

Camera-less Photography

Photographic Art Outside the Box

Part One

Origins

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=me5ke7agyOw> (overview)

Silhouettes

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuJ34GxhFzY>

Camera Obscura

A camera obscura is a darkened room with a small hole or lens at one side through which an image is projected onto a wall or table opposite the hole. "Camera obscura" can also refer to analogous constructions such as a box or tent in which an exterior image is projected inside.

[https://www.art-critique.com/en/2020/03/a-lesson-on-the-camera-obscura/\(making_your_own—no_lens\)](https://www.art-critique.com/en/2020/03/a-lesson-on-the-camera-obscura/(making_your_own—no_lens))

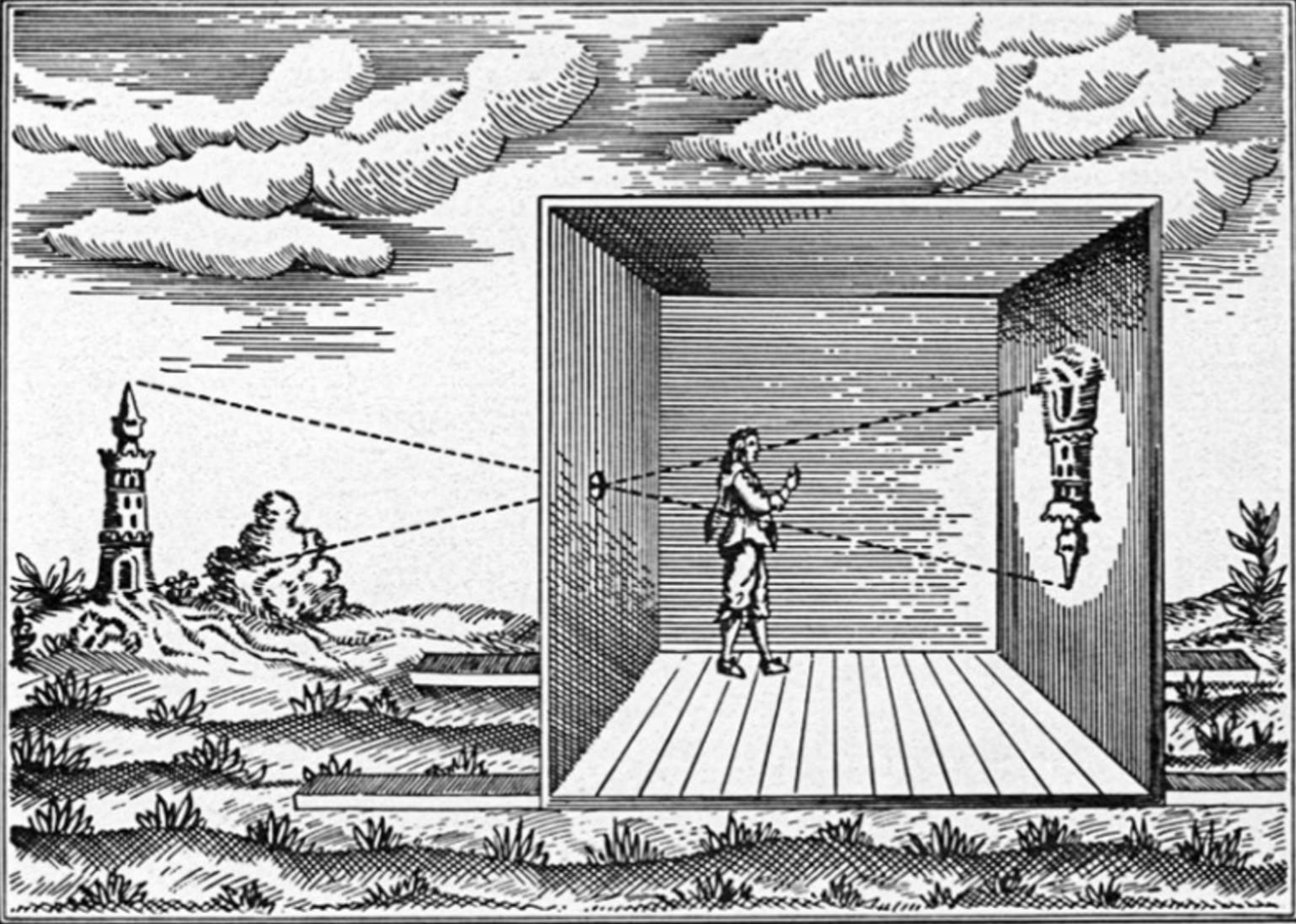
<https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/camera-obscura> (use this)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uq9D0PMGYQc> (old masters)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsXo4gD7iWI>
(overview)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jruwMMT_bc8
(Vermeer)





Camera Lucida

A ***camera lucida*** is an [optical device](#) used as a drawing aid by [artists](#) and [microscopists](#).

The *camera lucida* performs an [optical](#) superimposition of the subject being viewed upon the surface upon which the artist is drawing. The artist sees both scene and drawing surface simultaneously, as in a photographic double exposure. This allows the artist to duplicate key points of the scene on the drawing surface, thus aiding in the accurate rendering of perspective.

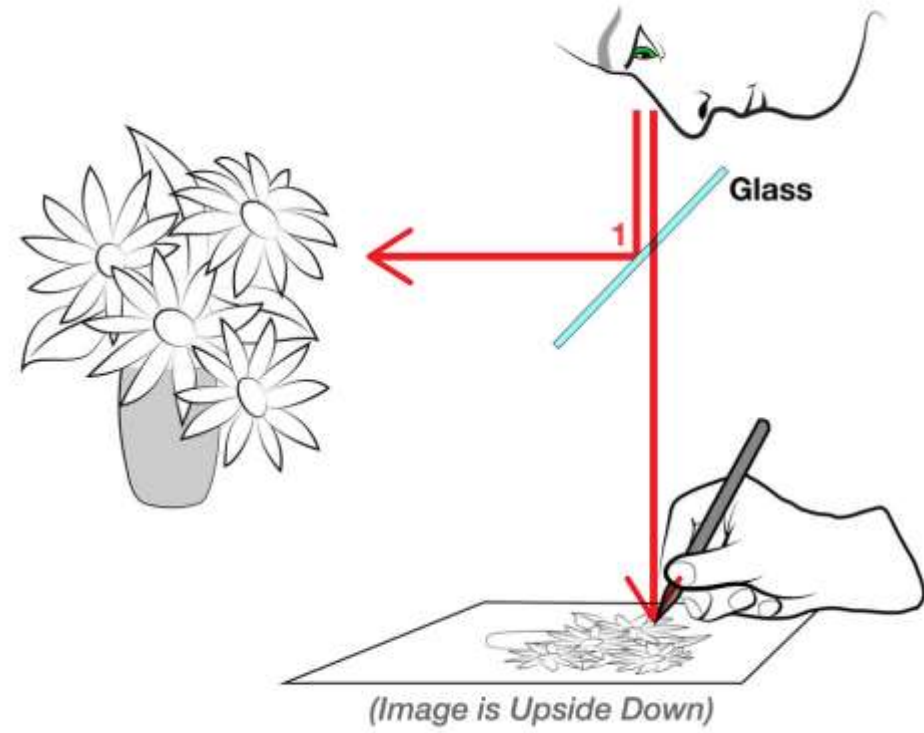
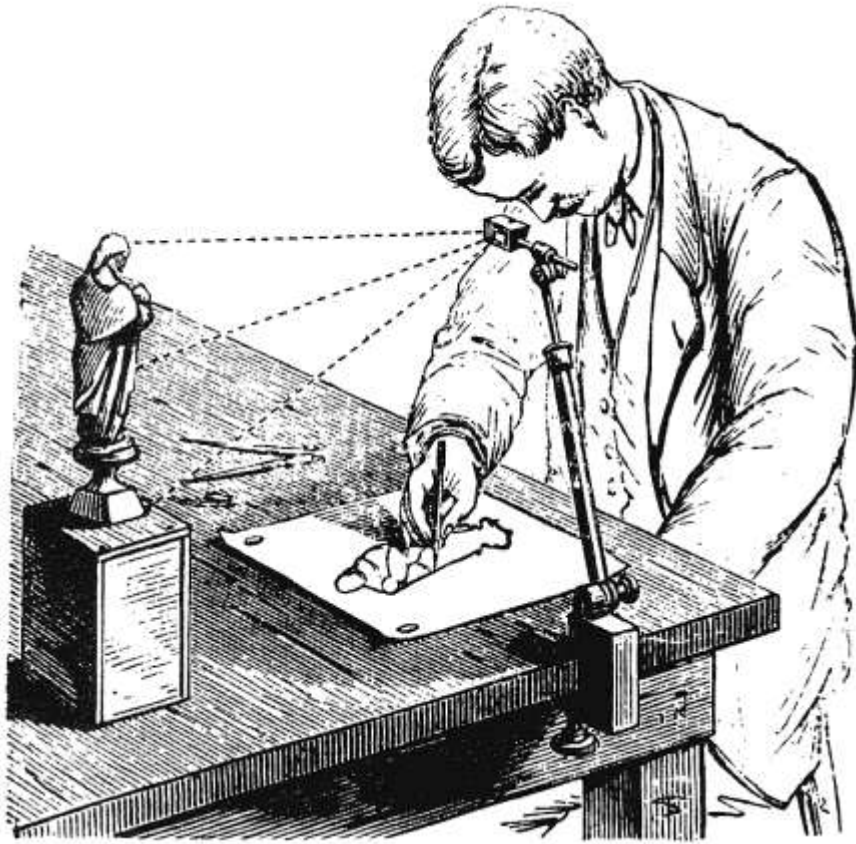
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ktb1qCo4kY>

<https://www.twowaymirrors.com/camera-lucida/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUjGMTUmc7s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opb3meFarm4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcXUsupE_Dk (making your own)



Johann Heinrich Shultze (1687-1744)



Schulze is best known for his discovery that the darkening in sunlight of various substances mixed with [silver nitrate](#) is due to the [light](#), not the heat as other experimenters believed, and for using the phenomenon to temporarily capture shadows.^[1]

Schulze's experiments with silver nitrate were undertaken in about 1717.^[2] He found that a slurry of [chalk](#) and [nitric acid](#) into which some [silver](#) had been dissolved was darkened by sunlight, but not by exposure to the heat from a fire. To provide an interesting demonstration of its darkening by light, he applied [stencils](#) of words to a bottle filled with the mixture and put it in direct sunlight, which produced copies of the text in dark characters on the surface of the contents. The impressions persisted until they were erased by shaking the bottle or until overall exposure to light obliterated them. Because they were produced by the action of light, an extremely broad and literal definition of what a [photograph](#) is may allow even these fluid, ephemeral sun printings to qualify as such, and on that basis many German sources credit Schulze as the inventor of [photography](#).^{[3][4]}

Though Schulze's work did not provide a means of permanently preserving an image, it did provide a foundation for later efforts toward that end. [Thomas Wedgwood](#) and [Humphry Davy](#) produced more substantial but still impermanent shadow images on coated paper and leather around the year 1800. [Nicéphore Niépce](#) succeeded in photographing [camera](#) images on paper coated with [silver chloride](#) in 1816 but he, too, could not make his results light-fast.^[5] The first permanent camera photograph of this type was made in 1835 by [Henry Fox Talbot](#).¹

Joseph Nicéphore Niépce (1765-1833)

Joseph Nicéphore Niépce is likely who should be considered as the first photographer. What is classified as the first photograph, "A View from Le Gras" 1826 is on display at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas.

The camera obscura became popular amongst artists, particularly for Dutch artists. Then, in 1827, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce used a camera obscura and a bitumen-coated metal plate to actually capture the image projected by the apparatus. Effectively, Niépce made the first rudimentary photograph, which was dubbed the Heliograph, thus changing the course of history, in terms of technology.

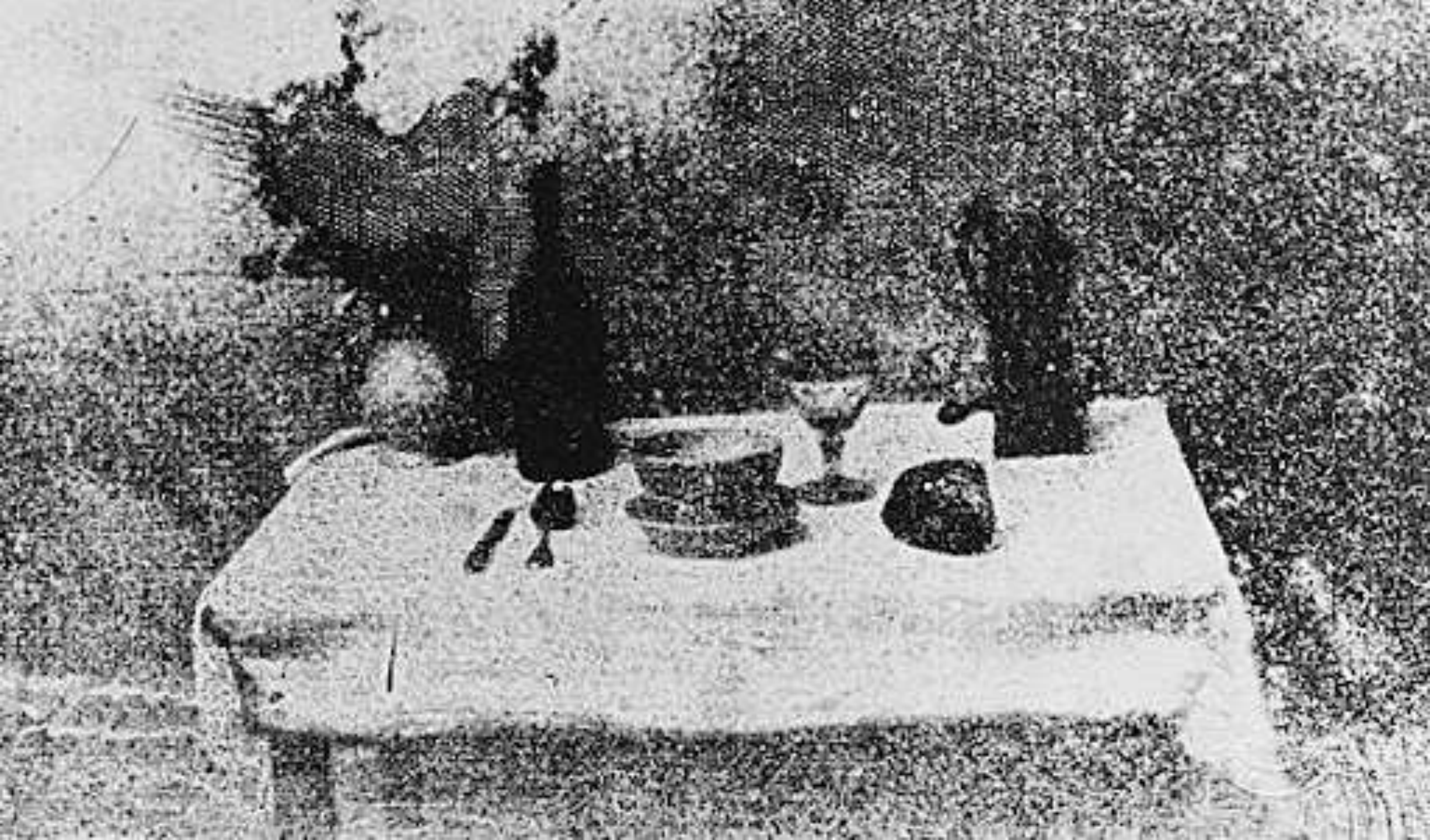
<https://tinyurl.com/y5b33pmw>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGGSgquvo6k> (use this)









John Herschel (1792-1871)

Sir John Frederick William Herschel, 1st Baronet KH FRS was an English polymath active as a mathematician, astronomer, chemist, inventor, experimental photographer who invented the blueprint, and did botanical work. Herschel originated the use of the Julian day system in astronomy. Cyanotype

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s0hiBi5c4Y>







Anna Atkins (1799-1871)

Anna Atkins was an English botanist and photographer. She is often considered the first person to publish a book illustrated with photographic images. Some sources say that she was the first woman to create a photograph.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pH3onQbfzc4>

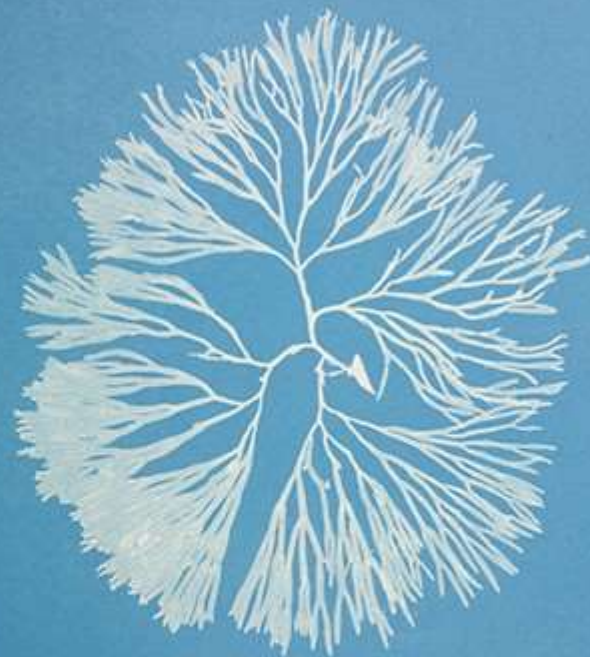


Anna Atkins Blue Prints

HIRMER



Odonthalia dentata.



