

Zongyi Han
Fed 4 2022
Dr. Elaine McLemore

Midterm Analysis

Image ID

Seely, *Landscape with Sheep*

It was taken in 1917 by George Seely after the Kodak's first film-roll camera was debuted. Since George Seely was an American so it is reasonable to say the photo was taken in America. The photo used kind foggy tone to depict the landscape and there are trees and sheep in this photo, this gives viewers a sense of comfort when seeing it. The color is more of a balanced dark and grey. Unlike the sharpness of Daguerreotype, its lighting is soft and it may be of the Platinum print technique used. Pictorialisms like nature since all creatures are in nature and this photo indeed reflects harmony between animal and nature, represented by the tree and grassland. On the first glance one may recognize it as painting art rather than a photo, considering Seely was a former painter and pictorialism always try to elevate photo to the level of fine arts, one could argue that he intended to make this photo look like painting.

Man Ray, *Le Violon d' Ingres*

The photo was created in 1924 by Man Ray. With musical symbols shown on semi-nude body, the photo is categorized into surrealism which derived from Dadaism during WWI and its post period. Since Man Ray is American so it is reasonable to guess the photo was taken in America as well. The photo used black and white tone with central figure of a semi-nude women body to show the true subconsciousness of the creator's perspective toward female, that is the combination of musical notes and women body reflects women were treated as objects rather than subjects, to certain degree. A direct feeling of this photo is a mixture of sexy and mysterious since the black symbols and white body formed a strong contrast, the lighting also emphasizes such contrast as the women also formed some sort of contrast with the black background. One point of being surrealism is capturing the subconscious activity and what I sensed from this photo is sexual impulse and appreciation of this women's body. We know a good violon is carefully designed and curved so it plays out a good timbre and I think one could say Man Ray appreciated woman's body and compared it with violon, of course it was kind acceptable in the old days but not in today's world.

Compare and contrast Louis Daguerre and Henry Fox Talbot's photographic processes and pictures? Include in your explanation a discussion of the basic mechanics and material used in each process, as well as aesthetics (how the pictures looked).

Louis Daguerre's type of photo needs mercury and stand the objects of photo needs to stand still for at least 5 minutes. The Daguerreotype can not have prints once it is on the silver plate. Not reproducible. They are sharp and high-resolution

Henry Fox Talbot's process involved in soaking paper in salt water, then apply silver nitrate. Then put the light-sensitive paper into the camera and then produce a negative that can be used repeatedly until it fades out. Unlike the Daguerreotype pictures has sharp, high-resolution texture, the photo produced with this process looks kind moody and not that much details as the former.

How was the 19th-century portrait used as a form of self-representation? Include in your response a discussion of how photographs offered a chance for self-expression (or messaging) to both ordinary people and those in a public role such as celebrities, politicians, and activists. Ground your discussion in at least two examples of photographs from the lecture and readings.

For females, both ordinary people and those in public, the way of self-expression is they dress up to project their identity or playing a identity. For example, The Little Novice and the Queen taken in 1874-75 by Cameron, two females dressed up to play the roles which they wouldn't do in their real life. They cosplayed Queen and another figure, it seems like that Novice in white had her hand together to show she is ready to take the order from the queen and Queen is contemplating the order in her head. Through such costume they may gained a different life experience, otherwise they would have lived their real life as the way people expected them to be. Humans are complex creatures, portrait offered them such opportunity to play the other perspective of themselves.

For activists like Pierson, she hired some photographers to record her beauty so she or the viewers could appreciate her photos. Back then ankles were considered sexual part of body and she had lots of ankle photos which I consider this collection as a form of self-expression—"I am beautiful, and I want keep this beauty in form of photos so others even from later generations can see it" .