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United States Patent	12394177
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
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Image capturing apparatus that switches image capturing control according to capturing scene, information processing apparatus, control methods therefor, and storage media storing control programs therefor

Abstract

An image capturing apparatus capable of performing pattern recognition with high accuracy without decreasing customer satisfaction and performing image capturing control according to a capturing scene based on a result of the pattern recognition. The image capturing apparatus includes an image sensor that includes a photoelectric conversion section including first type pixels that receive visible light from a light flux from an object and output a visible light image and second type pixels that receive invisible light from the light flux and output an invisible light image, a memory device that stores instructions, and a processor that executes the instructions to perform pattern recognition of the invisible light image, and to switch an image capturing control for capturing the visible light image from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control when a specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

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Appl. No.:	18/324299
Filed:	May 26, 2023

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20230394788 A1	Dec. 07, 2023

Foreign Application Priority Data

JP 2022-091083 Jun. 03, 2022

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: G06V10/70 (20220101); G06V10/141 (20220101); H04N23/11 (20230101); H04N23/75 (20230101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC G06V10/70 (20220101); G06V10/141 (20220101); H04N23/11 (20230101); H04N23/75 (20230101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: G06V (10/70); G06V (10/141); G06V (10/143); G06V (10/147); G06V (20/20); G06V (30/2247); H04N (23/11); H04N (23/75); H04N (23/61); H04N (23/632); H04N (23/667); H04N (23/74)

USPC: 382/181

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Patent No.	Issued Date	Patentee Name	U.S. Cl.	CPC
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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

(1) The present invention relates to an image capturing apparatus, an information processing apparatus, control methods therefor, and storage media storing control programs therefor. In particular, the present invention relates to the image capturing apparatus that switches image capturing control in accordance with a capturing scene, the information processing apparatus that links a plurality of image capturing apparatuses, the control methods therefor, and the storage media storing the control programs therefor.

Description of the Related Art

(2) In certain capturing scenes, there are actions that are prevented in photography, i.e., taboo actions of photography. For example, in sports such as golf and tennis, photography generating sound is often prohibited. In addition, flash photography is often prohibited for art appreciation in museums. In the past, in order to prevent taboo actions of photography, a no-photography mark was placed adjacent to an exhibit or an announcement was made in advance that photography was prohibited. However, such methods cannot prevent a user from unintentionally and accidentally performing the taboo action of photography.

(3) In addition, one of causes of hindrance to spread of wearable devices such as smart glasses is a problem of invasion of privacy because photographing and recording are possible anywhere.

(4) In order to prevent a taboo action and photographing or recording that causes invasion of privacy using a device, such as a camera or a wearable device, as described above, it is desirable that the device appropriately performs image capturing control based on a recognition result of an object. For example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2006-166077 (JP 2006-166077A) discloses a camera that prohibits flash emission when a firework or a specific person is detected as an object.

(5) However, when the no-photography mark is disposed near the exhibit or the hall announcement is performed as in the conventional method, not only the above-described unintended photographing taboo action cannot be prevented but also customer satisfaction may be lowered.

(6) In the above-described publication, a plurality of patterns for recognizing a firework or a specific person as an object are held. However, it may be difficult to perform pattern recognition of a firework or a specific person with the held patterns. For example, there is a case where the object changes to a shape deviating from the held pattern, such as a case where the shape of a firework is deformed by wind or a case where the specific person faces backward. In addition, it is necessary to hold a large number of patterns for respective scenes, which leads to an increase in cost.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(7) The present invention provides an image capturing apparatus, an information processing apparatus, control methods therefor, and storage media storing control programs therefor, which are capable of performing pattern recognition with high accuracy without decreasing customer satisfaction and performing image capturing control according to a capturing scene based on a result of the pattern recognition.

(8) Accordingly, an aspect of the present invention provides an image capturing apparatus including an image sensor that includes a photoelectric conversion section including first type pixels that receive visible light from a light flux from an object and output a visible light image and second type pixels that receive invisible light from the light flux and output an invisible light image, a memory device that stores instructions, and a processor that executes the instructions to perform pattern recognition of the invisible light image, and to switch an image capturing control for capturing the visible light image from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control when a specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

(9) According to the present invention, it is possible to perform pattern recognition with high accuracy without reducing customer satisfaction, and to perform image capturing control according to a capturing scene based on a result of the pattern recognition.

(10) Further features of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of exemplary embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of an image capturing apparatus

according to a first embodiment.

(2) FIG. 2A, FIG. 2B, and FIG. 2C are views schematically showing parts of a configuration of an image sensor.

(3) FIG. 3 is a flowchart showing an image capturing process performed in the image capturing apparatus according to the first embodiment.

(4) FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C are views showing specific patterns detected from an invisible light image.

(5) FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B are views describing a capturing scene including an object subject to which a seal on which a specific pattern is drawn with invisible ink is attached.

(6) FIG. 6 is a view showing a live view image according to the first embodiment when the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image.

(7) FIG. 7 is a view showing a menu screen according to the first embodiment displayed when a user turns OFF reading of a invisible light signal.

(8) FIG. 8 is a view showing a screen of a movie theater as an object that is live-view captured by an image capturing apparatus according to a second embodiment.

(9) FIG. 9A, FIG. 9B, and FIG. 9C are views showing timings at which a projector in FIG. 8 projects the specific pattern onto the screen with invisible light.

(10) FIG. 10 is a flowchart showing an image capturing process performed in the image capturing apparatus according to the second embodiment.

(11) FIG. 11 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of an image capturing apparatus according to a third embodiment.

(12) FIG. 12 is a view showing a configuration of a communication system according to a fourth embodiment.

(13) FIG. 13 is a block diagram illustrating a hardware configuration of an image capturing apparatus in FIG. 12.

(14) FIG. 14 is a sequence chart showing a flow of an image capturing process according to the fourth embodiment executed in a server and a plurality of image capturing apparatuses.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

(15) Hereafter, embodiments according to the present invention will be described in detail by referring to the drawings. In the drawings, the same members are denoted by the same reference numerals, and redundant description will be omitted. It should be noted that embodiments described below are merely examples, and the present invention is not limited to the configurations described in the embodiments.

(16) Hereinafter, the image capturing apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings as appropriate. In this embodiment, when a specific pattern is detected from an invisible light image obtained by capturing an image with the image capturing apparatus **100**, specific controls of image capturing controls are switched.

