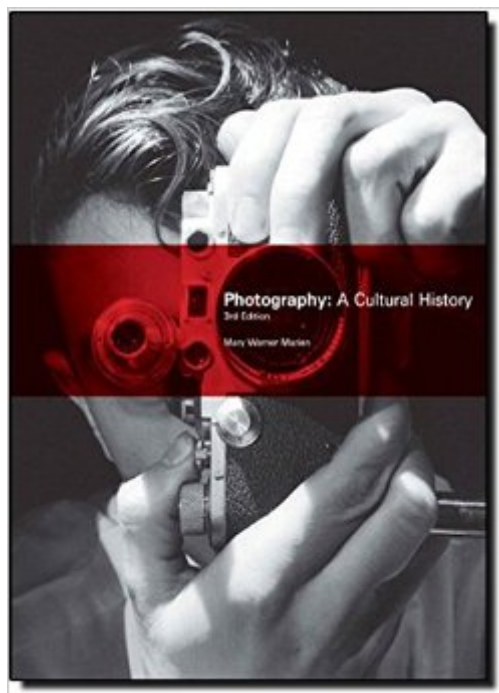


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# Photography: A Cultural History (3rd Edition)



## Synopsis

For one or two semester courses in the History of Photography. Mary Warner Marien has constructed a richer and more kaleidoscopic account of the history of photography than has previously been available. Her comprehensive survey shows compellingly how photography has sharpened, if not altered forever, our perception of the world. The book was written to introduce students to photography. It does not require that students possess any technical know-how and can be taught without referring to techniques in photography. Incorporating the latest research and international uses of photography, the text surveys the history of photography in such a way that students can gauge the medium's long-term multifold developments and see the historical and intellectual contexts in which photographers lived and worked. It also provides a unique focus on contemporary photo-based work and electronic media.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (68 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This was required for a 400-level history of photography class. The pictures in it are gorgeous, and the history was pretty thorough in that it seemed to cover all the major photographers of a given era (then my professor would go into greater detail about them individually). This book covers a TON of photographers, eras, movements, and so on. It does get a little dry, but it's easy to read. It's a huge and heavy book, so try not to have to cart it around everywhere you go.

Worth every penny! I actually have to read each chapter for class, and if it weren't for that I wouldn't

have read every word; but I'm glad I did! Fantastic book, beautifully put together, lots of information, incredible photography and simply the best text book I have ever read in my entire school life! Beautiful as well to have on the coffee table for guests to read, if you don't plan on cramming through.

The last word in the sociology of photography: a truly encyclopaedic tome. Warner proceeds from the invention of photography across genres ( war, documentary, social sciences, mass media, post-modernism, youth and beauty and so on) Her categories are broad-ranging, free and eclectic: even a cursory reading of the contents page is instructive! The format proceeds more or less chronologically through the photographers who have made their mark in photographic and art history, contextualising them within the time and the place ( this is neither a Euro nor Americo-centric work) including illustrations of their work with extended captions, a contextualisation of the genre in the history and then a brief summarising "retake" at the end of every chapter, a "focus" page on a topic or a person, all the way to the stirrings of digital technology. It's referenced, with a good bibliography: I cannot imagine a better single volume introduction to photographic criticism and appreciation. In style, it's dense, compacting a lot into a small space, but nonetheless very readable: to dip or to burrow into with equal pleasure. A desert island book.

This is a superb introduction to the history of photography as an art form. The illustrations are informative and the writer has a thorough and contemporary understanding of art history. Like most textbooks, this is a book to study, not to browse. The prose is dense not because it is poorly written, but because it conveys so much information. I would give it five stars if not for the price, which seems higher than it needs to be.

Had to get it for class, the reading is a little dense and includes a lot of history on it, especially on some of the images it tends to focus on. Overall, it was a good book and came within time! I rented the book and was able to return it back without any problems!

An excellent text book that makes many connections across the history of photography. It is clearly written. The thematic structure makes it a more attractive text for teaching than most others. It is text to which I will compare others as I search for less expensive options to use in my class room.

Amazing amount of photography history from beginning to contemporary times. This was a class

assigned text that I enjoyed alot, so much that Ill return to it to continue exploring the dense content and to reinforce what I have already learned. It basically offers the roots of photography so we can all know whats been done and become inspired to build on this either by doing it all better or discovering something new to go down in history.

I absolutely loved this book. I used this in an online class, so I had to read every page and study many of the photographs. This was a complete blessing though. The images in it are completely beautiful and the amount of information in this text was completely astonishing. I had to buy this for class and am definitely just keeping it because it is definitely worth the money.

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