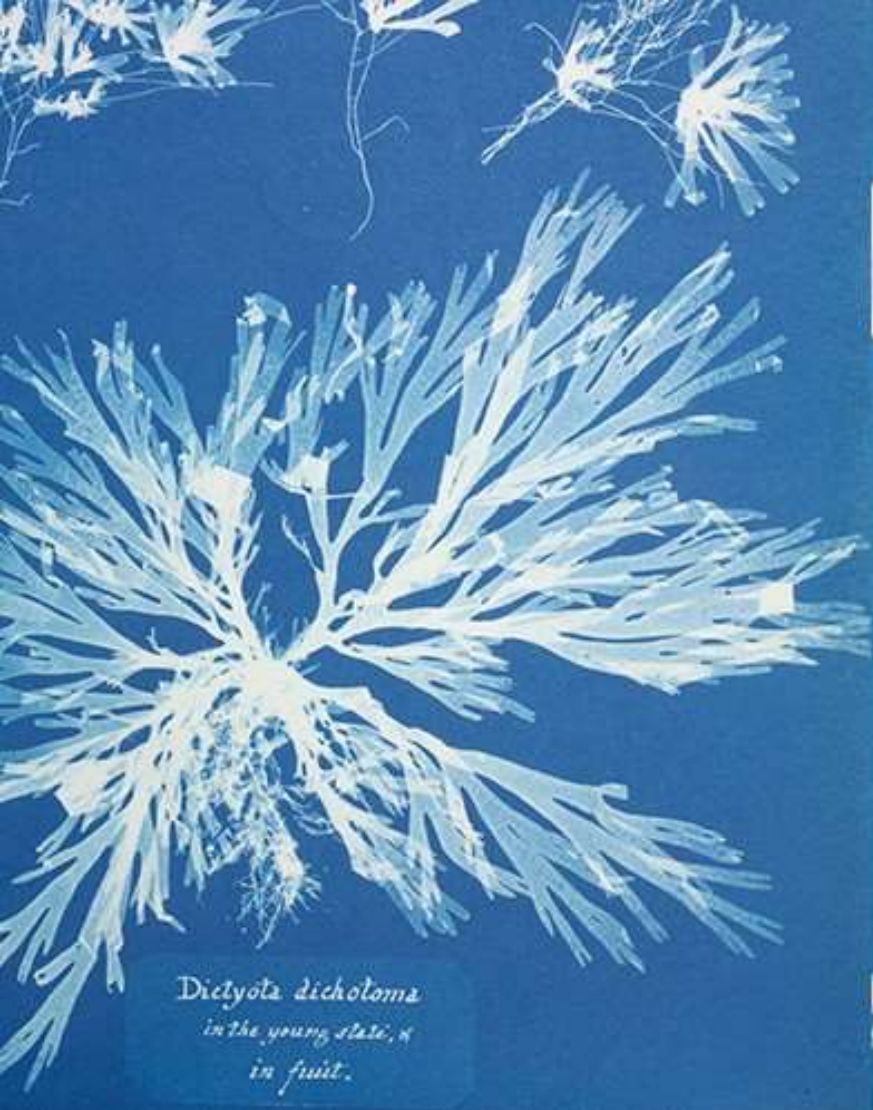
Halymenia furcellata.



Ceylon



Ulva latissima.



Diatyola dichotoma
in the young state, &
in fruit.



Alaria esculenta.



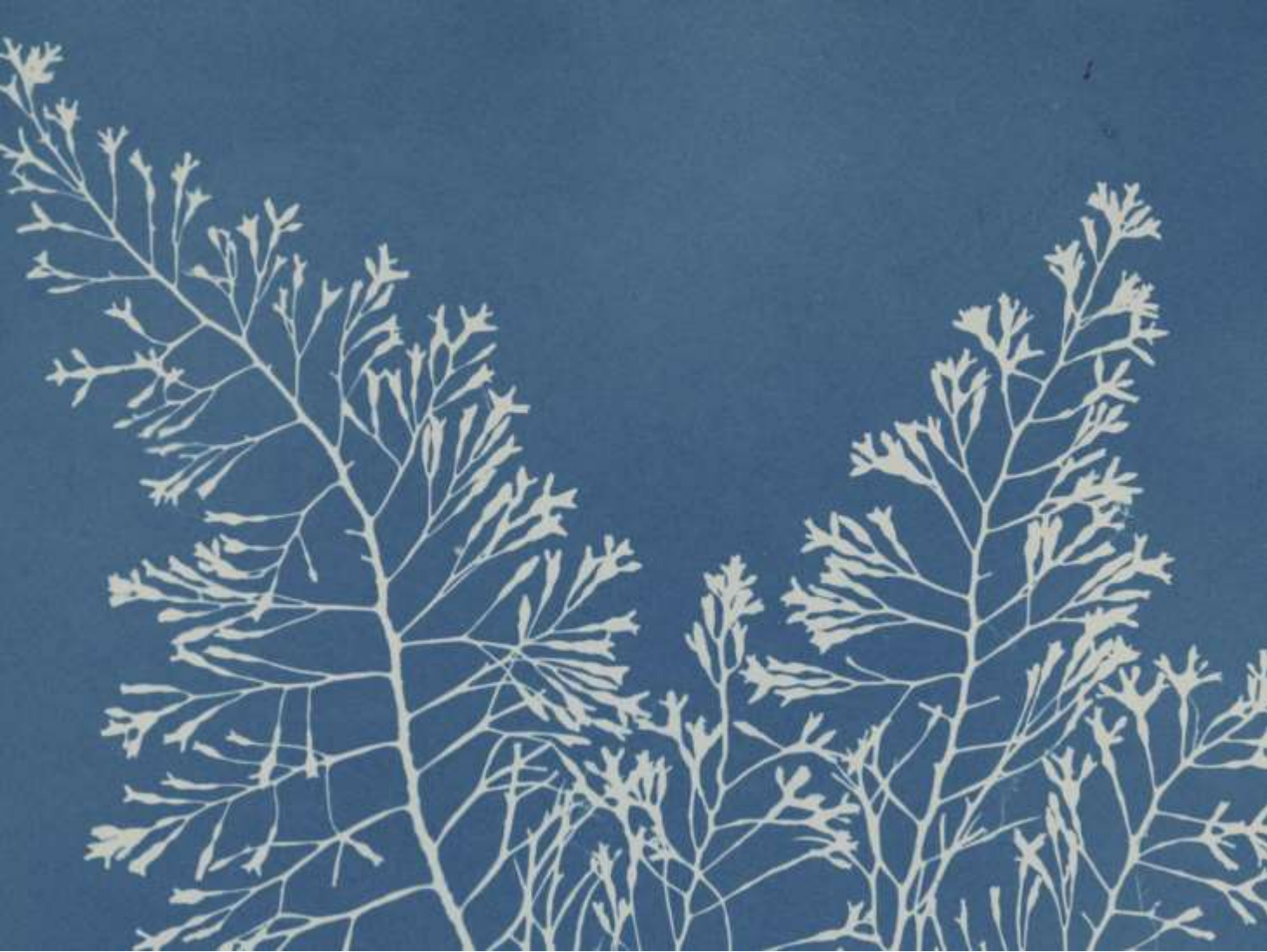
Padina Brevia



Papaver Rhoeas



Dictyota dicholoma
in the young state, &
in fruit.

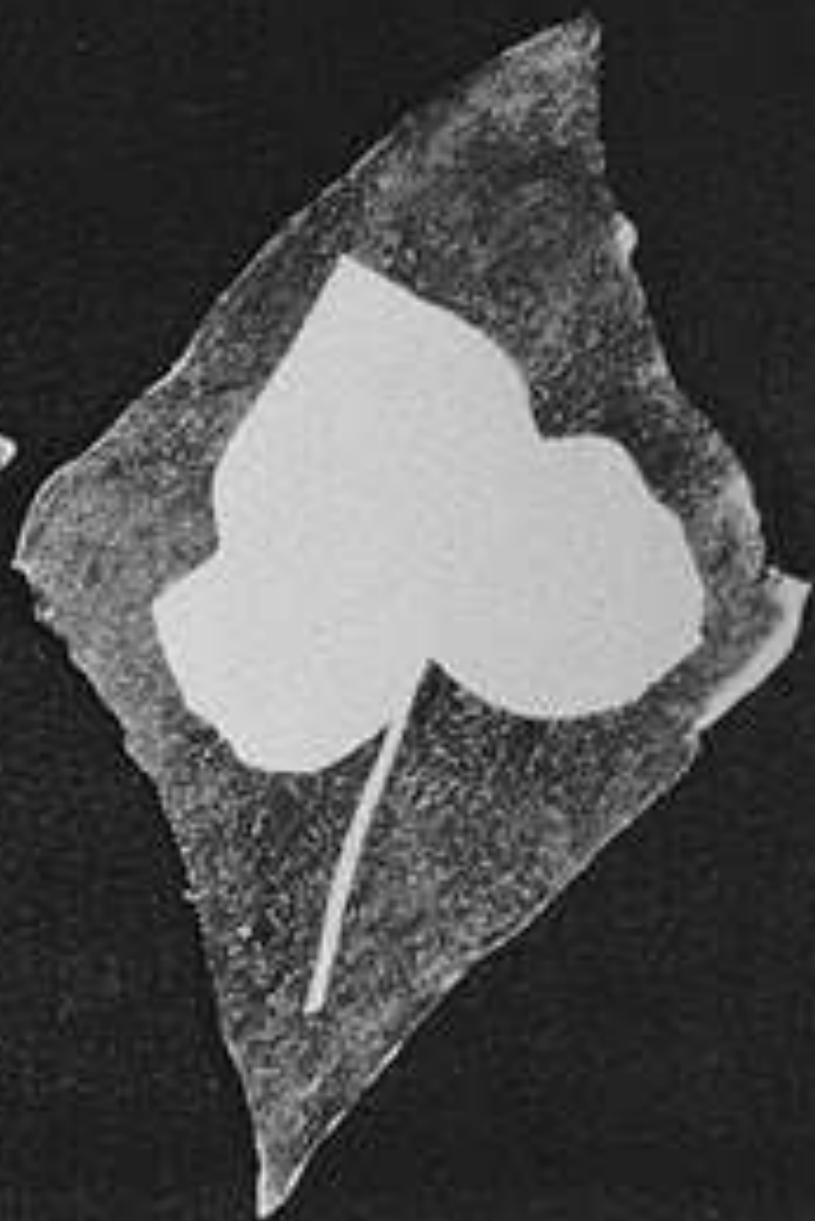


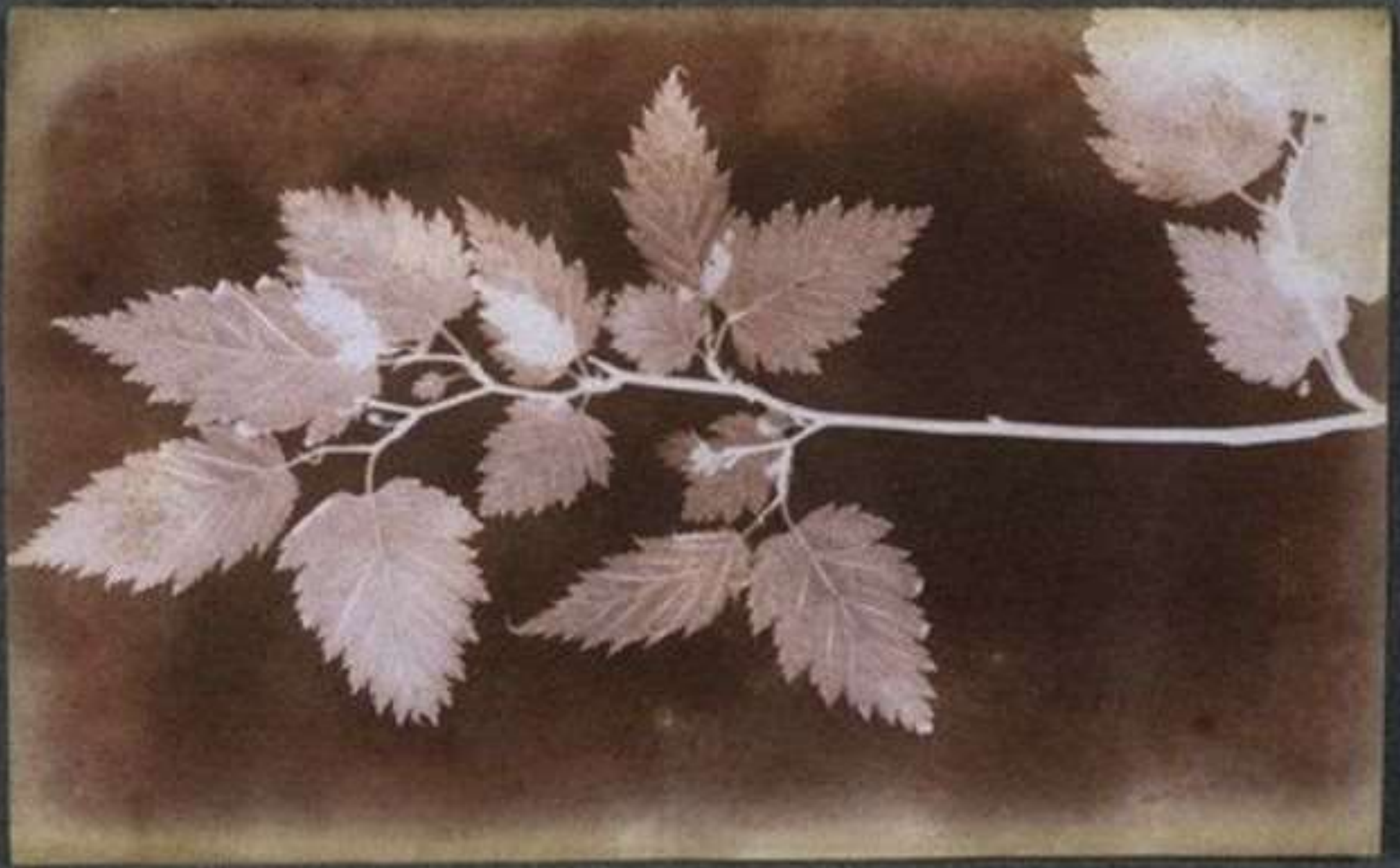
Thomas Wedgwood (1771-1805)