(17) FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a hardware configuration of an image capturing apparatus **100** according to this embodiment.

(18) In FIG. 1, the image capturing apparatus **100** includes an image sensor **101**, a system controller (control means) **102**, a pattern recognition unit (pattern recognition means) **103**, a recording controller (recording control means) **104**, a flash controller (flash control means) **105**, a shutter controller **106**, a first image processor (first image processing means) **110**, a second image processor (second image processing means) **111**, and a display unit (display means) **114**.

(19) The image sensor **101** converts an object image into an electric signal by photoelectric conversion and outputs the electric signal as an image signal. Although details will be described later with reference to FIG. 2, the image sensor **101** includes first type pixels having sensitivity to visible light and second type pixels having sensitivity to invisible light. The image sensor **101** outputs an image signal (a visible light signal) output from the first type pixels having sensitivity to

visible light to the first image processor **110** as a visible light image **107**. The image sensor **101** outputs an image signal (an invisible light signal) output from the second type pixels having sensitivity to invisible light to the second image processor **111** as an invisible light image **108**.

(20) The system controller **102** controls the entire imaging apparatus **100**. The system controller **102** in this embodiment receives a determination result **109** (a result of pattern recognition) of the pattern recognition unit **103** and instructs switching of specific controls among image capturing controls of the image capturing apparatus **100**. Although details of the specific controls will be described later with reference to FIG. 3, the specific controls include a control of a recording operation of a captured still image or moving image by the recording controller **104**, a control of a flash emission operation by the flash controller **105**, and a control of a shutter operation by a shutter controller (shutter control means) **106**. The system controller **102** reads various programs stored (stored) in a storage unit (not shown) and executes an arithmetic process and a control process according to the read programs.

(21) When receiving an invisible light image **113** from the second image processor **111**, the pattern recognition unit **103** performs pattern recognition of the invisible light image **113**, determines whether a specific pattern is detected, and outputs the determination result **109** to the system controller **102**. Since a pattern recognition method is not a gist of the present invention, a detailed description thereof is omitted, but a known technique such as template matching can be used.

(22) The recording controller **104** controls recording of a visible light image **112** from the first image processor **110** to a recording medium (not shown). When the specific pattern is detected, the system controller **102** switches the control by the recording controller **104** from a first image capturing control of permitting the recording of the visible light image **112** to the recording medium to a second image capturing control of prohibiting the recording. Accordingly, even if a release button (not shown) of the image capturing apparatus **100** is pressed in a scene in which image capturing is prohibited, it is possible to control so as not to record the visible light image **112** to the recording medium. In this embodiment, the recording medium (not shown) serving as a recording destination of the visible light image **112** is not particularly limited. For example, a detachable memory card, a built-in memory (not shown) of the imaging apparatus **100**, or an external apparatus (not shown) communicably connected through a communication interface can be employed.

(23) The flash controller **105** controls light emission of a flash emission unit (not shown) to illuminate an object of the image capturing apparatus **100**. When the above specific pattern is detected, the system controller **102** switches the control to the flash controller **105** from a first image capturing control of permitting the flash emission unit to emit light to a second image capturing control of prohibiting the flash emission unit from emitting light. As a result, in a scene where flash photography is prohibited, it is possible to control so as not to perform the flash photography by the image capturing apparatus **100**. It should be noted that the flash emission unit may be built in the image capturing apparatus **100** or may be an external apparatus (not shown) communicably connected via a communication interface.

(24) The shutter controller **106** controls a mechanical shutter (not shown) and an electronic shutter (not shown) used when the image capturing apparatus **100** captures an image. When the above specific pattern is detected, the system controller **102** switches the control of the shutter controller **106** from a first image capturing control of permitting use of the mechanical shutter to a second image capturing control of prohibiting the use of the mechanical shutter. Accordingly, in a scene where a silent operation is required, the image capturing apparatus **100** uses the electronic shutter in capturing an image and it is possible to control so as not to perform photography generating sound.

(25) When receiving the visible light image **107** from the image sensor **101**, the first the image processor **110** applies image processes, such as a gamma correction process, a white balance process, and a development process, to the input visible light image **107** to generate the visible

light image **112**. Thereafter, the first image processor **110** outputs the generated visible light image **112** to the recording controller **104** and display unit **114**.

(26) When receiving the invisible light image **108** from the image sensor **101**, the second the image processor **111** applies image processes, such as a gamma correction process, a white balance process, and a development process, to the input invisible light image **108** to generate the invisible light image **113**. After that, the first the image processor **110** outputs the generated invisible light image **113** to the pattern recognition unit **103**. Although the first and second the image processors **110** and **111** are divided corresponding to the types of the images subjected to the image processes in this embodiment for convenience of description, the processors may be combined into one. In addition, the image sensor **101** divides signals into the image signal of the visible light image **107** and the image signal of the invisible light image **108** and outputs the two signals to the first and second image processing units **110** and **111**. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. For example, a single signal that is not divided into the visible light image **107** and the invisible light image **108** may be output to one image processor. In this case, the single image processor divides the single signal output from the image sensor **101** into the visible light image **107** and the invisible light image **108** and applies the image processes to each of the image signals to generate the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113**.

(27) The display unit **114** is a display device, such as a liquid crystal display or an organic EL display, that displays the visible light image **112** obtained from the first image processing unit **110**, an operation screen (a menu screen) for operating the imaging apparatus **100**, etc. Although details will be described with reference to FIG. **6**, when receiving the determination result **109** from the pattern recognition unit **103**, the system controller **102** displays a mark **602** indicating the determination result **109** on the display unit **114** together with the visible light image **112**.

(28) The configuration of the image sensor **101** will now be described with reference to FIG. **2A**, FIG. **2B** and FIG. **2C**.

