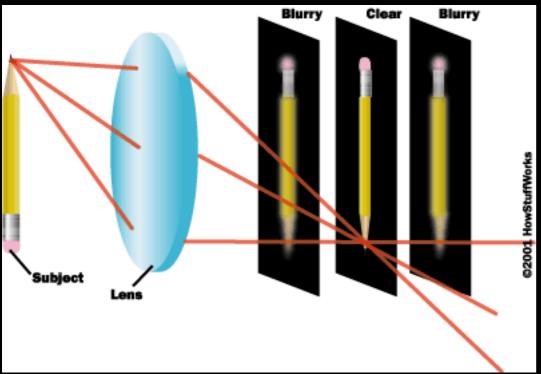
- lens,
- aperture,
- shutter mechanism
- viewfinder

Light reflected from the subject is collected and focused by the lens. It then passes through an aperture – a hole, usually of variable size – so that the amount of light passing through can be controlled. The lightproof shutter, meanwhile, opens for a timed period to allow light from the lens to reach the imaging chip in a digital camera, or the film. The viewfinder is an aiming device, allowing you to preview the image

How It Works

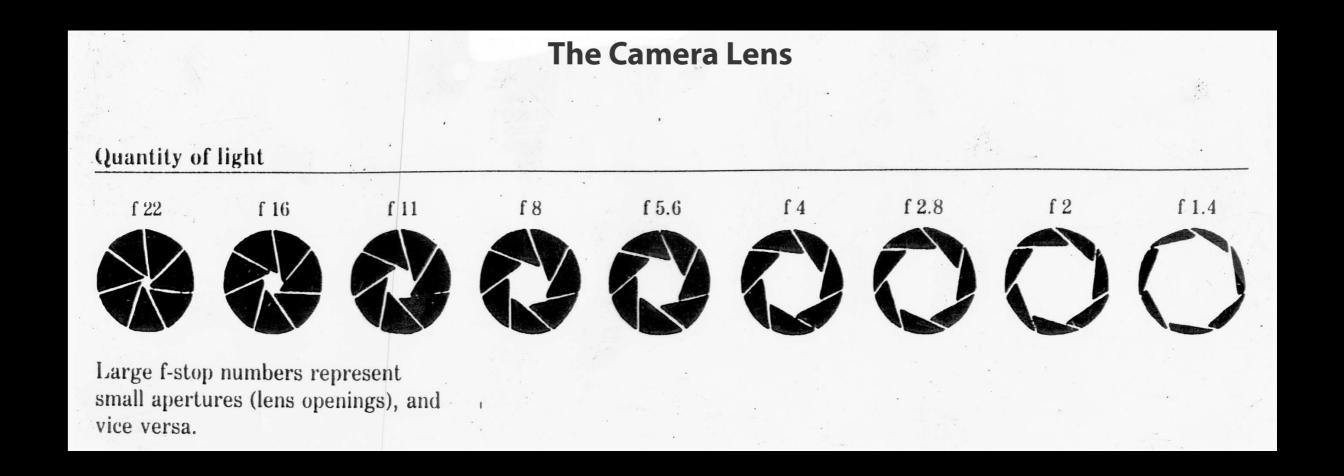


An object reflects light in all directions and the rays are constantly diverging. A converging lens takes those rays and redirects them so they are all converging back to one point. At the point where the rays converge, you get a real image of the object

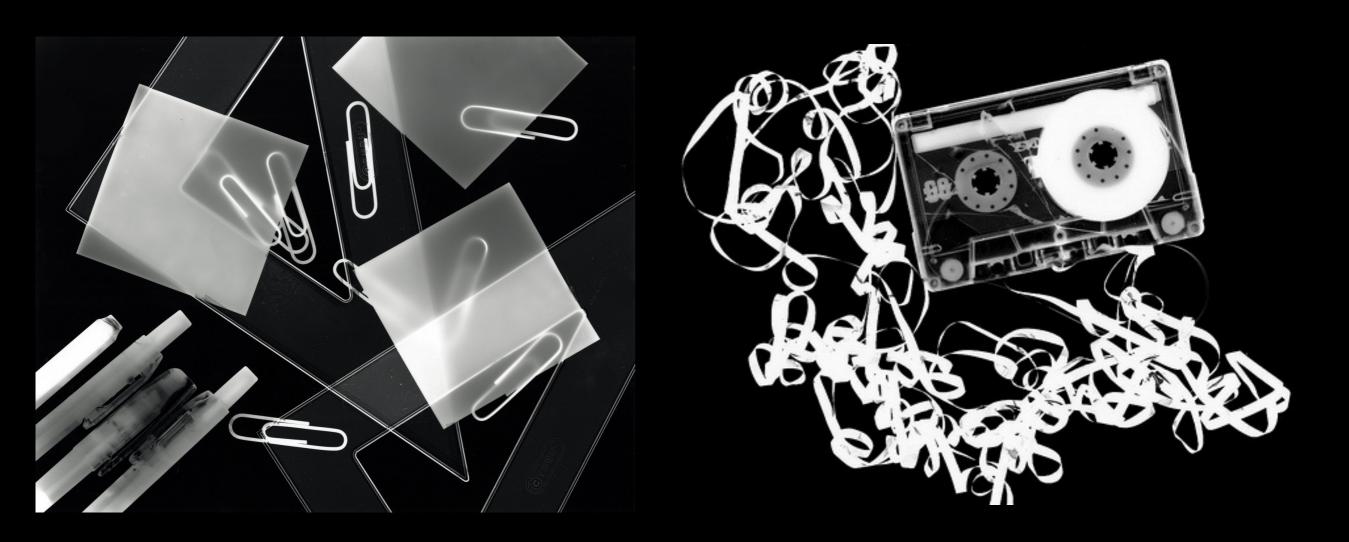


When you turn the lens of a camera to focus it -- you're moving it closer or farther away from the film surface. As you move the lens, you can line up the focused real image of an object so it falls directly on the film surface.

The aperture is a hole in your lens that you can make smaller or larger to control how much light enters your camera.



Photograms



A photogram is a photographic image made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of a light-sensitive material such as photographic paper and then exposing it to light. The usual result is a negative shadow image that shows variations in tone that depends upon the transparency of the objects used. Areas of the paper that have received no light appear white; those exposed through transparent or semi-transparent objects appear grey.

Photograms



Man Ray (born Emmanuel Radnitzky, August 27, 1890 – November 18, 1976) was an American visual artist who spent most of his career in France. He was a significant contributor to the Dada and Surrealist movements, although his ties to each were informal. He produced major works in a variety of media but considered himself a painter above all. He was best known for his photography, and he was a renowned fashion and portrait photographer. Ray is also noted for his work with photograms, which he called "rayographs" in reference to himself.









Photograms



Anna Atkins (Maiden name Anna Children) (16 March 1799 – 9 June 1871) was an English botanist and photographer. She is often considered the first person to publish a book illustrated with photographic images. Some sources claim that she was the first woman to create a photograph.