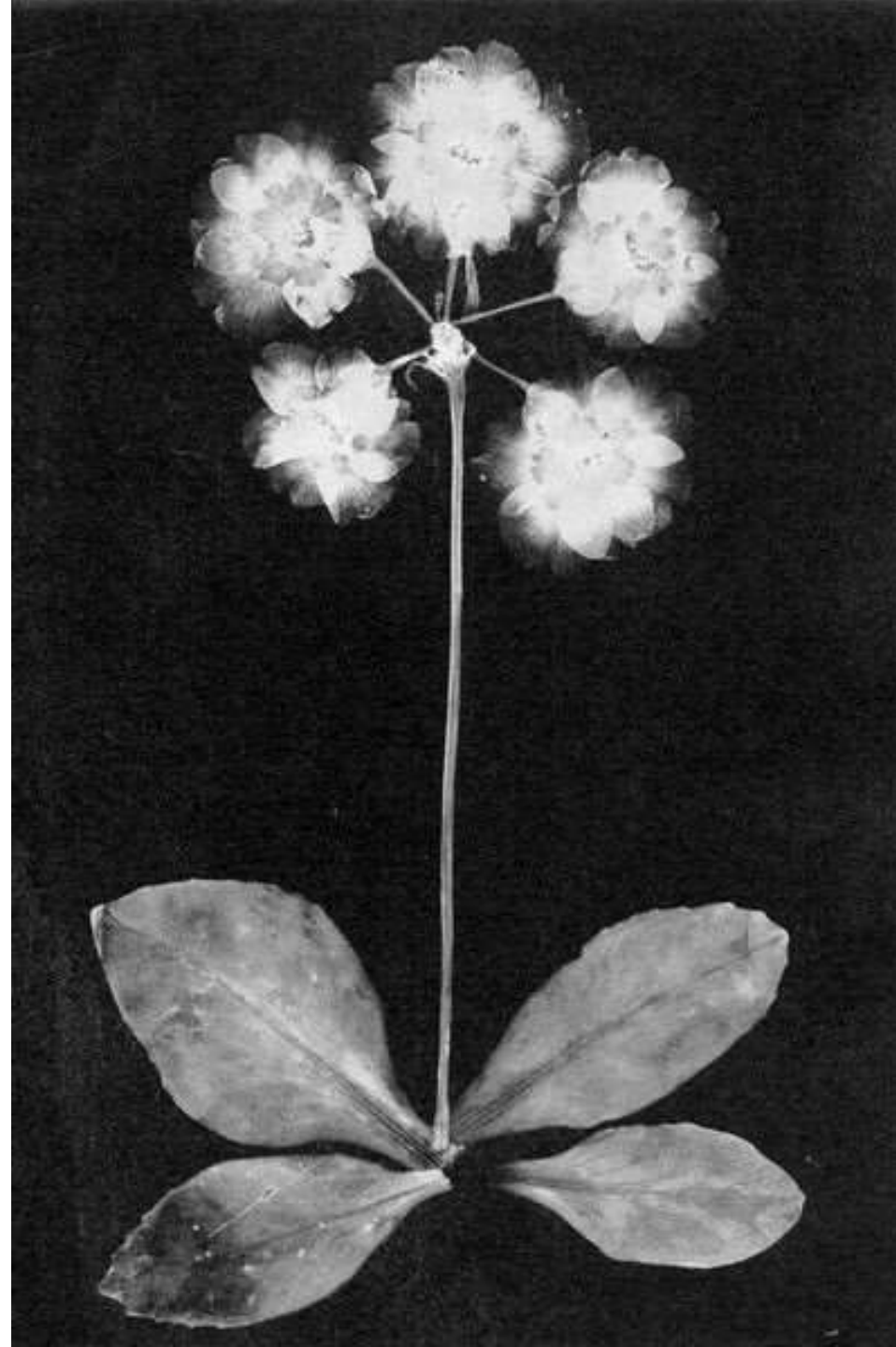


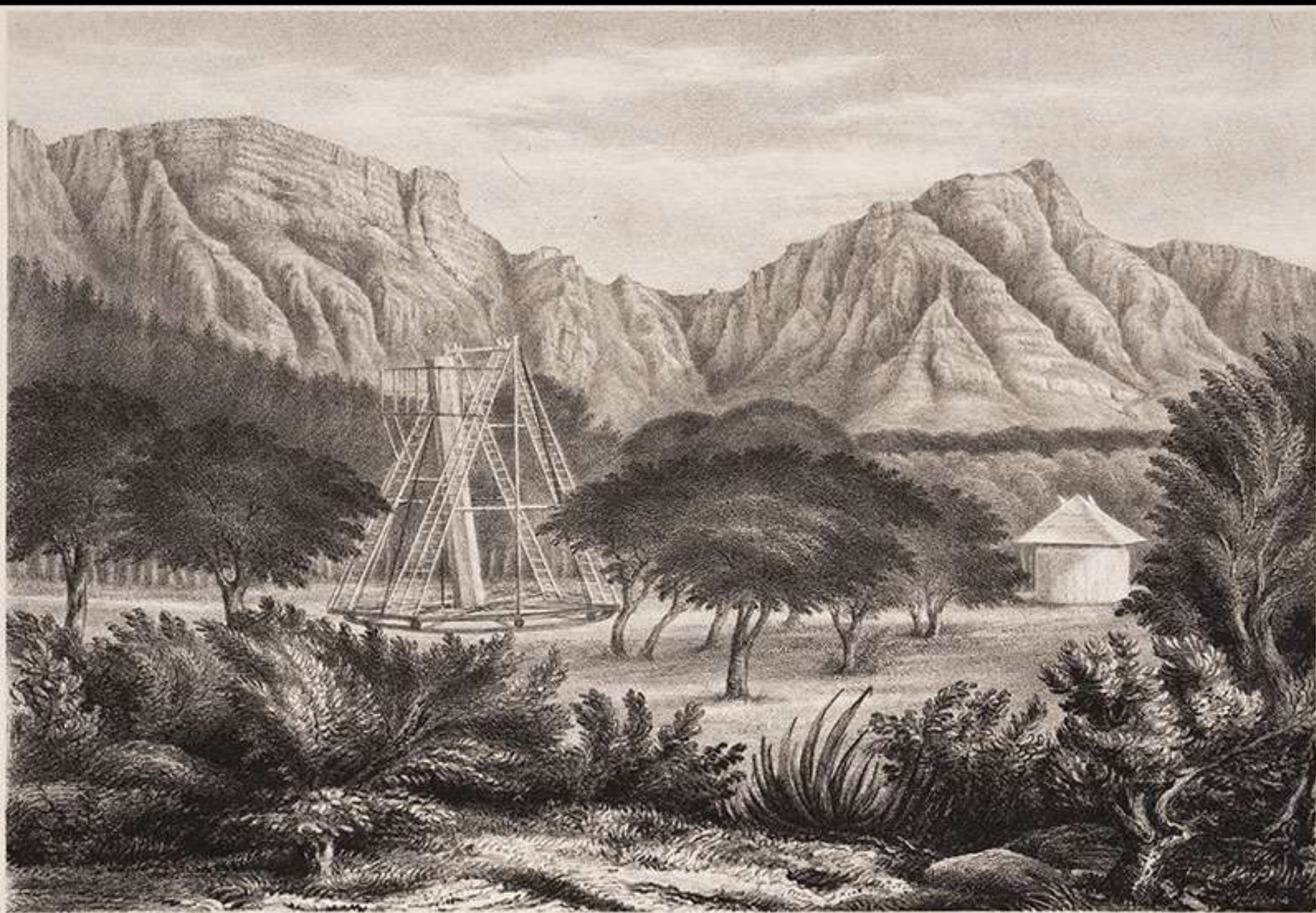
Thomas Wedgwood was an English photographer and inventor. He is most widely known as an early experimenter in the field of photography. He is the first person known to have thought of creating permanent pictures by capturing camera images on material coated with a light-sensitive chemical.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR7Nq8x_kEY







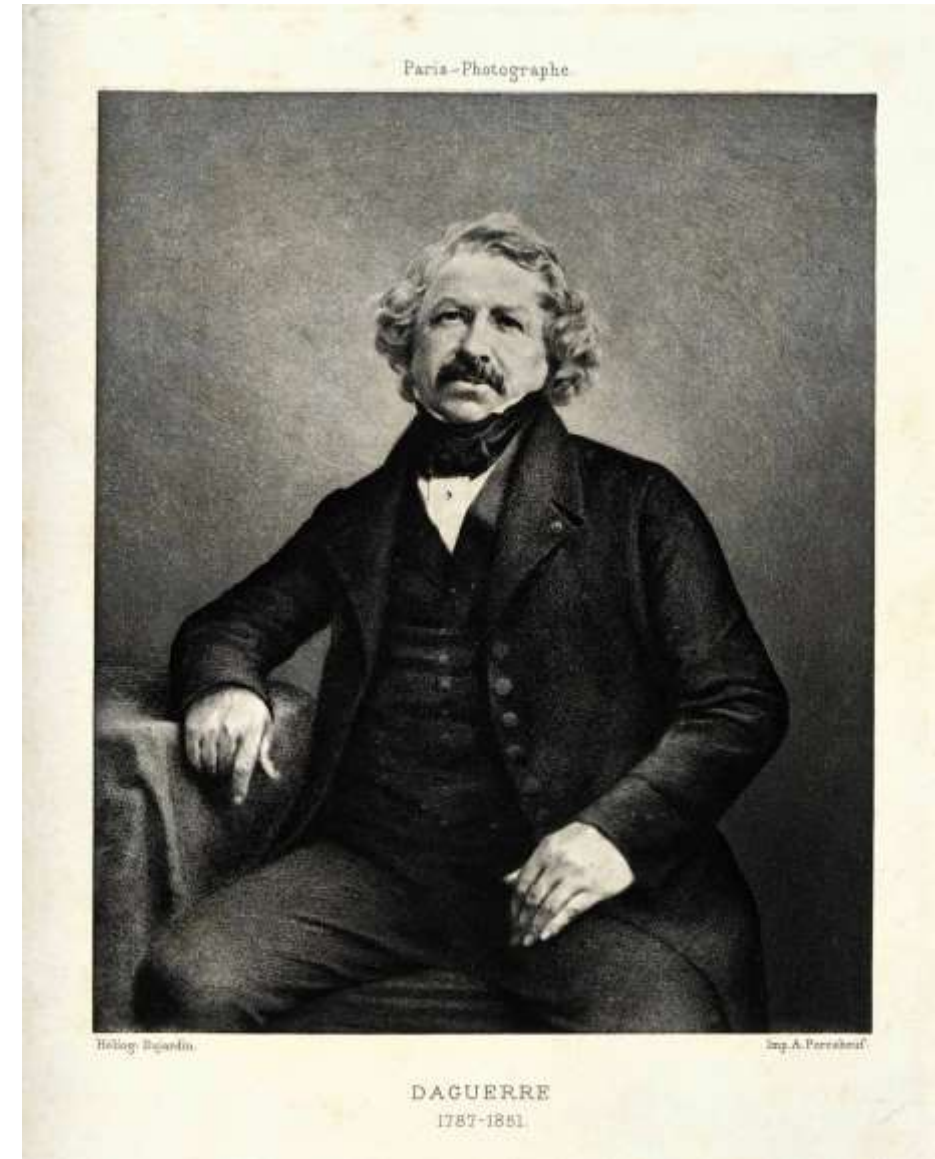


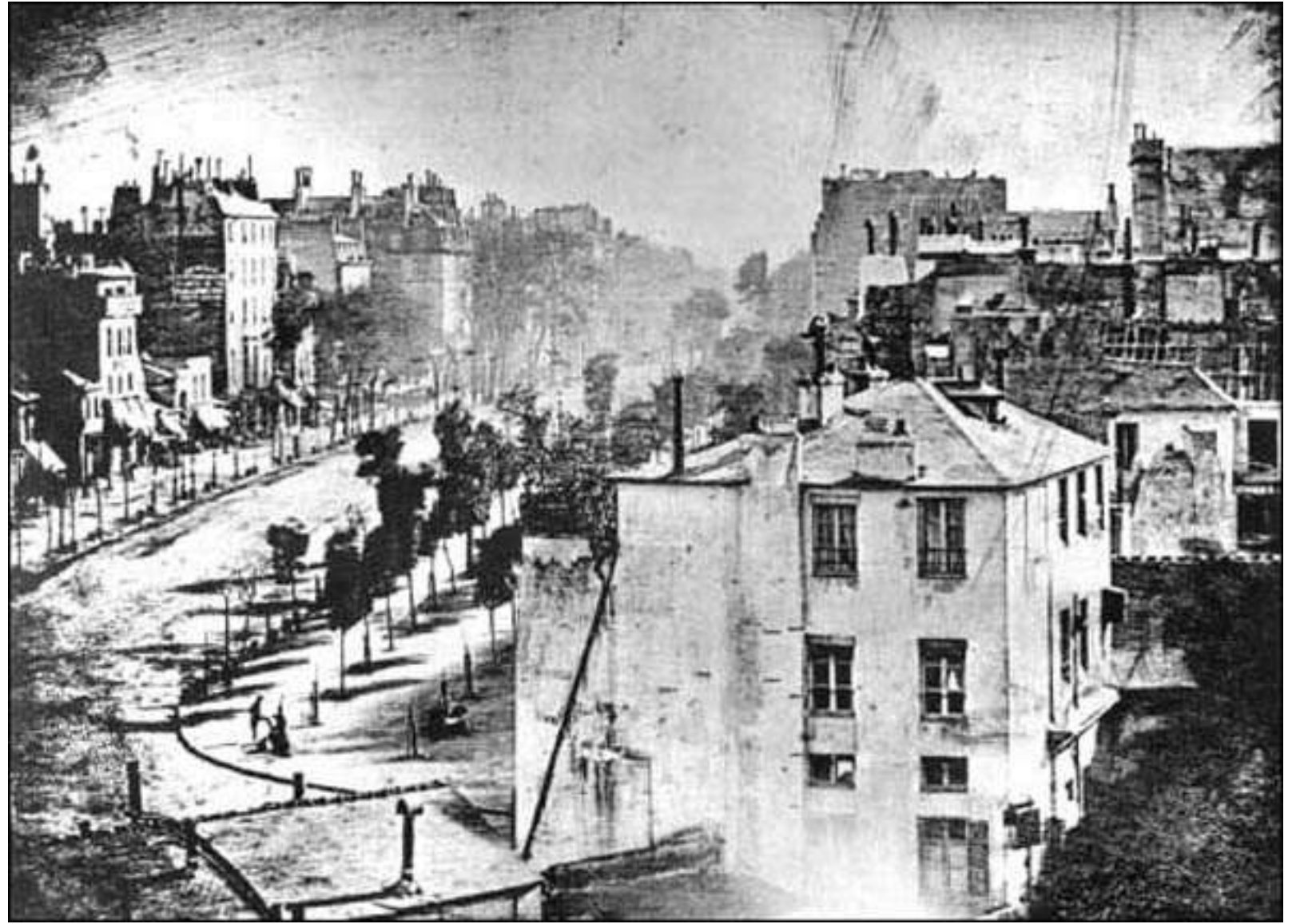
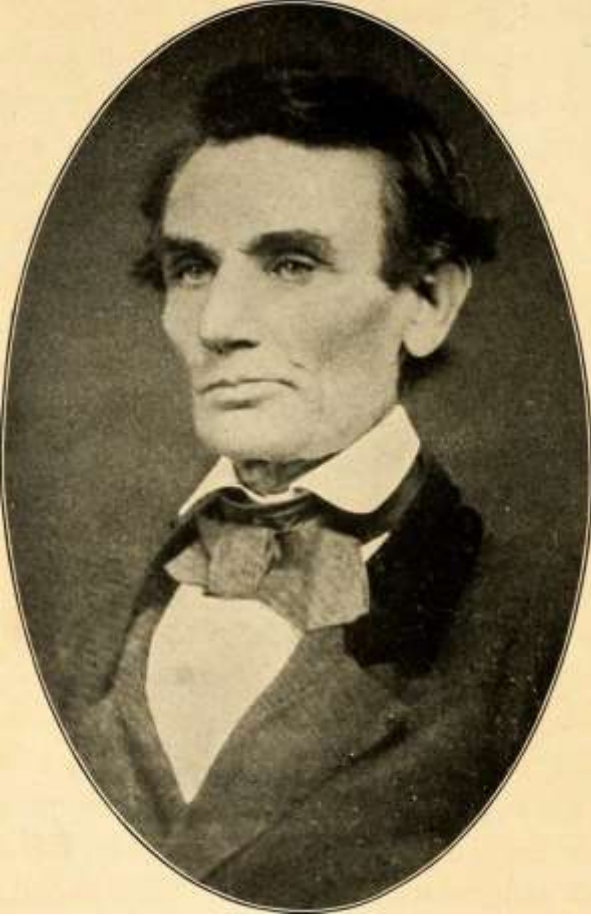
Louis Daguerre (1787-1851)

Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre was a French artist and photographer, recognized for his invention of the eponymous daguerreotype process of photography. He became known as one of the fathers of photography.