(29) FIG. **2A** is a view schematically showing a 4-by-4 array of 16 pixels extracted from an array of pixels of the image sensor **101** in order to simplify the description. The image sensor **101** has a photoelectric conversion section in which photoelectric conversion elements (pixels) like photodiodes are arranged in a two-dimensional array. Color filters **201**, **202**, **203**, and **204** that permit transmission of specific wavelength bands of a light beam from an object are provided above the photoelectric conversion elements. In FIG. **2A**, the color filter **201** labeled “R” is a filter that permits transmission of red light, and the color filter **202** labeled “G” is a filter that permits transmission of green light. In FIG. **2A**, the color filter **204** labeled “B” is a filter that permits transmission of blue light. These color filters **201**, **202**, and **204** are regularly arranged in what is called the Bayer array. In the normal Bayer array, a color filter that permits transmission of green light is also disposed at a position that is paired with the color filter **202**. In the meantime, the color filter **203** labeled “IR” that transmits infrared light (hereinafter referred to as “IR”) is disposed at this position in this embodiment.

(30) Although the color filter **203** permits transmission of IR in this embodiment, it is not limited to this as long as it permits transmission of invisible light. For example, the color filter **203** may permit transmission of only ultraviolet light of which a wavelength band is equal to or shorter than 380 nm. In addition, the color filter **203** may permit transmission of only far-infrared light of which a wavelength band is equal to or greater than 25000 nm, may permit transmission of only near-infrared light in a wavelength band from 750 nm to 2500 nm, or may permit transmission of only mid-infrared light in a wavelength band from 2500 nm to 25000 nm. The color filter **203** may permit transmission of lights of a plurality of invisible light wavelength bands, for example, near-infrared light and mid-infrared light.

(31) The light beams transmitted through the color filters **201** to **204** are received by the pixels disposed right under the color filters **201** to **204**. The light beams are photoelectrically converted and are output from the image sensor **101** as image signals of red, blue, green, and IR. Among

these image signals, the signals output from the pixels right under the visible light color filters **201**, **202**, and **204** are output to the first image processor **110** as the visible light image **107** as shown in FIG. 2B. In the meantime, among these image signals, the signals output from the pixels right under the invisible light color filters **203** are output to the second image processing unit **111** as the invisible light image **108** as shown in FIG. 2C. The first image processor **110** may apply an interpolation process to the visible light image **107** so as to interpolate an output of a pixel to which the color filter **203** for the invisible light is arranged. Such a configuration enables to obtain the visible light image **107** and the invisible light image **108** simultaneously from the one image sensor **101**.

(32) Although the color filters **201**, **202**, and **204** for the visible light and the color filters **203** for the invisible light are disposed in the one imaging element **101** in this embodiment, the present invention is not limited to this configuration. For example, the color filters of the image sensor **101** may be arranged in the normal Bayer arrangement, and the color filters for invisible light may be arranged so as to be removable from the optical path between the image sensor **101** and the object. In addition, the color filters of the image sensor **101** may be arranged in the normal Bayer arrangement, and the invisible light image **108** may be captured by another image sensor to which a color filter that transmits only invisible light is arranged.

(33) Next, an image capturing process in this embodiment will be described with reference to the flowchart in FIG. 3. This image capturing process is characterized by a step **S303** for switching specific controls in capturing an image, and starts when a power button (not shown) in the image capturing apparatus **100** is turned ON and what is called live view capturing starts. The image capturing process is achieved by the system controller **102** executing a control program and controlling each part of the image capturing apparatus **100**.

(34) In a step **S301**, when receiving the invisible light image **113** from the second image processor **111**, the pattern recognition unit **103** performs the pattern recognition of the invisible light image **113**. A specific method of pattern recognition will be described later.

(35) In a step **S302**, the pattern recognition unit **103** determines whether the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image **113** based on the pattern recognition result obtained in the step **S301** and outputs the determination result **109** to the system controller **102**. When the specific pattern is detected (YES in the step **S302**), the determination result **109** including the detected specific pattern is transferred to the system controller **102**, and then the process proceeds to a step **S303**. Otherwise (NO in the step **S302**), the process proceeds to a step **S304**.

(36) In the step **S303**, the system controller **102** analyzes the specific pattern detected in the step **S302**, instructs switching of specific controls according to the analysis result, and then proceeds with the process to the step **S304**.

(37) Three examples of the specific controls according to this embodiment will now be described.

(38) The first specific control is a flash emission control. Specifically, when the specific pattern is not detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** permits the flash controller **105** to perform flash emission. In the meantime, when the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** causes the flash controller **105** to prohibit flash emission. In this way, it is possible to prevent a user from erroneously performing flash photography in a capturing scene where the flash photography is prohibited.

(39) The second particular control is a shutter control. Specifically, when the specific pattern is not detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** permits the shutter controller **106** to shift to a mechanical shutter capturing mode. In the meantime, when the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** prohibits the shutter control unit **106** from shifting to the mechanical shutter capturing mode, and permits only shifting to an electronic shutter capturing mode. In this way, it is possible to prevent a user from erroneously performing photography generating sound in a capturing scene where the photography generating sound is prohibited. This is because an electronic shutter does not control a physical shutter in general, and thus enables

silent photography as compared with a mechanical shutter.

(40) The third specific control is a recording control. Specifically, when the specific pattern is not detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** permits the recording controller **104** to record a photography result (the visible light image **112**). In the meantime, when the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** prohibits the recording controller **104** from performing the recording operation. In this way, even when a user erroneously performs photography (for example, photography causing invasion of privacy), it is possible to prevent a photography result from being recorded.

(41) In addition, the above-described three specific controls switch so that the operation (for example, flash emission) permitted before the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302** will be prohibited after the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302**. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. For example, an operation (for example, automatic capturing of the visible light image **112** (a recording operation of a live view image)) that is prohibited when the specific pattern is not detected in the step **S302** may be permitted when the specific pattern is detected in the step **S302**.

(42) After the specific control is switched in the step **S303** or after it is determined that the specific pattern is not detected in the step **S302**, the system controller **102** determines whether the live view capturing is completed in the step **S304**. When it is completed (YES in the step **S304**), the main image capturing process is finished. When it is not completed (NO in the step **S304**), the process returns to the step **S301**.

(43) Next, the specific pattern that is subjected to the determination of whether it is detected from the invisible light image **113** in the step **S302** in FIG. 3 will be described with reference to FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C.

(44) FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C show three specific patterns. All of the specific patterns described below are drawn with ink that reflects or emits invisible light (hereinafter referred to as invisible ink).

(45) FIG. 4A is a view showing an example of a particular pattern consisting of a mark **401** prohibiting flash emission. When the mark **401** as shown in FIG. 4A is a specific pattern, a user can visually and easily verify that the image capturing apparatus **100** has been switched to a flash emission prohibition mode by developing (visualizing) the invisible light image **113**.

