

# History of photography (part 3): photography as art

CS 178, Spring 2012

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# Outline

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- ◆ photography as an aid to artists
- ◆ genres
  - allegory
  - still life
- ◆ Naturalism
- ◆ Pictorialism
- ◆ profile: Alfred Stieglitz

# Photography as an artistic medium

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(Rosenblum)

William Talbot, *The Open Door*, 1843

# Photography as an aid to artists

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(Rosenblum)



Eugène Durieu, Figure Study, 1853



Eugène Delacroix, Dante and Virgil in Hell, 1822

- Delacroix collaborated with Durieu on these figure studies

# Photography as an aid to artists

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(Rosenblum)



Thomas Eakins's students, 1883



Thomas Eakins, *The Swimming Hole*, 1883

# Photography as an aid to artists

Kitty Owen (granddaughter of William Jennings Bryan)



6 (Ludwig)



Maxfield Parrish, illustration for Life, 1923

© Marc Levoy

# Planning a photograph

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pre-production sketch

(Newhall)

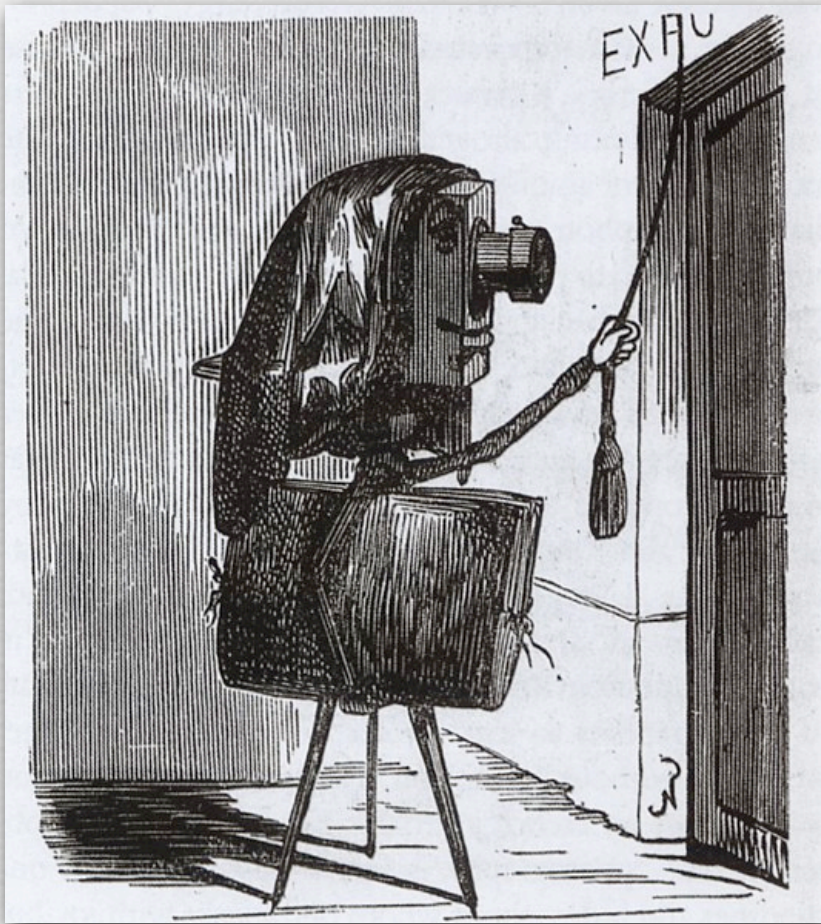
photograph



Henry Peach Robinson, Carrolling, 1887

# Photography struggles for respect

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“Photography asking for just a little place in the exhibition of fine arts.”