French painter and physicist who invented the first practical process of photography, known as the daguerreotype. Though the first permanent photograph from nature was made in 1826/27 by Nicéphore Niépce of France, it was of poor quality and required about eight hours' exposure time. The process that Daguerre developed required only 20 to 30 minutes.

<https://libguides.spsd.org/photohistory/daguerre>







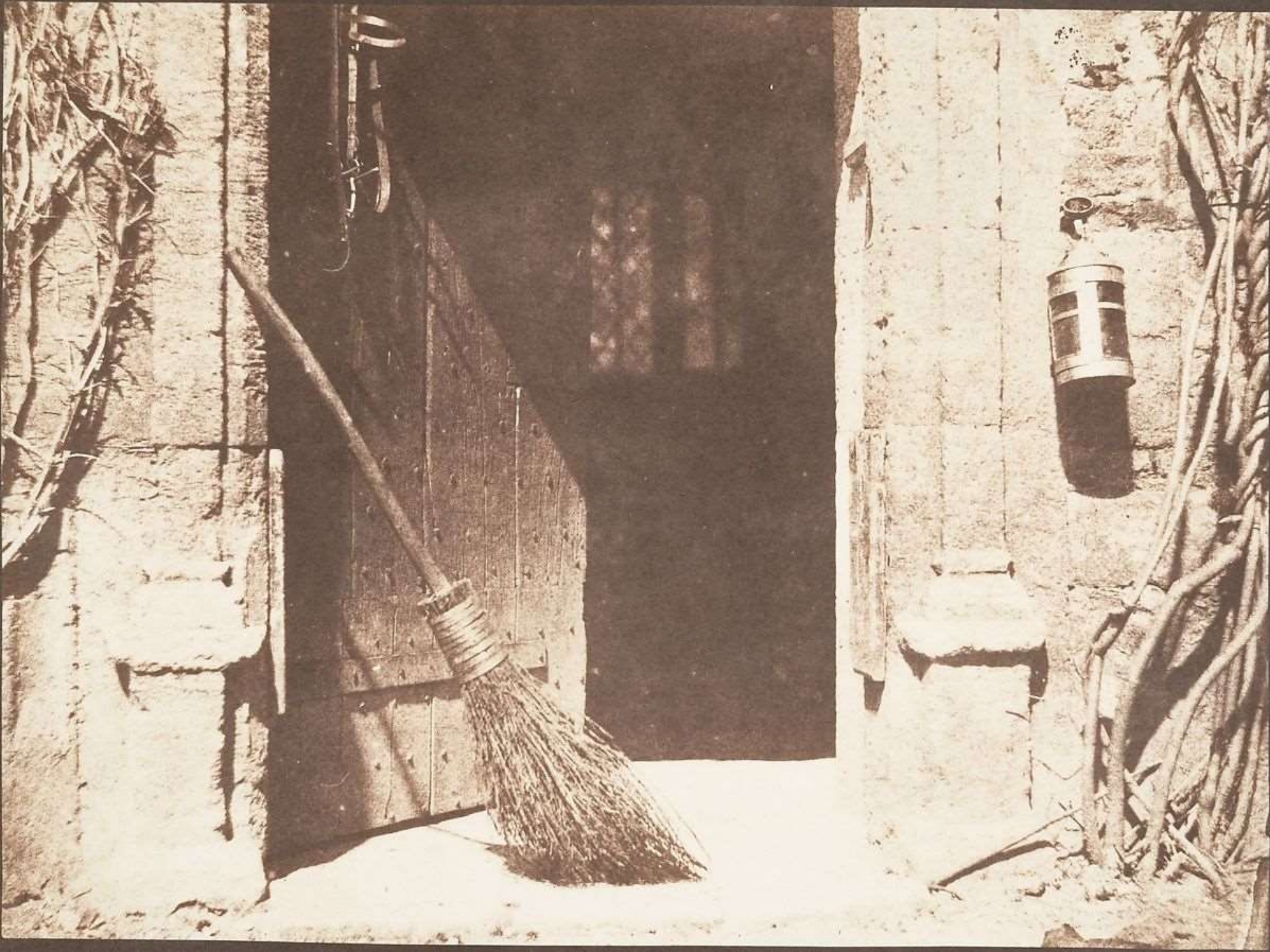
William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877)

William Henry Fox Talbot FRS FRSE FRAS was an English scientist, inventor and photography pioneer who invented the salted paper and calotype processes, precursors to photographic processes of the later 19th and 20th centuries.

<https://www.sfmoma.org/watch/sun-pictures-henry-fox-talbot-and-first-photographs/>

<https://libguides.spsd.org/photohistory/talbot>







South Terrace - Laycock Abbey - Wiltshire



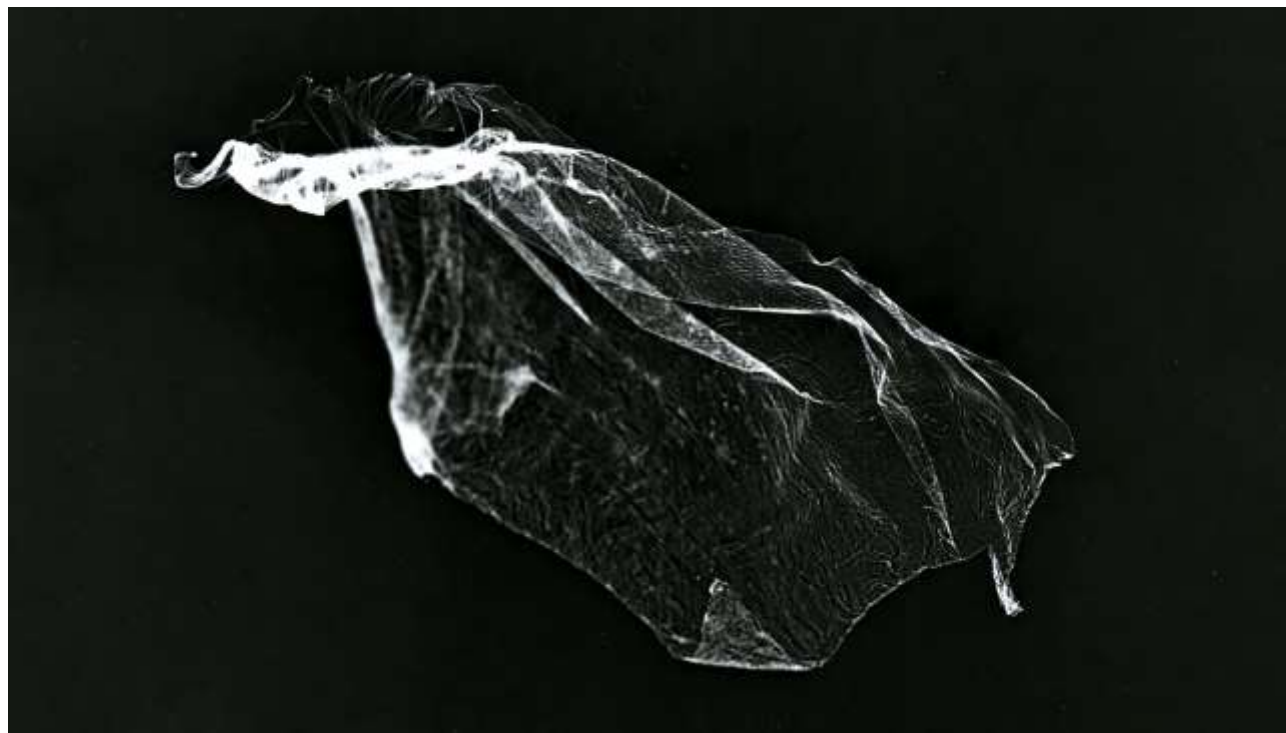
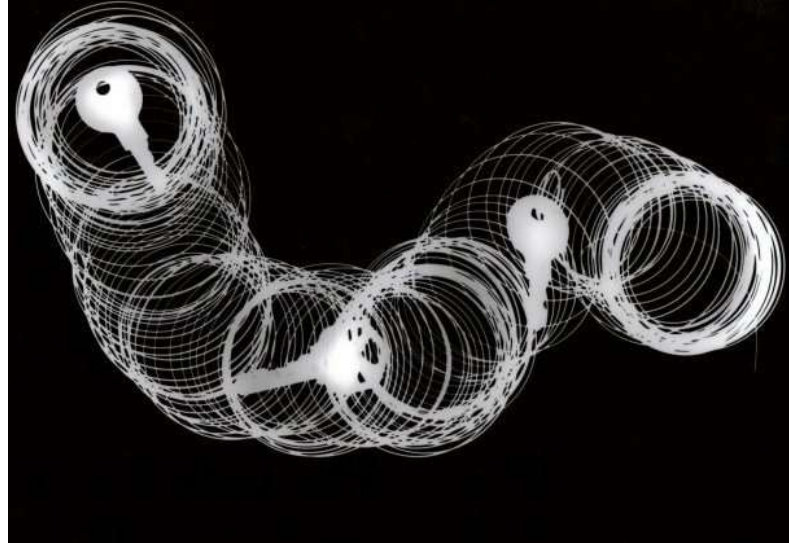
D'après Nature

Photogram

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 for a shorter time or through transparent or semi-transparent objects appear grey, while fully exposed areas are black in the final print.

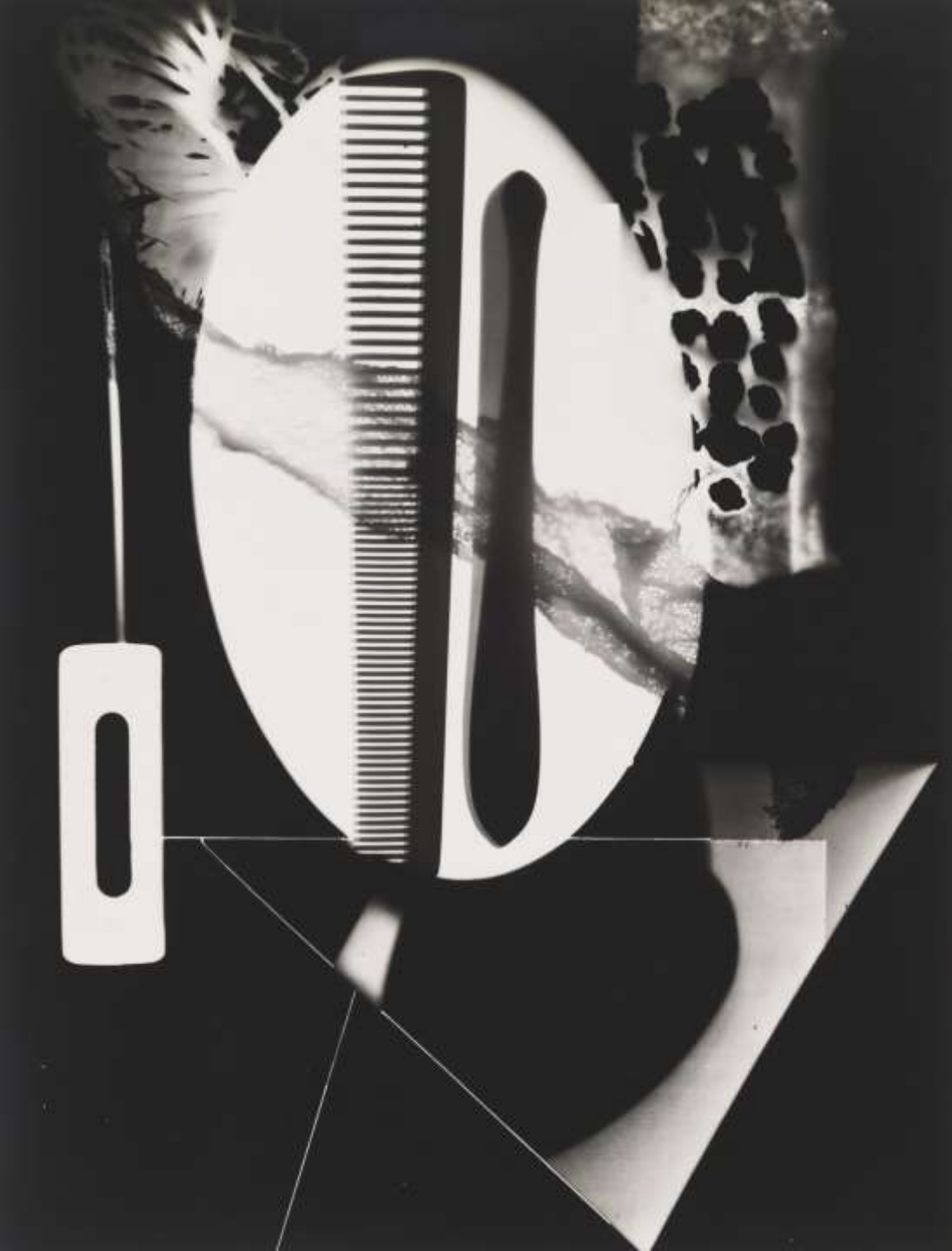
The technique is sometimes called **cameraless photography**. It was used by [Man Ray](#) in his exploration of [rayographs](#). Other artists who have experimented with the technique include [László Moholy-Nagy](#), [Christian Schad](#) (who called them "Schadographs"), [Imogen Cunningham](#) and [Pablo Picasso](#).



Man Ray (Rayograph)

Man Ray began making photographs in the 1920s, in the midst of the Dada movement. Through an accident in the darkroom, he soon discovered a new means of creating photos without a camera. Meet the artist who committed “crimes against chemistry and photography,” as he described it, and produced some of the most memorable and iconic pictures of his time.

- <https://www.sfmoma.org/watch/crimes-against-photography-man-ray-and-rayograph/>





Rauschenburg



László Moholy-Nagy (1894-1946)



László Moholy-Nagy was one of the Bauhaus' most influential teachers; his photographic skills, as well as his writing on the subject, helped to secure the medium's integral place in modern art.

One of Moholy-Nagy's most notable contributions was his extensive exploration—from 1922 through 1943—of the aesthetic possibilities of the photogram (he coined the term). These ghostly traces of objects placed on photographic paper during exposure are part of a prolific legacy that included painting, sculpture and stage design.