(46) FIG. 4B is a view showing an example of a particular pattern consisting of a bar code (a one dimensional bar code) **402** prohibiting flash emission. When the specific pattern arranged on the object is the bar code **402** as shown in FIG. 4B, the size of the pattern can be easily standardized and a large number of patterns can be easily generated.

(47) FIG. 4C is a view showing an example of a specific pattern consisting of a QR Code™ (a two dimensional barcode) **403** prohibiting flash emission. When the specific pattern is the QR code **403**, the pattern size can be easily standardized and a large number of patterns can be easily generated, as with the case where the specific pattern is the bar code **402** in FIG. 4B. Alternatively, a combination of a bar code and a QR code may be used as the specific pattern.

(48) Next, a method of arranging a specific pattern on an object in this embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B. In this embodiment, a case where the QR code **403** in FIG. 4C as a specific pattern is arranged on clothes of an object will be exemplified. Since the QR code **403** in FIG. 4C is drawn on a transparent colorless seal with the invisible ink, it can be easily attached to clothes or a cap of an object person or arranged near an art object. Since this seal is invisible to a naked eye, it can be arranged anywhere without disturbing scenery. Although sponsor marks are usually concentrated on conspicuous places, such as clothes or a helmet worn by a motorsports player, the seal on which the QR code **403** is drawn can be freely attached without encroaching on the space of the sponsor marks. Instead of the seal, the specific pattern may be printed with the invisible ink on clothes or a cap of an object person or a close place of an art object. Since this pattern is also invisible to a naked eye, it can be printed anywhere without

disturbing scenery.

(49) FIG. 5A represents the visible light image **112** including an object **501** displayed as the live view image by the display unit **114**, and FIG. 5B represents the invisible light image **113**.

(50) As shown in FIG. 5A, only the subject **501** is displayed in the visible light image **112** without disturbing scenery.

(51) In the meantime, as shown in the invisible light image **113** in FIG. 5B, a seal on which the QR code **403** is drawn with the invisible ink as the specific pattern is attached to a shirt of the object **501**. The pattern recognition unit **103** performs the pattern recognition using the invisible light image **113** input. Here, since the QR code **403** is detected as the specific pattern, the pattern recognition unit **103** transfers the determination result including the detected QR code **403** to the system controller **102**. The system controller **102** analyzes the QR code **403** transferred from the pattern recognition unit **103** and automatically switches the specific control according to an analysis result. Here, since the QR code **403** means prohibition of the flash emission, the system controller **102** switches the flash emission control that is the specific control. More specifically, the system controller **102** switches the strobe control unit **105** from a flash emission permission mode to the flash emission prohibition mode.

(52) Since the flash emission control is automatically switched in the imaging apparatus **100** as described above, it is possible to prevent a user from erroneously performing the flash photography.

(53) Next, a method of displaying a live view image on the display unit **114** when the specific pattern is detected in this embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 6. Hereinafter, an example in which the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the specific pattern for prohibiting the flash photography from the invisible light image **113** and the display unit **114** displays that the flash emission prohibition mode is set will be described.

(54) FIG. 6 shows the visible light image **112** including the object **501** displayed as a live view image **600** on the display unit **114**. In the live view image **600**, a mark **602** indicating the flash emission prohibition mode is visibly superimposed on the visible light image **112** (FIG. 5A) including the object **501**. When the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the QR code **403** as the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113**, the system controller **102** sets the flash controller **105** to the flash emission prohibition mode and the display unit **114** displays the mark **602**. In this way, the user can be notified that the mode has been switched.

(55) The display timing of the mark **602** is not limited to the time point (first timing) at which the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the QR code **403** as the specific pattern. For example, the display timing of the mark **602** may be a time point (second timing) at which the QR code **403** is detected as the specific pattern and the user attempts to perform the flash emission control. As described above, since the QR code **403** drawn with the invisible ink cannot be recognized by the naked eye. Therefore, when the mark **602** unexpectedly appears in the live view image at the first timing, attention of the user may be hindered. Since the mark **602** appears in the live view image for the first time at the second timing at which the user attempts to perform erroneous flash photography, usability is improved.

(56) It should be noted that notification means other than display of the mark **602** may be used. For example, the image capturing apparatus **100** may notify the user that the mode has been switched using sound, light, vibration, or the like.

(57) In addition, there may be a case where a specific control of the image capturing apparatus **100** is switched in advance by a user operation. For example, the image capturing apparatus **100** may be shifted to the flash emission prohibition mode in advance by a user operation. In such a case, even if the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the QR code **403** as the specific pattern, the mark **602** may not appear in the live view image.

(58) Next, a method of switching ON/OFF of reading of the invisible light signal by the image sensor **101** based on a user operation to the menu screen displayed on the display device will be described by referring to FIG. 7. As mentioned above, the image capturing apparatus **100** can read

the visible light signal and the invisible light signal simultaneously by the image sensor **101**. However, the user may set so as not to read the invisible light signal for the purpose of saving power. Such a setting can save power because of stopping the processing block, which includes an A/D convertor that converts the invisible light signal read by the image sensor **101** into the invisible light image **108**, the second image processor **111** that processes the invisible light image **108**, and the pattern recognition unit **103**. However, in this case, since the pattern recognition of the invisible light image **113** described above cannot be performed, the specific control is not switched. Therefore, it is necessary to alert the user that the specific control is not automatically switched in the image capturing apparatus **100**.

(59) FIG. 7 shows an example of the menu screen displayed on the display unit **114** when the user turns OFF the reading of the invisible light signal by the image sensor **101**.

(60) When the user selects the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701** in the menu screen, the image sensor **101** can turn off reading of the invisible light signal. Also in this case, the display unit **114** switches the display of the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701** to "IR OFF" as shown in FIG. 7. Also, the display unit **114** displays notification **702** on the menu screen in switching the display to alert that the image capturing apparatus **100** does not restrict the specific control automatically. For example, as shown in the FIG. 7, the description "Please note that flash photography and photography generating sound are not automatically restricted." is displayed as the notification **702** on the menu screen.

