

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY



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The Complete History of Studio Photography

Picking up a Digital SLR camera can seem daunting, but did you know that the world's first photographers had to mix chemicals for every exposure? The History of Studio Photography begins with those very first photographers. Not only that, the History of Photography also coincides with some of history's most important inventions. Inventions such as the telegram, the space race, and attempts to capture color. These technologies, which are now taken for granted, are still present in most of modern photographic technology. In fact, we think that learning the History of Studio Photography and the History of Portraiture is a key element in making great photographs now.

In this in-depth dive in to the History of Studio Photography, we don't just explore Studio Photography from the 19th century until the present day. We also explore the History of Portrait Photography, Types of Portrait Photography and Portrait Photography Techniques. We give you our Studio Photography Tips, including Studio Photography Setup and how to create your very own DIY Home Photography Studio. For portrait photographers, we find inspiration from historically Famous Portrait Photographers like Nadar, Julia Margaret Cameron and Napoleon Sarony. Finally, because what's the point of studying history if it doesn't inform our future, we give you our predictions for the Future of Studio Photography.

HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

To say photography was invented by just one person would be impossible. Photographic technology hasn't stopped developing and improving since the earliest photographs were taken in 1824 using all-natural materials. From then, photography has continued its rapid improvements, moving from

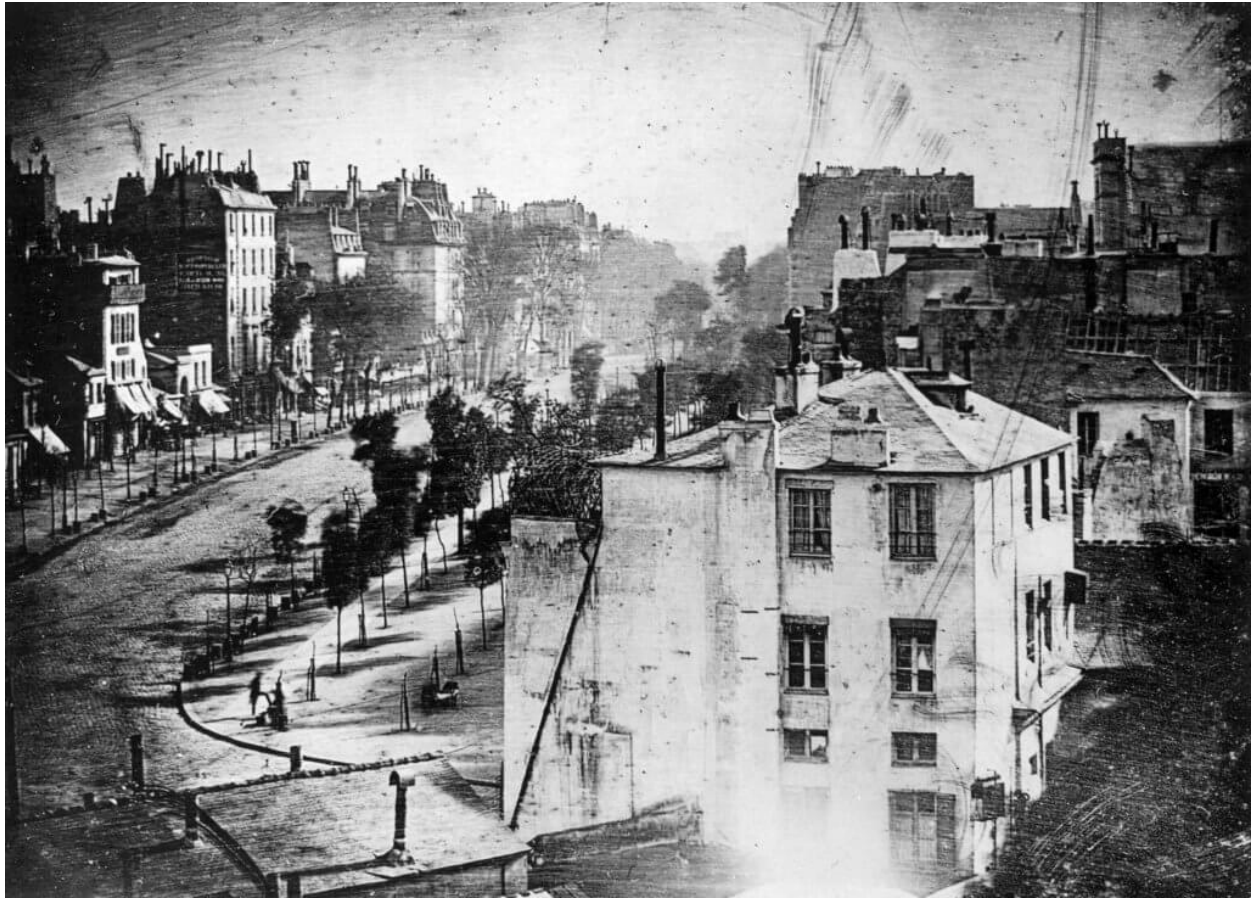
daguerreotypes and film, to instant photographs and digital cameras.



View From the Window at Le Gras by Nicéphore Niépce

HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: HELIOGRAPHY

Heliography, the world's first known photographic process, was invented by [Nicéphore Niépce](#) around 1824. The key material of Niépce's process was Bitumen of Judea, a naturally occurring type of asphalt. He would cover either a piece of glass or metal with this Bitumen, which would harden at a different rate depending on its exposure to light. Once he had finished his 'exposure', he would wash the plate with lavender oil. Only the hardened Bitumen of Judea remained, revealing an image of the objects that were in view of the plate. It was this process that allowed Niépce to create the earliest surviving photograph, *View from the Window at Le Gras*.



HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: DAGUERREOTYPES

After Niépce's death in 1833, Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre invented one of early photography's most important technologies, the [Daguerreotype](#). This new artform, which was officially invented between 1838 and 1840, followed the same principles as Heliography. Daguerreotypes point of difference was that it involves a developing process.

A daguerreotype began with a plate of silver-plated copper, which needed to be artfully polished by a daguerreotypist. The daguerreotypist would then treat the plate with fumes to make it light-sensitive. Once placed in a camera, the plate would be ready to be exposed. Once exposed, the image was made visible by a treatment of mercury fumes. Finally, a chemical treatment was used to remove the light sensitivity of the plate and the daguerreotype sealed behind glass to avoid any blemishes.

Compared to Heliographs which more closely resemble a sketch,

daguerreotypes create sharp, detailed images. It is perhaps for this reason that Daguerreotypes were the first photographic process to become widely available to the public. The only issue was that Daguerre's invention needed at least 30 minutes of light exposure to capture an image! Thankfully, there were plenty of would-be photographers working to improve the process.

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