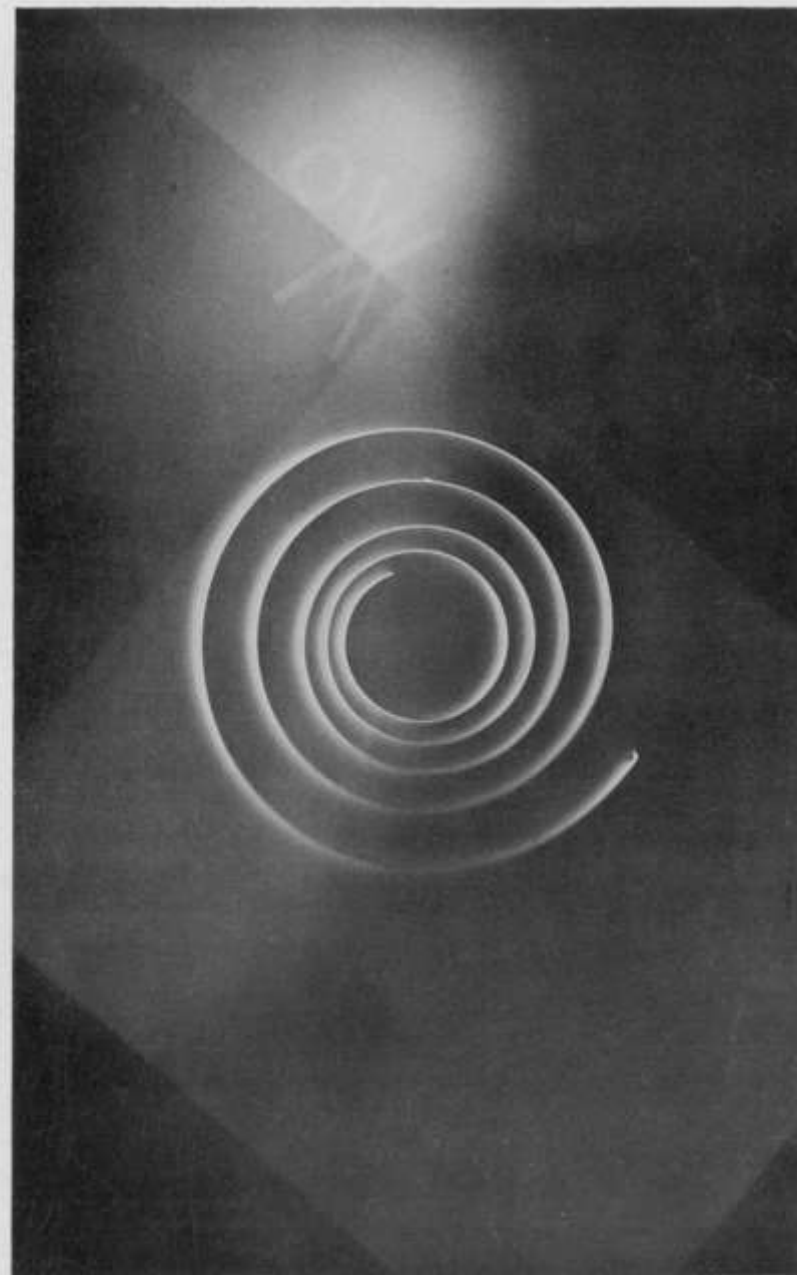
Moholy-Nagy's photograms have become emblematic of the medium, though they have yet to be fully critically explored.

<https://www.hauserwirth.com/ursula/24702-laszlo-moholy-nagy-proto-conceptual-artist/>

BERLIN:
MOHOLY-NAGY



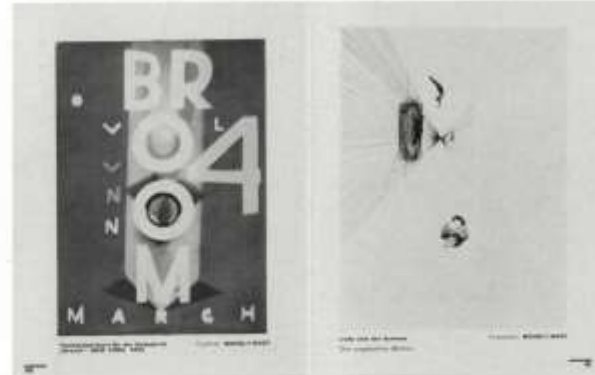
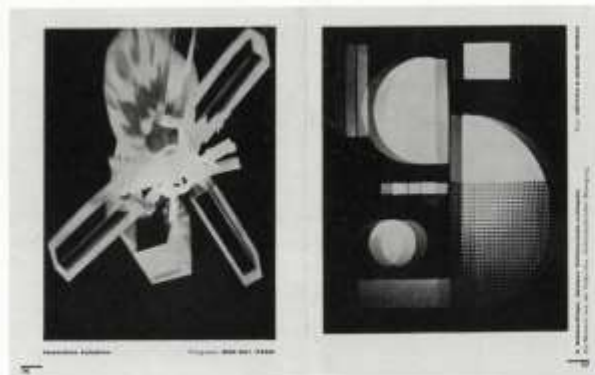
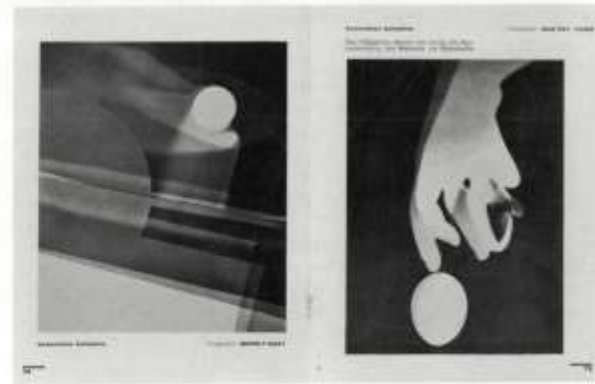
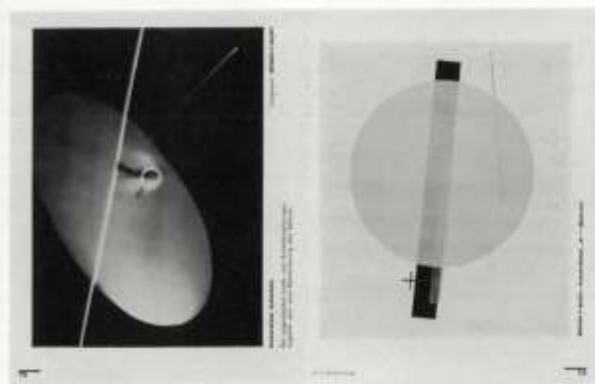
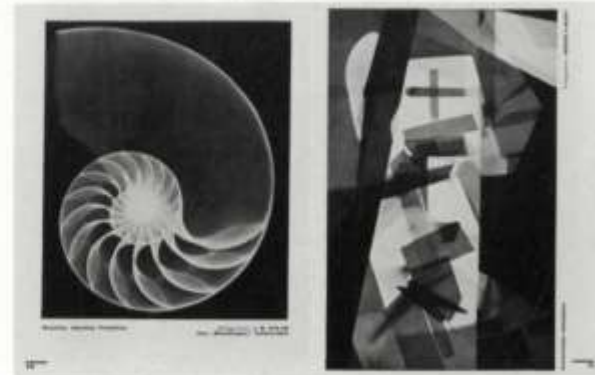
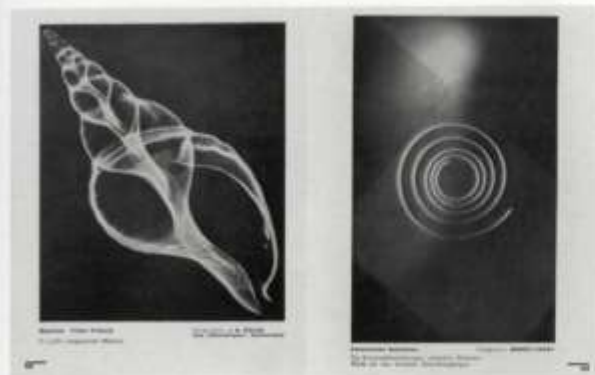
Die bei Montage und Fotogramm dargestellten
Stücke zeigen eine eigenartige Harmonie:
schwere, ganz geometrische Motive.
Von Schweren ist ein solches Stück, das die
Körper ausstrahlt, nicht die letzte Har-
monie der Welt (unvollständiges Gebilde)
und die sehr moderne der Natur und
Menschheit aus tiefster Menschlichkeit. Ge-
wisse Dinge sind in jeder Hinsicht ein
Schönheitsgefühl (in der Natur und Menschheit).



Kameralose Aufnahme

Fotogramm: MOHOLY-NAGY

Die Kontrastbeziehungen zwischen Schwarz-
Weiß mit den feinsten Grauübergängen.

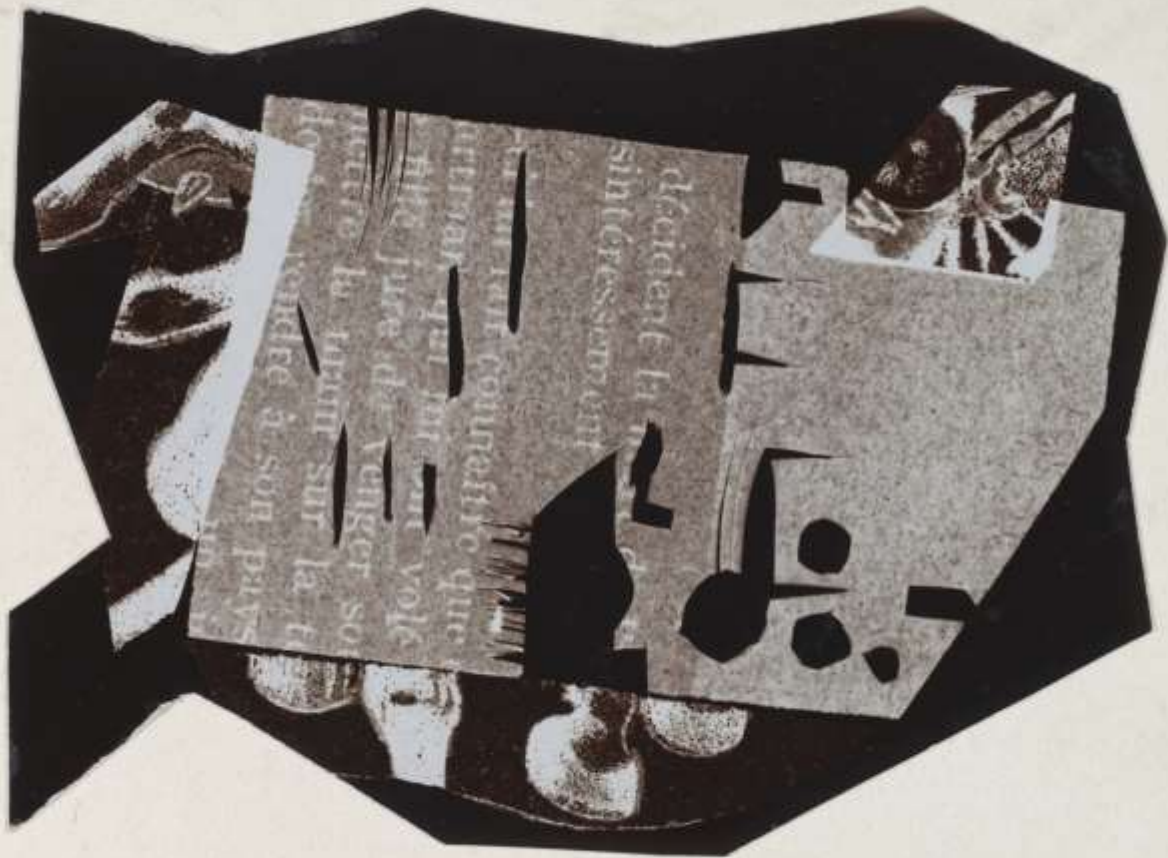


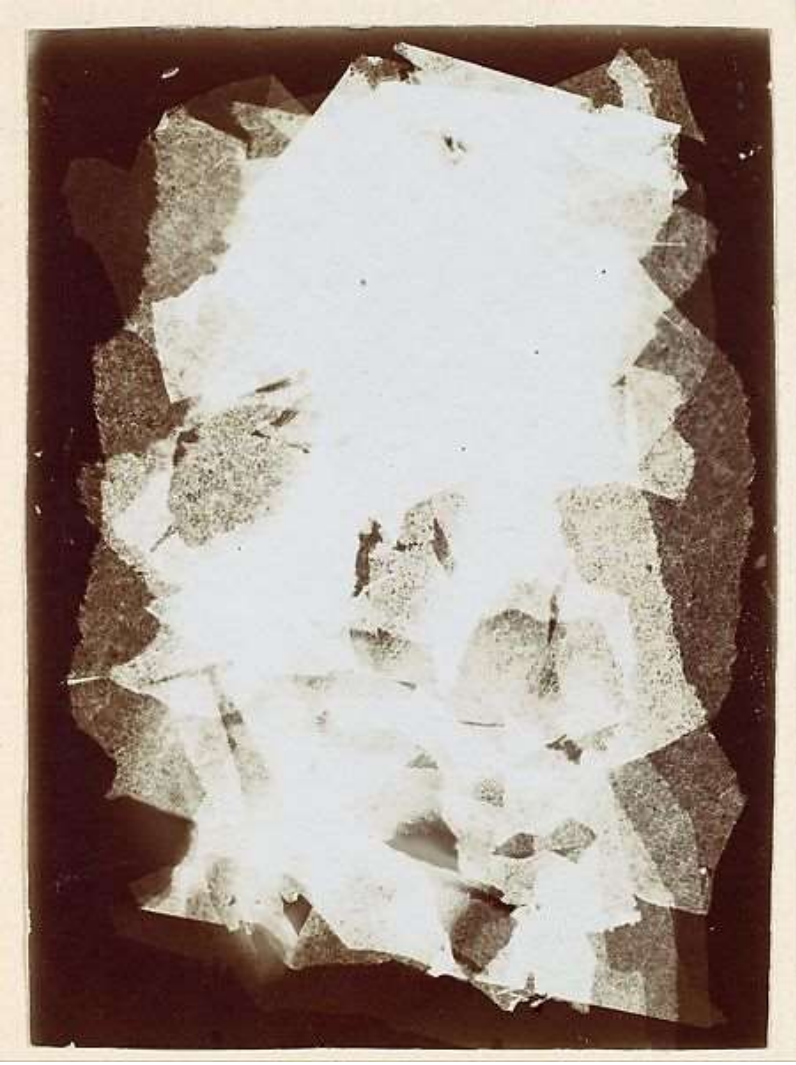
Christian Schad (1894-1982)

Christian Schad was a German painter and photographer. He was associated with the [Dada](#) and the [New Objectivity](#) movements. Considered as a group, Schad's portraits form an extraordinary record of life in Vienna and Berlin in the years following [World War I](#).

<https://smarthistory.org/christian-schad-self-portrait/> (painting)







Rosa Rolanda (1895-1970)

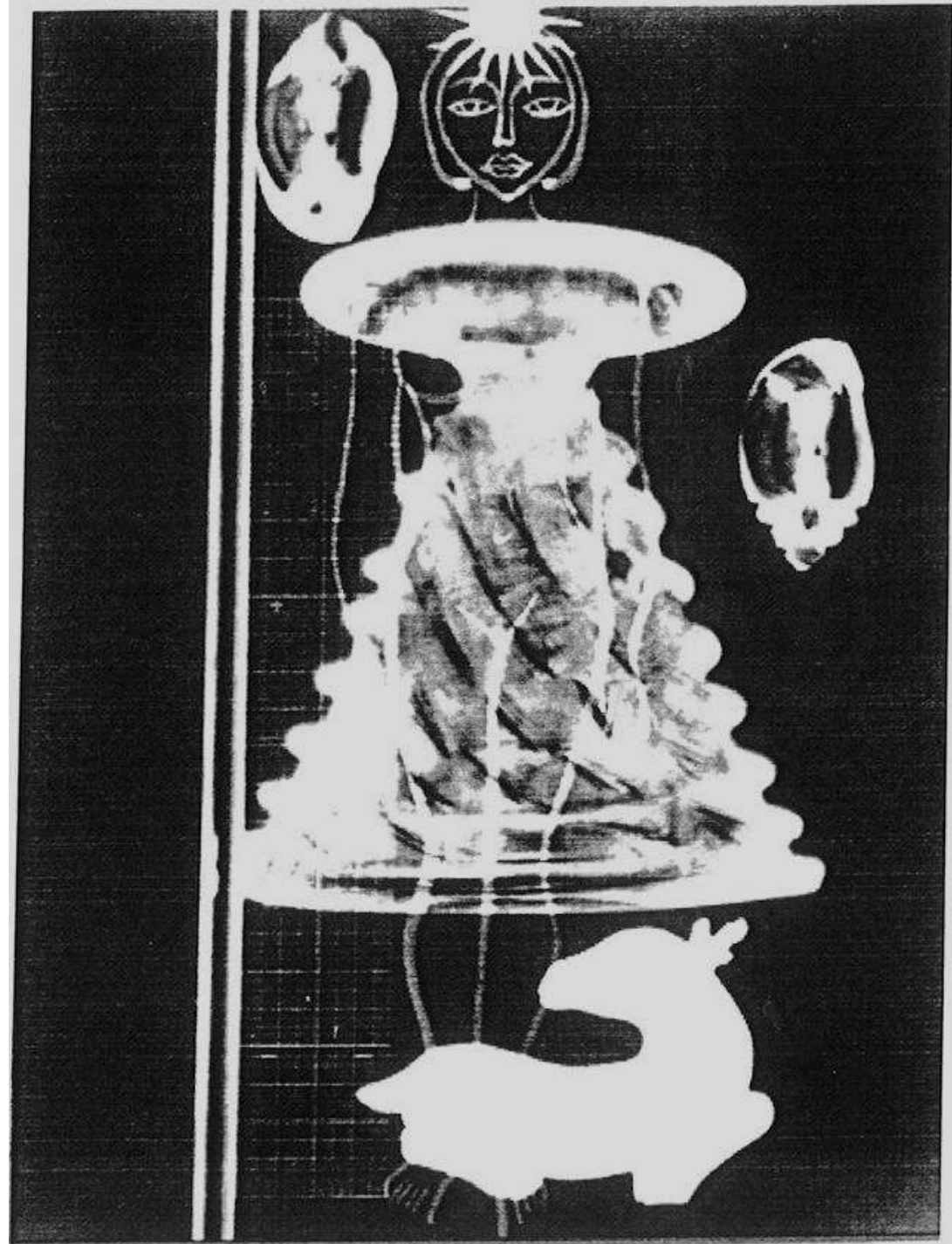


Rosa Rolanda was an American multidisciplinary artist, dancer, and choreographer.