(61) The initial setting for reading the invisible light signal by the image sensor **101** is ON, and the initial display for the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701** is "IR ON". When selecting the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701**, the user can switch ON/OFF of the reading of the invisible light signal by the image sensor **101**. Further, when the user selects the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701** on the menu screen in FIG. 7, the display unit **114** switches the display of the invisible-light-off-mode switch button **701** to "IR ON". At this time, the display of the notification **702** on the menu screen also ends.

(62) As described above, the transparent colorless seal on which the specific pattern is drawn with the invisible ink is attached to the object or a conspicuous place near the object in this embodiment. Thereafter, when the pattern recognition unit **103** recognizes a specific pattern from the invisible light image **113** obtained by the live view photography of the object, the system controller **102** automatically switches the specific control in the image capturing apparatus **100** in accordance with the recognized specific pattern. As a result, the image capturing apparatus **100** is possible to perform the pattern recognition with high accuracy without reducing customer satisfaction and to perform capturing control according to the capturing scene based on the pattern recognition result.

(63) A second embodiment of the present invention will now be described with appropriate reference to the drawings. In this embodiment, an example will be described in which a specific pattern is projected with invisible light by a projection apparatus in a wide space such as a stage, a movie theater, or a live venue.

(64) FIG. 8 is a view showing a screen **800** of a movie theater as an object in this embodiment that is live-view captured by the image capturing apparatus **100**.

(65) As shown in FIG. 8, a projector **801** projects a QR code **403** as a specific pattern onto the screen **800** in the movie theater with the invisible light in this embodiment.

(66) In the first embodiment of the present invention, it is assumed that the transparent colorless seal on which the QR code **403** is drawn with the invisible ink is attached to an object or a conspicuous place near the object. In this case, it is necessary to prepare a large number of seals whenever the number of objects increases, and it takes time to print the QR code **403** on seals with the invisible ink and to attach the seals to the objects. In some cases, the size of the QR code **403** printed on a seal may be changed according to the size of the object. For example, the size of the QR code **403** printed on the seal attached a large object, such as a car or a train, is preferably larger than that attached to a person. In addition, when the object to which the seal is attached to the front

surface faces sideways or backward with respect to the image capturing apparatus **100**, the QR code **403** drawn on the seal may not be accurately detected by the image capturing apparatus **100**. (67) Therefore, the projector **801** projects the QR code **403** on the screen **800** with the invisible light in this embodiment. In this way, the QR code **403** can be projected on the screen **800** in an optimum size at an optimum timing.

(68) This embodiment can also be applied to outdoor sports such as golf. In this case, it is preferable to project the QR code **403** as the specific pattern onto the object with invisible light by a known projecting technique such as a projection mapping. Thus, even when the object faces sideways or backward, the QR code **403** can be arranged at a position where the image capturing apparatus **100** can reliably perform pattern recognition.

(69) As described above, this embodiment can improve the detection accuracy of the pattern recognition unit **103** as compared with the first embodiment.

(70) Next, the timing at which the projector **801** projects the QR code **403** as the specific pattern onto the screen **800** will be described with reference to FIG. **9A**, FIG. **9B**, and FIG. **9C**. Since the QR code **403** is projected onto the screen **800** with the invisible light, a light emission amount when the projector **801** projects the QR code **403** on the screen **800** does not necessarily need to be constant in a time direction.

(71) For example, as shown in FIG. **9A**, the projector **801** may blink the invisible light illumination at a cycle of 1/60 seconds, and the pattern recognition unit **103** may recognize the light emission pattern at a constant cycle in the time direction.

(72) In addition, as shown in FIG. **9C**, the projector **801** may emit the invisible light in a light emission pattern at an indefinite cycle in the time direction, such as a EA modulating method. The light emission pattern shown in FIG. **9C** is a specific pattern represented by density or width of light emission time obtained by the EA modulation of a sinusoidal wave shown in FIG. **9B**.

(73) Next, an image capturing process in this embodiment will be described with reference to a flowchart in FIG. **10**. Descriptions of the same portions as those of the image capturing process (FIG. **3**) executed in the first embodiment will be omitted.

(74) The difference between this embodiment and the first embodiment is that steps **S1002** through **S1004** are executed instead of the steps **S302** and **S303**.

(75) In a step **S1002**, the pattern recognition unit **103** determines whether the QR code **403** is detected as the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113**. When the specific pattern is detected (YES in the step **S1002**), the process proceeds to a step **S1003**. A second image capturing control process is executed in the step **S1003** to switch the mode to the flash emission prohibition mode, and then the process proceeds to the step **S304**. In the meantime, when the specific pattern is not detected (NO in the step **S1002**), the process proceeds to a step **S1004**. A first image capturing control process is executed in the step **S1004** to switch the mode to the flash emission permission mode as a normal mode, and then the process proceeds to the step **S304**. Although the flash emission permission mode is exemplified as the normal mode, the normal mode is not limited to the flash emission permission mode as long as the setting of image capturing conditions designated by the user is permitted. Similarly, although the mode is switched to the flash emission prohibition mode when the specific pattern is detected, the mode is not limited to this as long as the control mode sets the image capturing conditions corresponding to the specific pattern.

(76) In this way, when the scene of the movie being screened is a special scene in which the specific pattern is projected onto the screen **800** by the projector **801**, the image capturing device **100** controls so as to automatically restrict (prohibit) a predetermined operation (such as flash emission). In the meantime, when a normal scene in which a specific pattern is not projected onto the screen **800** by the projector **801** continues for a certain period of time in the movie being screened, the image capturing apparatus **100** controls so as to automatically returns to the initial setting in which a predetermined operation (such as flash emission) is permitted. This eliminates the need for the user to return the mode of the image capturing apparatus **100** to the original initial

setting every time the movie returns from the special scene to the normal scene, thereby improving usability.

(77) In addition, although an act of capturing a movie in a movie theater (such as illegal capturing) is generally prohibited, a user may intentionally perform the illegal capturing. Accordingly, in order to prevent the illegal capturing, the projector **801** continuously projects the specific pattern with the invisible light onto the screen **800** during screening. When detecting the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113**, the pattern recognition unit **103** switches from the control that allows the image capturing apparatus **100** to record the visible light image **112** into the recording medium to the control that prohibits such recording. Accordingly, the image capturing apparatus **100** is possible to prevent misconduct such as the illegal capturing and to prevent intentional misconduct by the user.

(78) Similarly to the first embodiment, also in this embodiment, when the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image **113**, the operation permitted in the initial setting in the image capturing apparatus **100** is limited (prohibited). However, the invention is not limited thereto. For example, when the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image **113**, the system controller **102** may analyze the specific pattern and switch the mode of the image capturing apparatus **100** to a setting recommended by an operator of a venue such as a stage or a live venue.

(79) In a stage or a live venue, there are many cases where difference in brightness between the stage and audience seats is very large and where the lighting switches abruptly, which makes the image capturing with the optimal light amount setting difficult. Also, when the stage or live venue is outdoor, the optimal light amount setting for photography vary depending on a time zone, such as daytime or evening. The optimum light amount for capturing an image can be set by photometry even in a conventional camera. However, when the lighting switches abruptly, the optimum photometry cannot always be performed for each scene.

(80) Therefore, in a modification of this embodiment, when the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the specific pattern (YES in the step **S1002**), the image capturing conditions are set in accordance with the detected specific pattern as the second image capturing control process in the step **S1003**. Since the venue operator knows a timing at which the lighting is switched and the optimum light amount in a time zone in advance, the specific pattern including the image capturing conditions of the recommended setting can be projected with the invisible light by the projector **801** at the optimum timing.

(81) The imaging conditions are, for example, white balance, a shutter speed, an aperture, an ISO sensitivity, recording, a photometric mode, and the like. For example, an emission timing of the lighting, an optimum photometry mode corresponding a time zone such as daytime or evening are set as the recommended setting. Alternatively, the recommended setting may be the white balance that varies depending on a scenario of a stage play or a live performance. Thus, the user can enjoy photography in different atmospheres according to the scenario.

(82) In addition, in a case where an actor suddenly starts moving on a stage or a player starts a golf swing in a golf tournament, a combination of a plurality of set values such as an aperture, a shutter speed, and an ISO sensitivity may be set as the recommended setting. This helps to suppress blurring when an actor or a player is photographed as an object.

(83) As described above, in the modification example of this embodiment, the setting of the image capturing apparatus **100** is automatically switched to the recommended setting that is not usually set by the user. Therefore, the user can enjoy a new image capturing experience with the setting that has been never set by the user.

(84) If the recommended setting is projected on the screen **800** so as to be visible to the naked eye or is announced in the hall, the photographer can switch the image capturing apparatus **100** to the recommended setting. However, it is not preferable because the satisfaction of the user who is a customer is lowered. This is because, for example, if the QR code **403** is projected on the screen **800** so as to be visible to the naked eye while a movie is being played, a part of the scene is hidden

by the QR code **403** and cannot be seen and the announcement of the recommended setting during the movie becomes noise.

(85) In addition, if the setting of the image capturing apparatus **100** is frequently changed every time the process proceeds to the steps **S1003** and **S1004**, the image capturing quality may be deteriorated. For this reason, a setting change grace period may be provided. For example, when a state in which the specific pattern is not detected from the invisible light image **113** continues for a certain period (for example, one second), the process may proceed to the step **S1004**.

(86) As described above, in this embodiment, it is possible to prevent a user from erroneously capturing an image using the image capturing apparatus **100** by projecting the specific pattern with the invisible light.

(87) In addition, in the modification example of this embodiment, since the image capturing apparatus **100** is switched to the recommended setting during the period in which the pattern recognition unit **103** continuously detects the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113**, it is possible for the user to enjoy a new image capturing experience with the setting that is not usually set by the user.

(88) During the period in which the specific pattern is continuously detected, a message indicating that the second image capturing control process is being executed in the image capturing apparatus **100**, for example, a message “Currently switching to the recommended setting” may be displayed on the display unit **114**. The user may be notified of the message other notification means, such as sound, light, or vibration.

(89) A third embodiment of the present invention will now be described with appropriate reference to the drawings. In this embodiment, the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113** are synthesized, but when the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image **113**, these images are not synthesized.

(90) FIG. **11** is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of an image capturing apparatus **1100** according to this embodiment.

(91) A difference between the image capturing apparatus **1100** according to this embodiment and the image capturing apparatus **100** according to the first embodiment is that the image capturing apparatus **1100** includes an image synthesis unit **1101** that synthesizes the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113** to generate a synthetic image. It should be noted that a method of synthesizing the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113** by the image synthesis unit **1101** will not be described in detail because it is a known technique. For example, a method of correcting the visible light image **112** according to a level of an invisible light luminance signal obtained from the invisible light image **113** is used.

(92) Here, as an image capturing apparatus capable of simultaneously capturing a visible light image and an invisible light image, there is a known apparatus that improves visibility in night photography by displaying a synthetic image obtained by synthesizing the visible light image and the invisible light image, for example, night imaging (see, for example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 2014-216734 (JP 2014-216734A)). In addition, a synthetic image obtained by synthesizing a visible light image and an invisible light image may be used as contrast enhancement expression.

(93) However, in this embodiment, when the specific pattern is included in the invisible light image **113**, the specific pattern is reflected in the image after the synthesis process by the image synthesis unit **1101**. Therefore, in this embodiment, when the pattern recognition unit **103** detects the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113**, the system controller **102** controls the image synthesis unit **1101** not to synthesize the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113**.

(94) As described above, in this embodiment, when the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image **113**, the visible light image **112** and the invisible light image **113** are not synthesized, and thus it is possible to prevent the specific pattern from being reflected in the synthetic image.

(95) A fourth embodiment of the present invention will now be described with appropriate reference to the drawings. In this embodiment, as shown in FIG. 12, an example of a communication system **1200** including image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** and a server **1201** that links the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** will be described. It should be noted that the server **1201** may be an information processing apparatus capable of linking a plurality of image capturing apparatuses, and may be a smartphone, for example. The method of communication connection between the server **1201** and the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** is not particularly limited, and may be wireless connection or wired connection. The image capturing apparatuses that are linked by the server **1201** may be apparatuses having the same hardware described below. The number of the image capturing apparatuses is two in this embodiment, but may be three or more.