Rosemonde Cowan [Rosa Rolanda] was born on September 6, 1895 in the Los Angeles area (Azusa), California. Her father, Henry Charles Cowan, was an engineer and her mother, Guadalupe Ruelas, was a descendant of Mexican parents. She had a younger sister Mae. Rolanda excelled in dance and in 1916, a year after high school graduation, she was chosen as one of six students out of 300 to go to New York and perform as the Morgan Dancers. She acted on Broadway, performed at the Globe Theatre as part of the "The Rose Girl" show, joined the cast of the Music Box Revue, and went on to tour with the Ziegfeld Follies in Europe. Rolando was a contemporary of Isadora Duncan.

In 1923 in New York, she met Miguel Covarrubias (1904-1957), a caricaturist, illustrator and painter who earned high acclaim as an illustrator for *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Collier's* and *Vogue*. They traveled to Cuba, China, Bali, the Philippines, throughout Europe and North Africa during the late 1920s. A trip to Paris in 1926, is where Rolanda's interest in painting began. The couple married in 1930, spent the summer traveling with the screen actress Claudette Colbert followed by nine months in Bali where Rolando took hundreds of photographs. They returned to Southeast Asia (Java, Bali, India, Vietnam) in 1933, Covarrubias as a Guggenheim Fellow and Rosa as a photographer whose work would become part of Miguel's book, *Island of Bali*.

<http://www.soodiebeasley.com/2017/09/06/happy-birthday-rosa-rolanda-1895-1970/>





Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976)

Imogen Cunningham was an American photographer known for her [botanical photography](#), [nudes](#), and industrial landscapes. Cunningham was a member of the California-based [Group f/64](#), known for its dedication to the sharp-focus rendition of simple subjects.

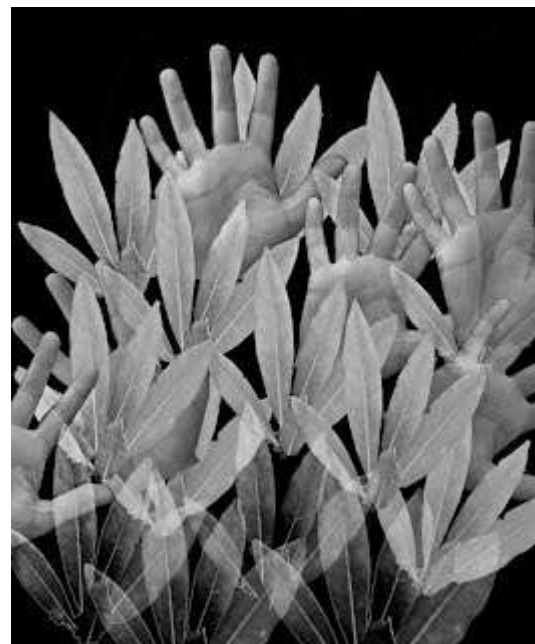
https://www.sfmoma.org/artist/imogen_cunningham/

<https://ruthasawa.com/exhibition/imogen-cunningham-a-retrospective/>

<https://www.sfmoma.org/watch/imogen-cunningham-on-the-tonight-show-with-johnny-carson/>







Luminogram

A **luminogram** is an image, usually made with an artistic purpose, created by exposure of [photosensitive](#) materials to light without the intervention of an object,

The luminogram is a variation on the [photogram](#), made in the darkroom directly on photosensitive paper and chemically developed and fixed normally.

While the photogram employs the shadows of objects, in the luminogram the light is modulated by varying the intensity through distance from the photosensitive surface, by the power or shape of the light source, or tempered by filters or gels, or by moving the light, often a low-powered torch (flashlight). The paper can itself be shaped to create the desired effects in the final image.

The photography theorist and practitioner of the luminogram [Gottfried Jäger](#) describes this as "the result of pure light design; the rudimentary expression of an interaction of light and photosensitive material... a kind of self representation of light."

Michael Jackson(not that one)

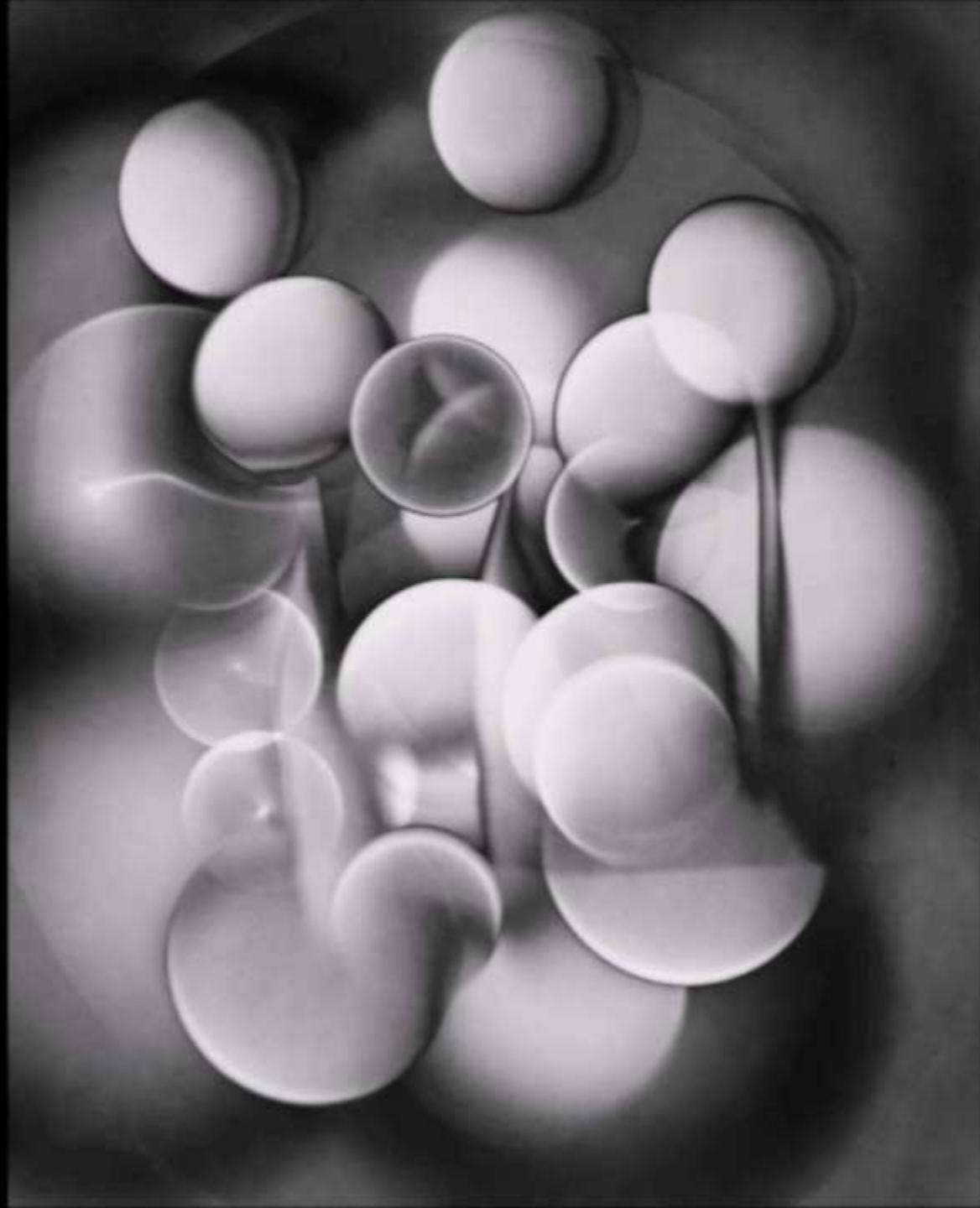
Michael Jackson (b.1966) is an experimental photographer based in North Dorset, England. He studied art at West Dean College in Sussex, then apprenticed under landscape painter Christopher W Baker and later discovered his passion for photography. He moved away from working with traditional camera techniques in 2015 and is currently progressing the *Luminogram* process into new directions in which he has become regarded as a leading practitioner. Michael Jackson's Luminograms are a very special piece of photographic art. Not a photograph in itself but a creative medium of its own. Each one is meticulously crafted by Michael in his darkroom. There are many structured stages to go through before the photographic paper can be hand developed and permanently fixed. Once Michael is happy with a finished Luminogram print it's then toned in Selenium, which not only intensifies the prints tonality, but also increases the prints archival quality. Traditional photographic darkroom printing techniques have an unquestionable pedigree when it comes to the life expectancy of a photograph.

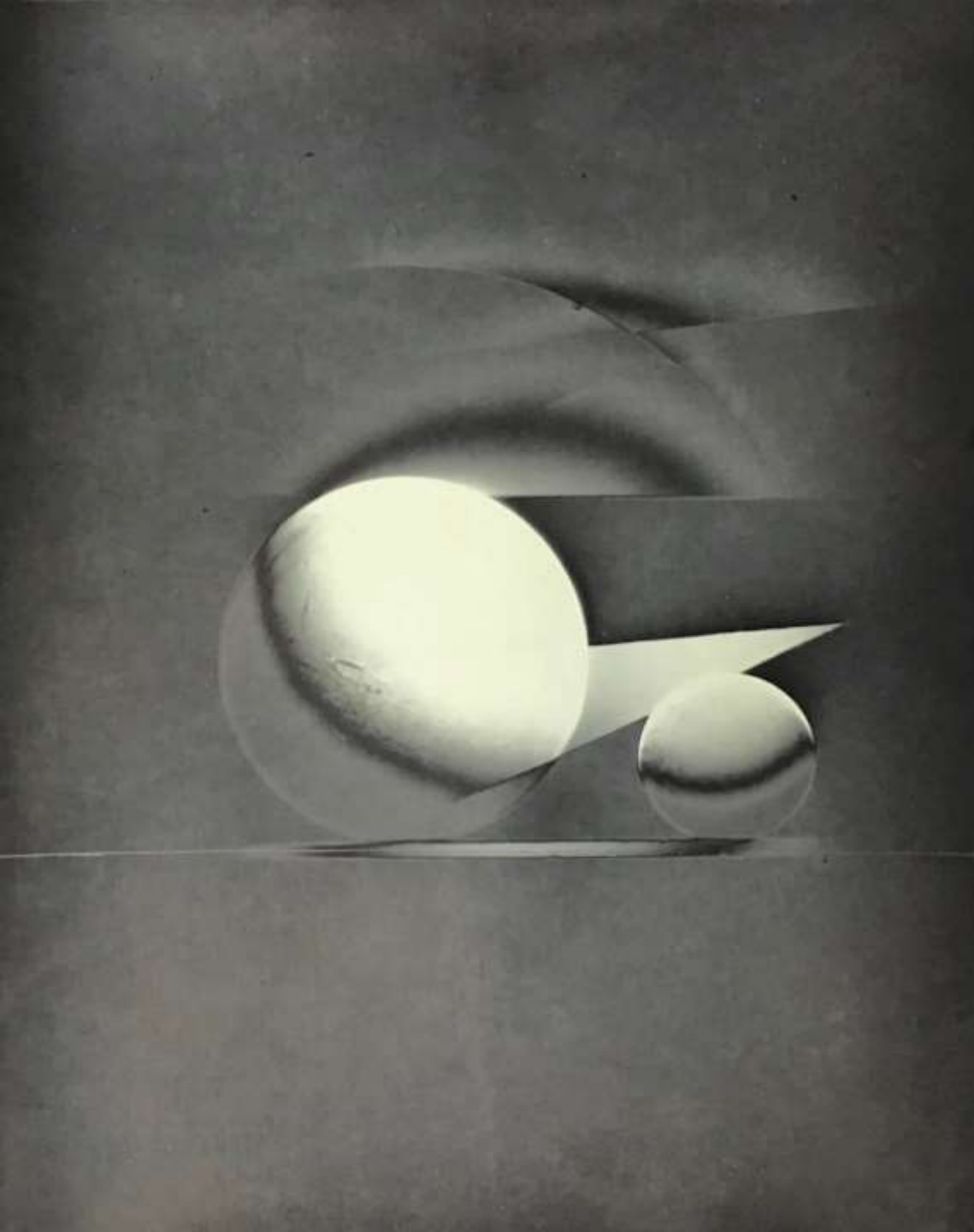
Each Luminogram is unique and only one silver gelatin print is produced of each image.

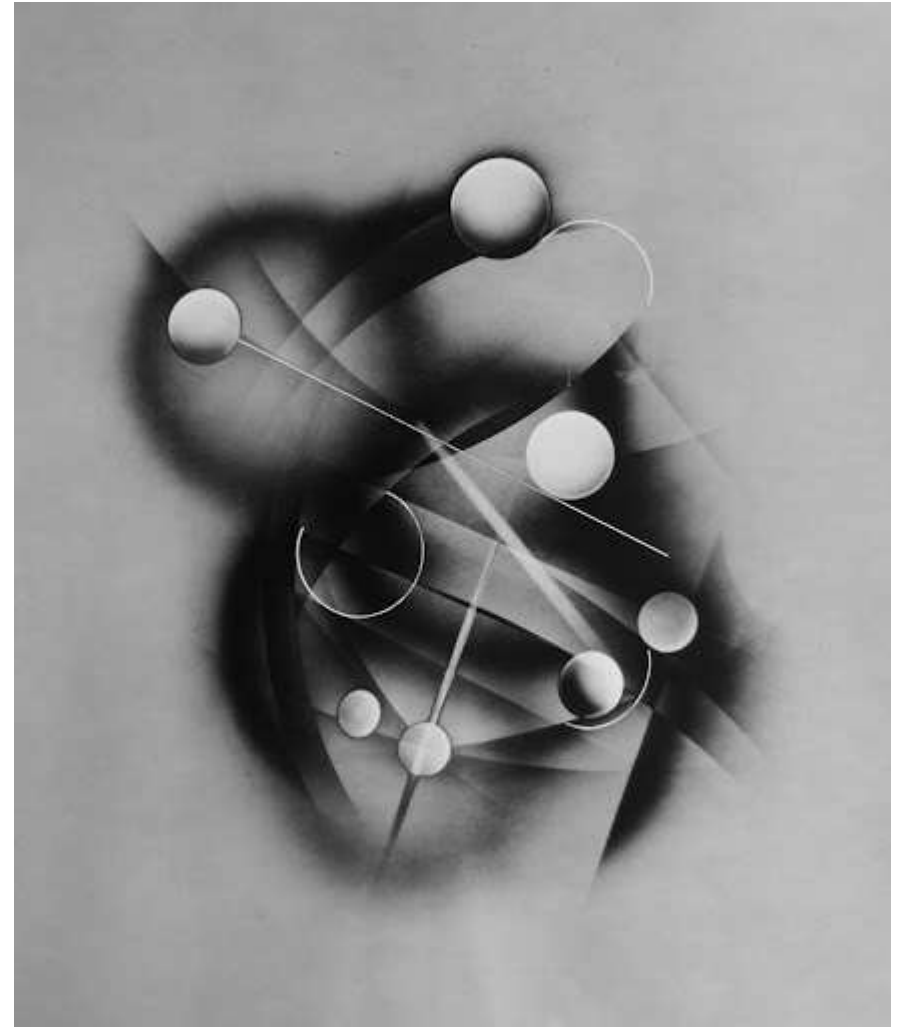
The images reveal themselves with a 3D quality; viewed in the flesh the abstracted surreal forms within the paper come alive to the viewer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5zLkXHrhKE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQkOZi2Gr2g>