(96) In the first embodiment, for example, when the object **501** shown in FIG. 5B comes close to the user (photographer) of the image capturing apparatus **100**, the image capturing apparatus **100** automatically shifts to the flash emission prohibition mode only when the pattern recognition unit **103** can detect the QR code **403**. In the meantime, the image capturing apparatus **100** may not be able to detect the QR code **403** by the pattern recognition unit **103** depending on a positional relationship such as a case where the image capturing apparatus **100** is located behind or beside the object **501**. In this case, the image capturing apparatus **100** cannot automatically shift to the flash emission prohibition mode even if the live view capturing is performed near the object **501**.

(97) In this embodiment, when the QR code **403** is detected by the pattern recognition unit **103** of one of the image capturing apparatuses that are linked via the server **1201**, not only the image capturing apparatus that detects the QR code **403** but also the other linked image capturing apparatuses automatically shift to the flash emission prohibition mode. As a result, in this embodiment, it is possible to solve the above-described problem occurring in the case of the first embodiment.

(98) FIG. 13 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of the image capturing apparatus **1202**.

(99) A difference between the image capturing apparatus **1202** and the image capturing apparatus **100** in the first embodiment is that the image capturing apparatus **1202** includes a communication unit **1301** for connecting to the server **1201**. The image capturing apparatus **1203** is an apparatus having the same hardware configuration as that of the image capturing apparatus **1202**, and thus description thereof will be omitted. The communication unit **1301** is communicable with not only the server **1201** but also with a plurality of image capturing apparatuses.

(100) FIG. 14 is a sequence chart showing a flow of an image capturing process according to this embodiment executed in the server **1201** and the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203**. FIG. 14 shows a case where the specific pattern is detected in the image capturing apparatus **1202**. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, when the specific pattern is detected by one of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses that are linked via the server **1201**, the detected specific pattern is transmitted to the remaining image capturing apparatuses.

(101) There are two different points between the image capturing process (FIG. 14) according to this embodiment executed in the image capturing apparatus **1202** and the image capturing process (FIG. 3) according to the first embodiment executed in the image capturing apparatus **100**. The first point is that a communication connection with the server **1201** is established in a step **S1400** prior to the step **S301**. The second point is that a step **S1401** is executed in the case of YES in step **S302** prior to the step **S303**.

(102) When starting this process due to the start of live view capturing, the system control unit **102** of the image capturing apparatus **1202** requests the server **1201** to establish communication connection in the step **S1400** and establishes communication connection with the server **1201**. Thereafter, the process proceeds to the step **S301**.

(103) In the step **S1401**, the system control unit **102** of the image capturing apparatus **1202** sends

the specific pattern detected in the step S302 to the server **1201** using the communication unit **1301**. Thereafter, the process proceeds to the step S303

(104) The process of the server **1201** in FIG. **14** will now be described. In the server **1201**, a CPU (not shown) reads various programs stored in a storage unit (not shown) and executes this process in accordance with the read programs.

(105) First, in a step S1402, the server **1201** establishes the communication connections with the image capturing apparatuses that have requested establishment of the communication connections (the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** in the example in FIG. **14**). As a result, link between the plurality of image capturing apparatuses (the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** in the example in FIG. **14**) via the server **1201** is started.

(106) Next, when the server **1201** receives the specific pattern in a step S1403 from any of the image capturing apparatuses (the image capturing apparatus **1202** in the example in FIG. **14**) with which the communication connection is established in the step S1402, the process proceeds to a step S1404.

(107) In the step S1404, the specific pattern received in the step S1403 is sent to the other image capturing apparatus (the image capturing apparatus **1203** in the example in FIG. **14**) other than the sending source of the specific pattern in the step S1403 among the image capturing apparatuses with which the communication connections are established in the step S1402. Thereafter, this process is terminated.

(108) Next, the process of the image capturing apparatus **1203** in FIG. **14** will be described. This process starts when a power button (not shown) of the image capturing apparatus **1203** is turned ON and what is called live view capturing starts. This process is achieved by the system controller **102** of the image capturing apparatus **1203** executing a control program to control the respective sections of the image capturing apparatus **1203**.

(109) First, the image capturing apparatus **1203** requests the server **1201** to establish a communication connection in a step S1405 and establishes the communication connection with the server **1201**.

(110) Next, when the specific pattern is received from the server **1201** in a step S1406, the process proceeds to a step S1407.

(111) The specific pattern received from the server **1201** in the step S1406 is analyzed in the step S1407 and switching of the specific control is instructed in accordance with the analysis result. And then, the process proceeds to a step S1408.

(112) In the step S1408, it is determined whether the live view capturing is completed after switching the specific control in accordance with the instruction in the step S1407. When it is completed (YES in the step S1408), the main image capturing process is ended. When it is not completed (NO in the step S1408), the process returns to the step S1406.

(113) As described above, according to this embodiment, when the pattern recognition unit **103** of the image capturing apparatus (**1202**) among the plurality of image capturing apparatuses linked via the server **1201** detects the specific pattern, the specific pattern is sent to the other linked image capturing apparatus (**1203**). When the specific pattern is sent from the server **1201**, the linked image capturing apparatus analyzes the specific pattern and instructs switching of the specific control in accordance with the analysis result, as with a case where the specific pattern is detected by the pattern recognition unit **103** of itself.

(114) As described above, according to this embodiment, when the specific pattern on the seal attached to the clothes of the object **501** can be detected by one of the image capturing apparatuses linking via the server **1201**, all the image capturing apparatuses can switch the specific control.

(115) It should be noted that the configuration is not limited to the configuration of this embodiment as long as such an effect is achieved. For example, although the pattern recognition unit **103** is provided in each of the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203** in this embodiment, the pattern recognition unit **103** may be provided in the server **1201** instead of the image capturing

apparatuses **1202** and **1203**. In this case, all the linked image capturing apparatuses (here, the image capturing apparatuses **1202** and **1203**) send the invisible light images **113** to the server **1201**. When the pattern recognition unit **103** of the server **1201** detects the specific pattern from the invisible light image **113** received from one of the linked image capturing apparatuses, the CPU generates a specific control switching instruction. Thereafter, the CPU (an instruction sending unit) sends the generated specific control switching instruction to all the linked image capturing apparatuses. All the linked image capturing apparatuses automatically switch the specific control in response to the specific control switching instruction received from the server **1201**.