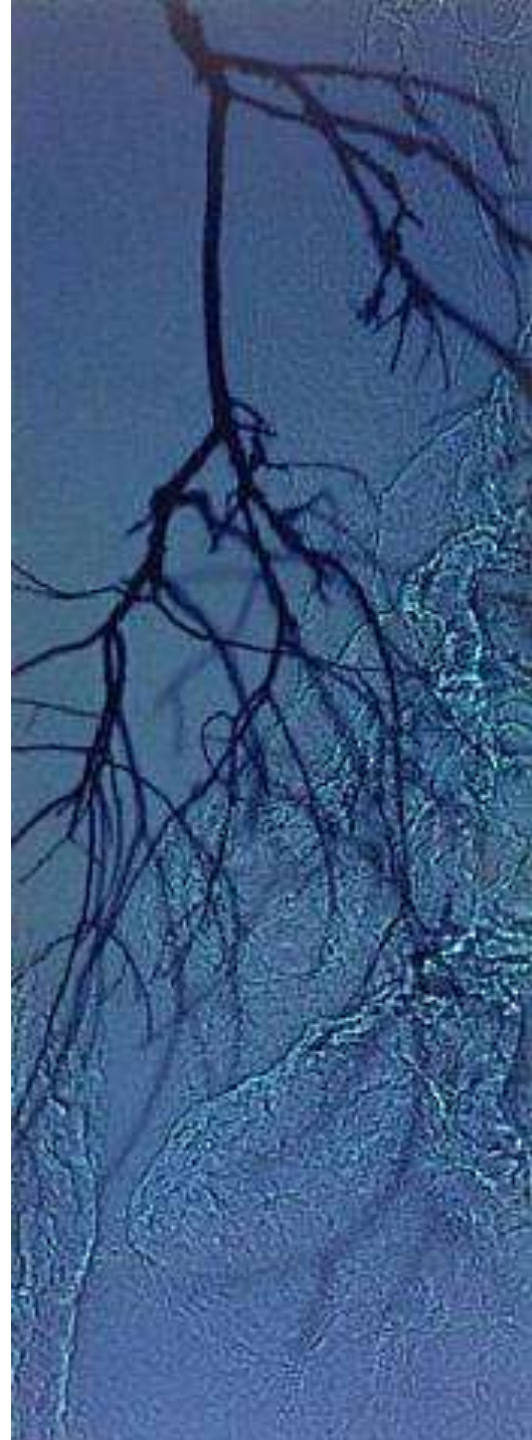




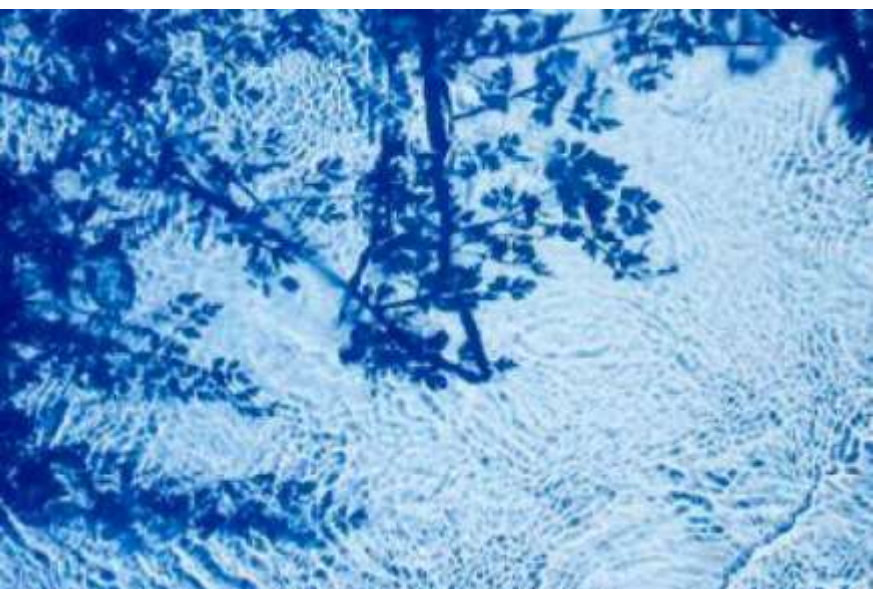
Susan Derges

Much of the work of Susan Derges (born 1955, London) revolves around the creation of visual metaphors exploring the relationship between the self and nature. She endeavors to capture both visible and invisible scientific and natural processes - the physical appearance of sound, the evolution of frogspawn or the reflection of the moon and stars on water. She is best known for her pioneering technique of capturing the movement of water by immersing photographic paper directly into rivers or shorelines. Recently she has begun working in the studio combining analog and digital techniques to create new forms and perspectives hitherto impossible to capture. Her practice reflects the work of the earliest pioneers of photography but is also contemporary in its experimentation and awareness of both conceptual and environmental issues.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz5A4qCfm3s>







Floris Neusüss (1927-2020)

At Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, England, Floris Neusüss reveals his preparations to make a picture without a camera - a 'photogram' - of the window that formed the subject of William Henry Fox Talbot's first photographic negative, made there in 1835. In the Abbey's grounds Neusüss also demonstrates the creation of 'cyanotype' photograms using fern leaves, recreating the methods of the very first photographs.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/c/camera-less-photography-artists/>







Pierre Cordier

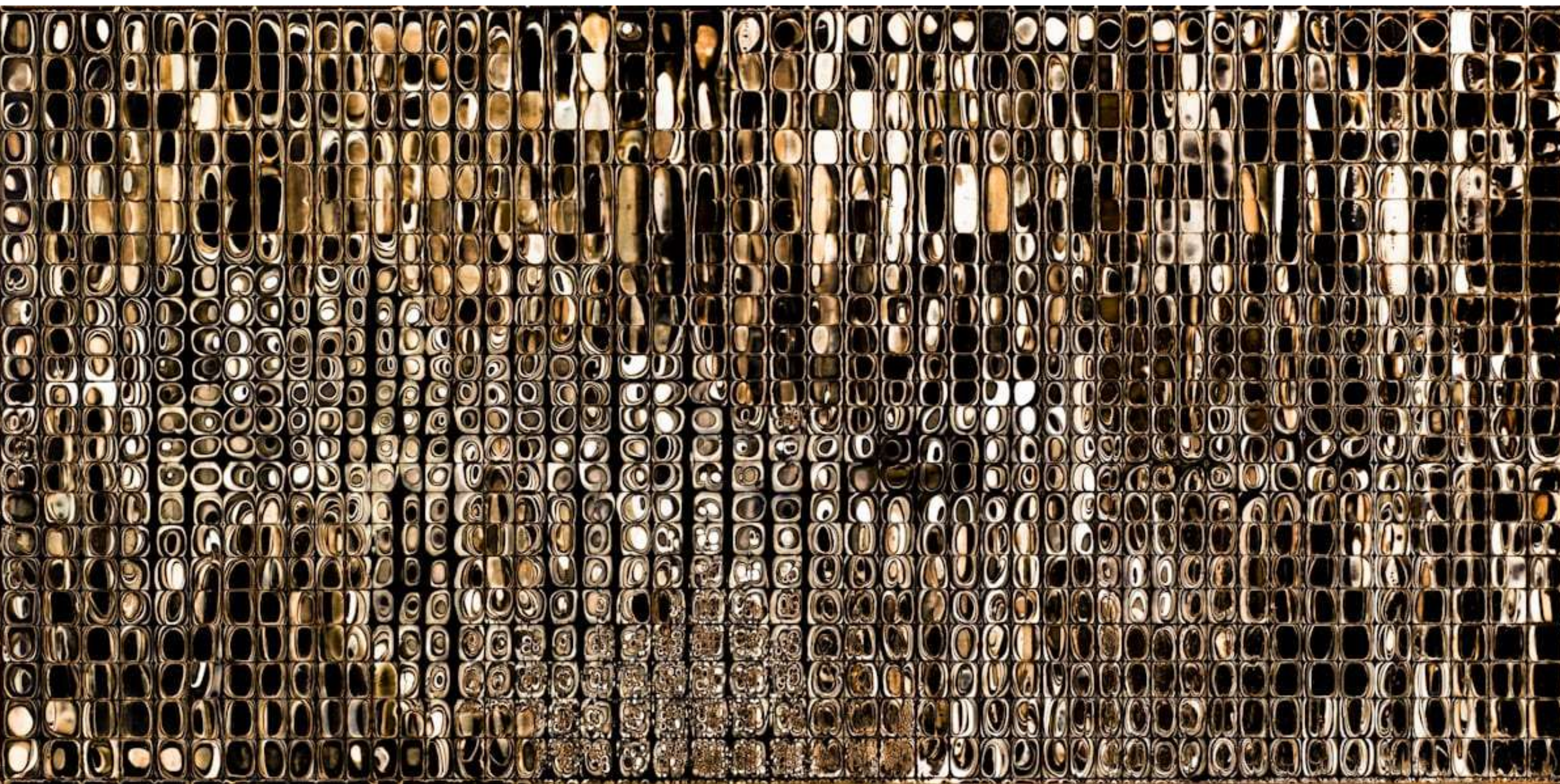
Pierre Cordier (born Brussels, Belgium, 1933) discovered the 'chemigram' process in 1956. Over many years, he has explored the potential of the chemigram like an experimental scientist.

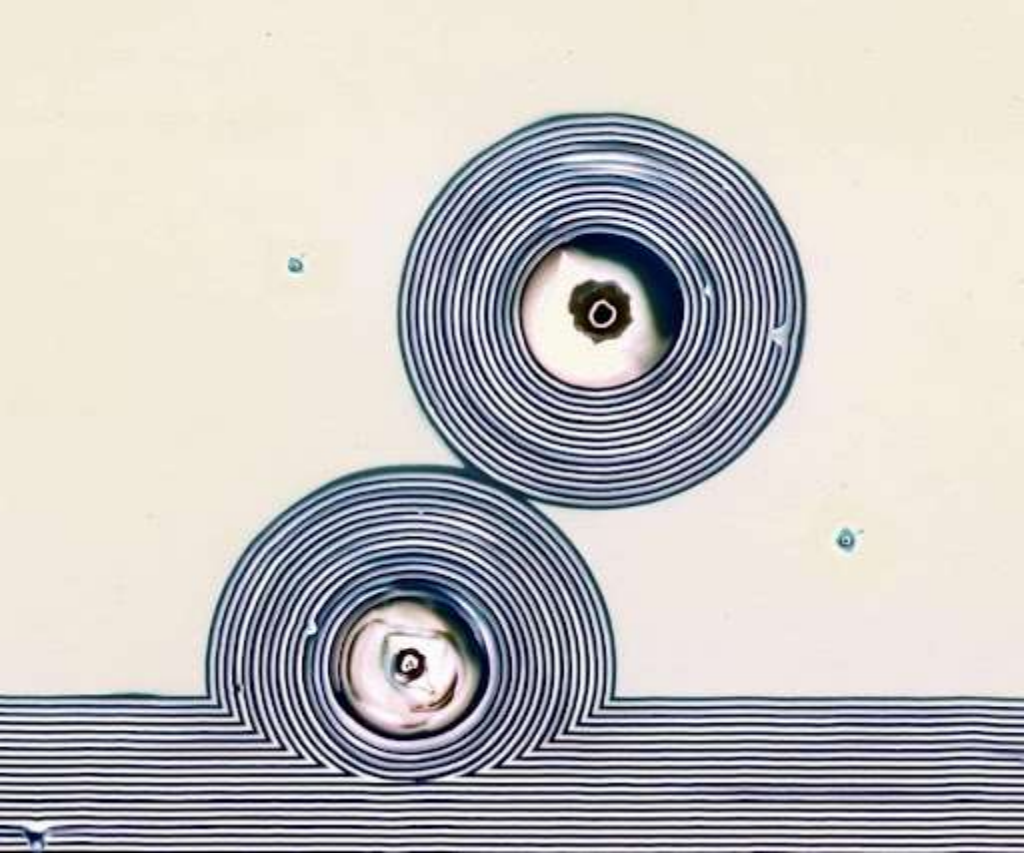
Working more like a painter or printmaker than a photographer, Cordier replaces the canvas or printing plate with photographic paper. He applies photographic developer to the paper to create dark areas and fixer for lighter tones. Further changes to shape and pattern are made by 'localising' products such as varnish, wax, glue, oil, egg and syrup. These protect the surface of the photographic emulsion or can be incised to create a drawing, graphic motif or written text. Entrancing chemical and physical reactions can then be made by repeatedly dipping the paper in photographic developer and fixer. This method allows him to create images impossible to realise by any other means. The process has become the artwork and his style is his technique.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/c/camera-less-photography-artists/>









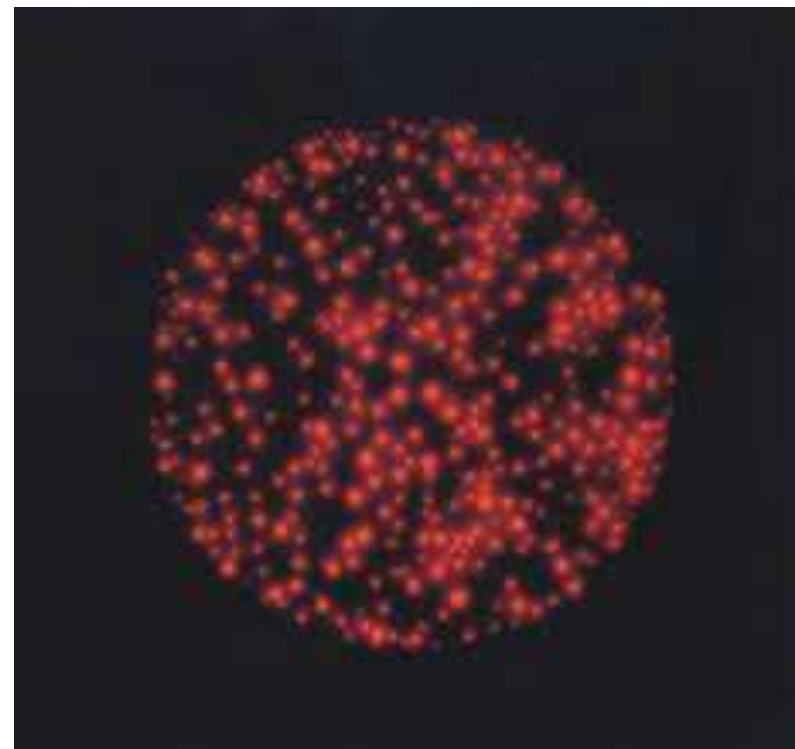
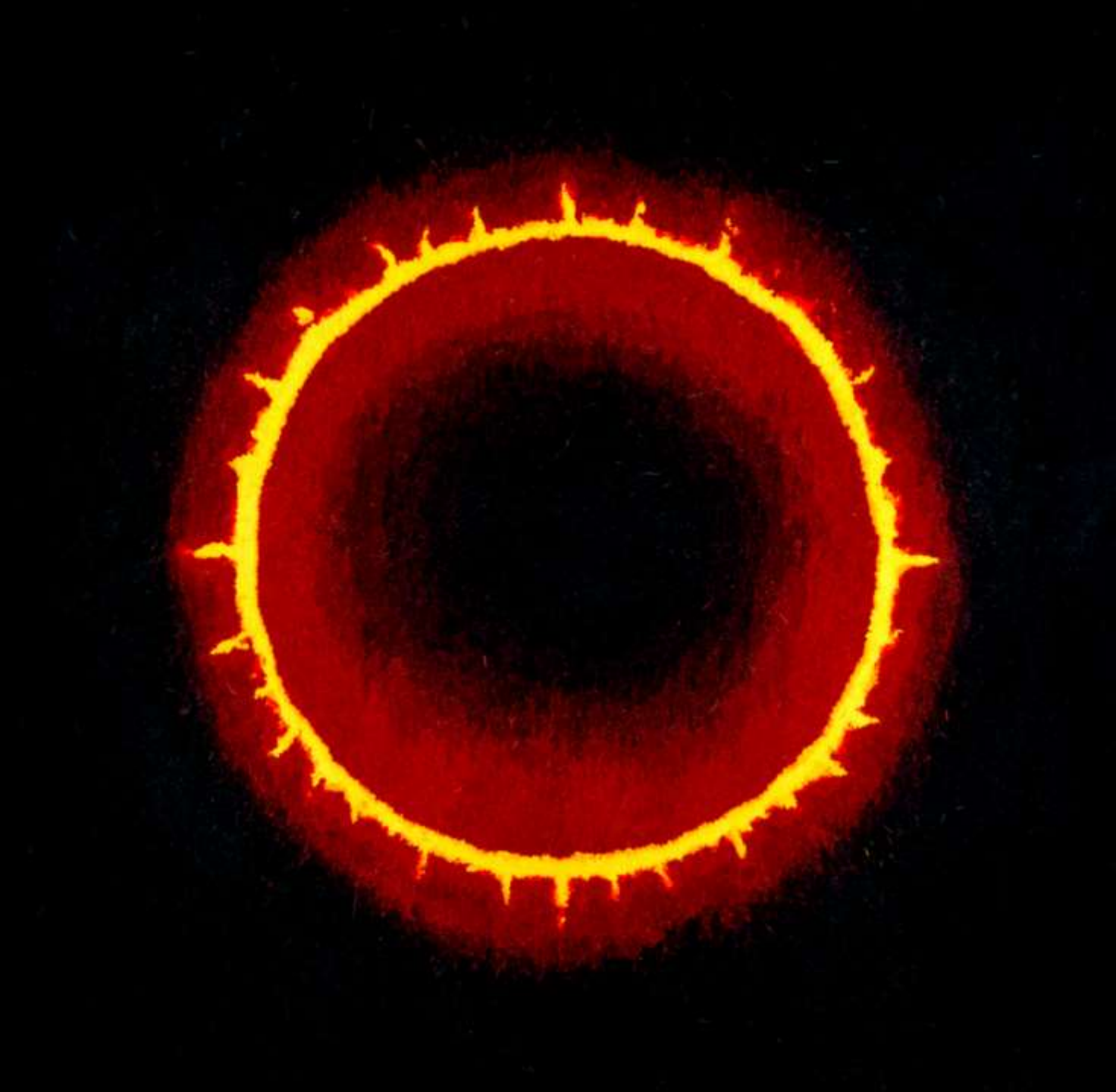
Gary Fabian Miller

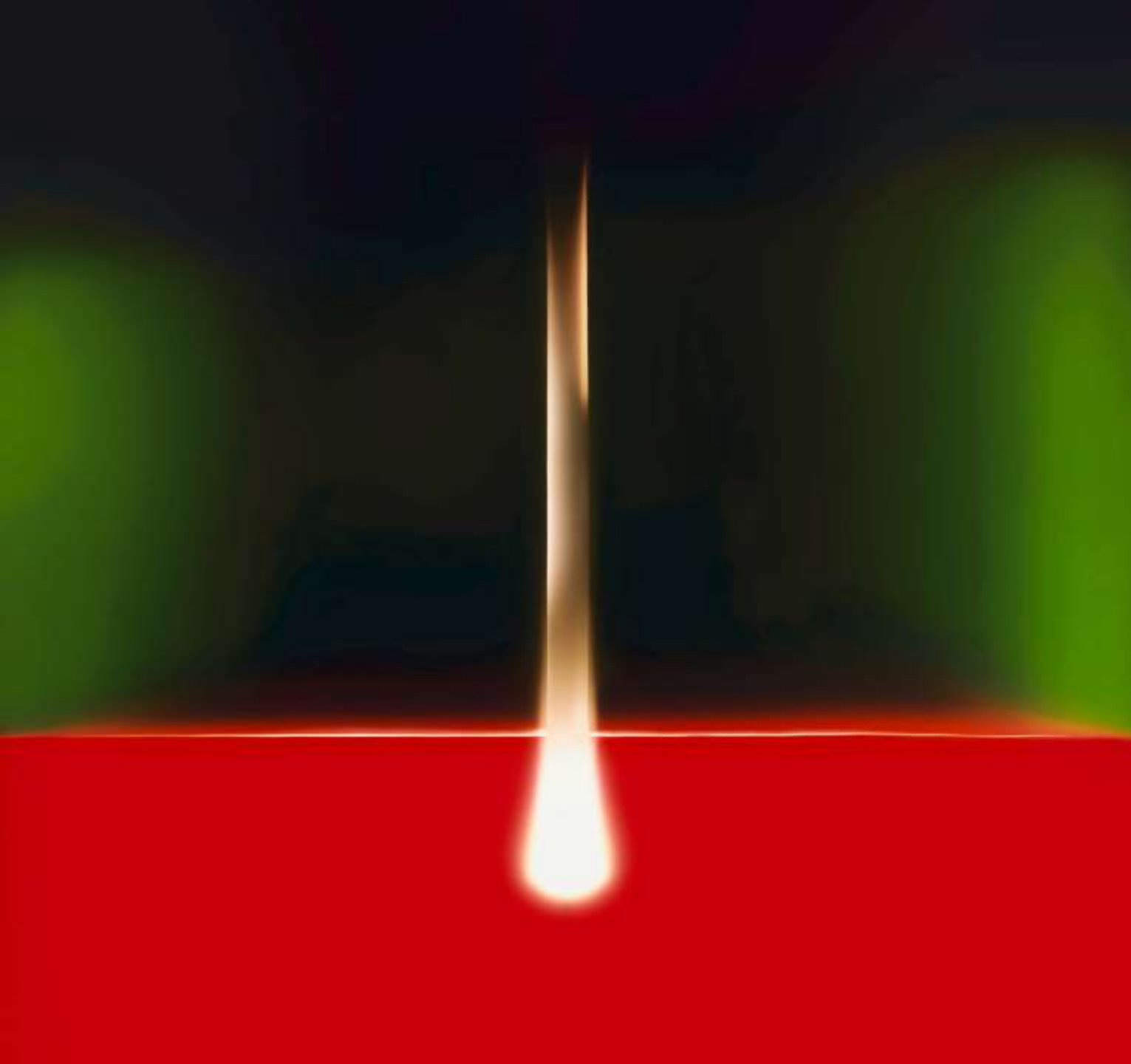
In 1984 Garry Fabian Miller (born Bristol, England, 1957) discovered a method of using a photographic enlarger that allowed a direct translation between plants and the photographic print. Later, in 1992, he turned to making abstract images in the darkroom, using only glass vessels filled with liquids, or cut-paper forms to cast shadows and filter light.

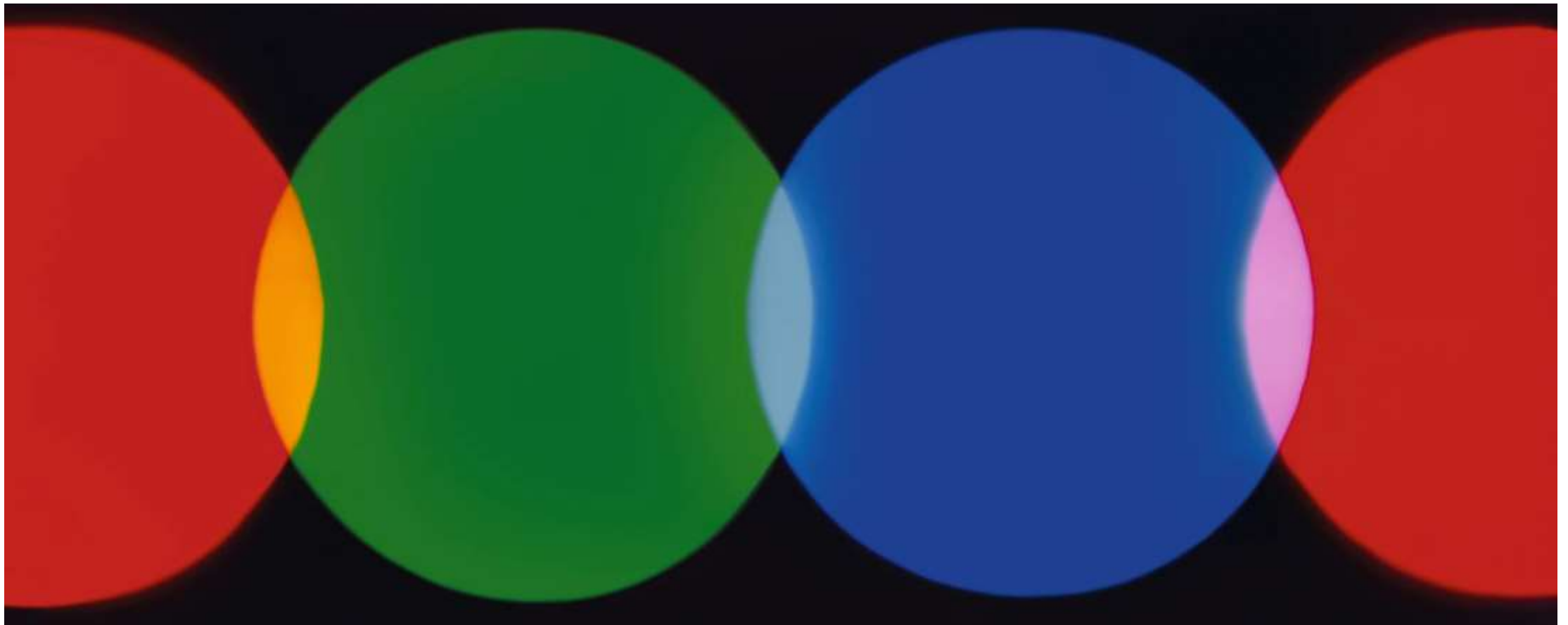
Many of his works explore the cycle of time over a day, month or year, through controlled experiments with varying durations of light exposure. His works are enriched by being seen in sequences that explore and develop a single motif and color-range. Often, the images are conceived as remembered landscapes and natural light phenomena.

At the heart of Fabian Miller's vision is a belief in the contemplative existence of the artist, whose practice and life outside metropolitan culture are intertwined. The works he creates are simple, yet multi-layered - tranquil yet energized.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/c/camera-less-photography-artists/>







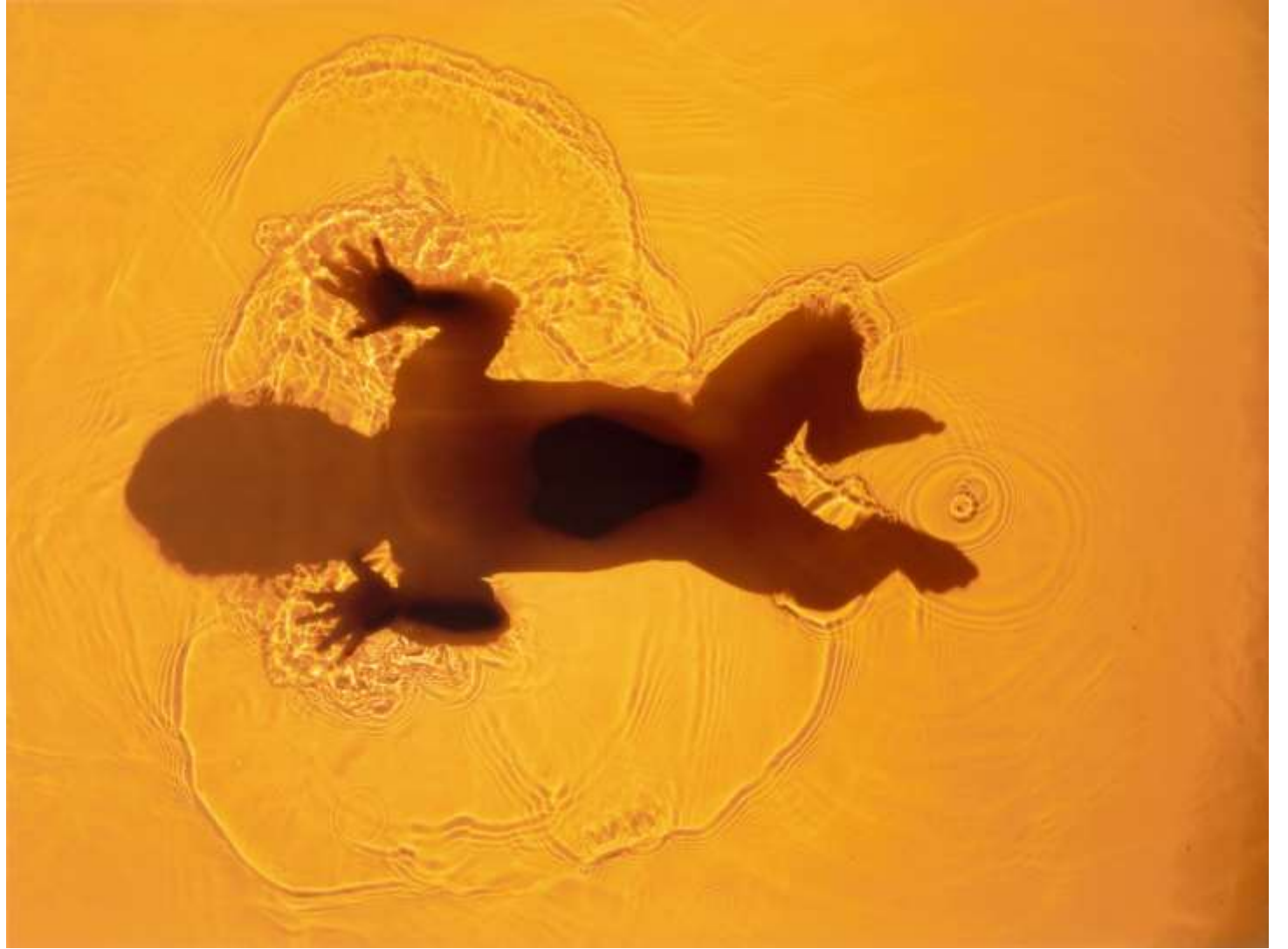
Adam Fuss

Adam Fuss (born London, England, 1961) grew up moving between rural Sussex in the South of England and Australia before settling to work in New York in 1982. He made his first photogram in 1986.

His work concerns the discovery of the unseen: it deals with time and energy rather than material form. As well as mastering numerous historic and modern photographic techniques, Fuss has developed an array of symbolic or emblematic motifs.

Drawing upon his childhood memories and personal experiences, his works are conceived as visual elegies centered around the universal themes of life and death. Through outward sensory vision, they explore metaphysical ideas of non-sensory insight.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/c/camera-less-photography-artists/>







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Christina Z. Anderson

Christina Z. Anderson's work focuses on the contemporary *vanitas* printed in a variety of 19th century photographic processes, primarily gum bichromate, salted paper, cyanotype, and palladium. Anderson's work has shown nationally and internationally in over one hundred shows and fifty publications. Anderson has authored books which have sold in forty countries—*The Experimental Photography Workbook*, *Gum Printing and Other Amazing Contact Printing Processes*, *Gum Printing, A Step by Step Manual Highlighting Artists and Their Creative Practice*, *Salted Paper Printing, A Step-by-Step Manual Highlighting Contemporary Artists*, and *Cyanotype: The Blueprint in Contemporary Practice*; also *Handcrafted: The Art and Practice of the Handmade Print* co-authored with Wang, Jianming, King and a soon-to-be-released book *Digital Negatives with QuadToneRIP, Demystifying QTR for Photographers and Printmakers* co-authored with Ron Reeder (2020). Anderson is Series Editor for Focal Press/Routledge's *Contemporary Practices in Alternative Process Photography* series and Professor of Photography at Montana State University.

- <https://photographyunderquarantine.com/2020/11/13/christina-z-anderson/>





Shirley Corbett

Christina 2005