(116) In addition, in this embodiment, the specific control switching instruction may be an instruction to set an image capturing timing to a timing at which the object comes to the front. In this case, when the specific control switching instruction is issued, all the linked image capturing apparatuses capture an image of the object **501** when detecting that the image capturing apparatuses are located at a position facing the object **501** using the visible light image **112** or the invisible light image **113**.

(117) Alternatively, the specific control may be switched by direct communication between the image capturing apparatuses (**1202** and **1203**) without using the server **1201**. In this case, for example, when the specific pattern is detected by one image capturing apparatus (**1202**), the image capturing apparatus (**1202**) sends the specific pattern to the other image capturing apparatus (**1203**) via the communication unit. When the other image capturing apparatus (**1203**) receives the specific pattern by the own communication unit, it performs the same process as that in the case where the specific pattern is detected by the own pattern recognition unit **103**. That is, the other image capturing apparatus (**1203**) analyzes the specific pattern sent from the image capturing apparatus (**1202**) and issues the specific control switching instruction according to the analysis result. The image capturing apparatus may be an apparatus having the same hardware described above. Although the number of the image capturing apparatuses is two in the above description, it may be three or more. It should be noted that the image capturing apparatus that receives the specific pattern and the reception range thereof may be set in advance in the image capturing apparatus.

OTHER EMBODIMENTS

(118) Embodiment(s) of the present invention can also be realized by a computer of a system or apparatus that reads out and executes computer executable instructions (e.g., one or more programs) recorded on a storage medium (which may also be referred to more fully as a ‘non-transitory computer-readable storage medium’) to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or that includes one or more circuits (e.g., application specific integrated circuit (ASIC)) for performing the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s), and by a method performed by the computer of the system or apparatus by, for example, reading out and executing the computer executable instructions from the storage medium to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or controlling the one or more circuits to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s). The computer may comprise one or more processors (e.g., central processing unit (CPU), micro processing unit (MPU)) and may include a network of separate computers or separate processors to read out and execute the computer executable instructions. The computer executable instructions may be provided to the computer, for example, from a network or the storage medium. The storage medium may include, for example, one or more of a hard disk, a random-access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), a storage of distributed computing systems, an optical disk (such as a compact disc (CD), digital versatile disc (DVD), or Blu-ray Disc (BD)TM), a flash memory device, a memory card, and the like.

(119) While the present invention has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed exemplary embodiments. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

Claims

1. An image capturing apparatus comprising: an image sensor that includes a photoelectric conversion section including first type pixels that receive visible light from a light flux from an object and output a visible light image and second type pixels that receive invisible light from the light flux from the object and output an invisible light image; a memory device that stores a set of instructions; and at least one processor that executes the set of instructions to: perform pattern recognition of the invisible light image; and switch an image capturing control for capturing the visible light image from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.
2. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the invisible light is at least one of near-infrared light, mid-infrared light, far-infrared light, and ultraviolet light.
3. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to: perform the second image capturing control in a period in which the specific pattern is recognized through the pattern recognition, and perform the first imaging control in a period in which the specific pattern is not recognized through the pattern recognition.
4. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to control light emission of a flash emission unit that illuminates the object, wherein the first image capturing control permits light emission from the flash emission unit, and the second image capturing control prohibits light emission from the flash emission unit.
5. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to control a mechanical shutter and an electronic shutter used when capturing an image, and wherein the first image capturing control permits use of the mechanical shutter, and the second image capturing control prohibits use of the mechanical shutter and permits use of only the electronic shutter.
6. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to control recording of the visible light image, wherein the first image capturing control permits the recording of the visible light image, and the second image capturing control prohibits the recording of the visible light image.
7. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first image capturing control permits setting of an image capturing condition designated by a user, and the second image capturing control sets the image capturing condition corresponding to the specific pattern.
8. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the image capturing condition includes at least one of white balance, shutter speed, aperture, ISO sensitivity, recording, and a photometric mode.
9. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to perform notification to notify a user that the second image capturing control is performing in a case where the specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.
10. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to return the image capturing control from the second image capturing control to the first image capturing control in a case where the specific pattern is no longer detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.
11. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the at least one processor executes instructions in the memory device to return the image capturing control from the second

image capturing control to the first image capturing control in a case where a state in which the specific pattern is not detected from the invisible light image continues for a certain period through the pattern recognition.

12. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific pattern detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition is sent to another linked image capturing apparatus that has the at least one processor.

13. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the other image capturing apparatus is linked via an information processing apparatus.

14. An information processing apparatus that links a plurality of image capturing apparatuses, the information processing apparatus comprising: a memory device that stores a set of instructions; and at least one processor that executes the set of instructions to: perform pattern recognition of an invisible light image in a case where the invisible light image generated from invisible light in a light flux from an object is received from one of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses; and send a switching instruction to the plurality of image capturing apparatuses so as to switch an image capturing control of each of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the received invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

15. A control method for an image capturing apparatus that includes an image sensor including a photoelectric conversion section including first type pixels that receive visible light from a light flux from an object and output a visible light image and second type pixels that receive invisible light from the light flux from the object and output an invisible light image, the control method comprising: performing pattern recognition of the invisible light image; and switching an image capturing control for capturing the visible light image from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

16. A control method for an information processing apparatus that links a plurality of image capturing apparatuses, the control method comprising: performing pattern recognition of an invisible light image in a case where the invisible light image generated from invisible light in a light flux from an object is received from one of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses; and sending a switching instruction to the plurality of image capturing apparatuses so as to switch an image capturing control of each of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the received invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

17. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a control program causing a computer to execute a control method for an image capturing apparatus that includes an image sensor including a photoelectric conversion section including first type pixels that receive visible light from a light flux from an object and output a visible light image and second type pixels that receive invisible light from the light flux from the object and output an invisible light image, the control method comprising: performing pattern recognition of the invisible light image; and switching an image capturing control for capturing the visible light image from a first image capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the invisible light image through the pattern recognition.

18. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a control program causing a computer to execute a control method for an information processing apparatus that links a plurality of image capturing apparatuses, the control method comprising: performing pattern recognition of an invisible light image in a case where the invisible light image generated from invisible light in a light flux from an object is received from one of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses; and sending a switching instruction to the plurality of image capturing apparatuses so as to switch an image capturing control of each of the plurality of image capturing apparatuses from a first image

capturing control to a second image capturing control in a case where a specific pattern is detected from the received invisible light image through the pattern recognition.