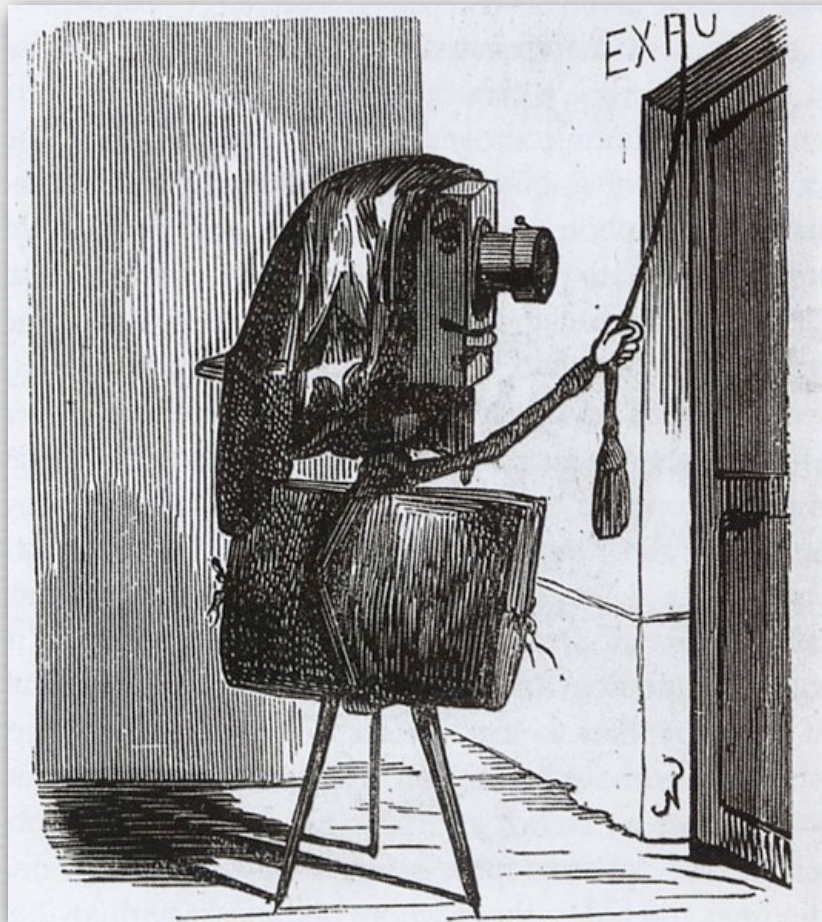
Gaspard Tournachon (“Nadar”), from *Le Journal Amusant*, 1857





Francois-Joseph Heim, The Exhibition of 1824

# Photography struggles for respect



“Photography asking for just a little place in the exhibition of fine arts.”

Gaspard Tournachon (“Nadar”), from *Le Journal Amusant*, 1857

# Genres

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- ◆ allegory
- ◆ still life



Thomas Cole, *The Voyage of Life* (1842) I: Childhood



Thomas Cole, The Voyage of Life (1842) II: Youth



Thomas Cole, The Voyage of Life (1842) III: Manhood



Thomas Cole, The Voyage of Life (1842) IV: Old Age

# Allegorical collage

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- huge print (31" wide)
- composite of 30 negatives
- widely denounced as mechanical
- made the artist rich and famous



Oscar Rejlander, *Two Ways of Life*, 1857



# One-frame movie

- perfectly healthy 14-year old girl
- photograph as theatrical narrative
- 5 differently exposed negatives, hence early example of HDR!



Henry Peach Robinson, *Fading Away*, 1858

# The Dutch still life

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- balanced composition
- variety of textures
- specular highlights  
(white if glass,  
colored if metal)
- reflected windows

Willem Claesz Heda,  
Still Life with  
Oysters, Rum Glass,  
and Silver Cup, 1634



# Vanitas

- intended to symbolize the transience of life, the futility of pleasure, and the certainty of death
- common symbols are a skull, clock or candle, pipes for blowing bubbles, leaning glass, rotting fruit



Willem Claesz Heda, Still Life - Vanitas, 1628

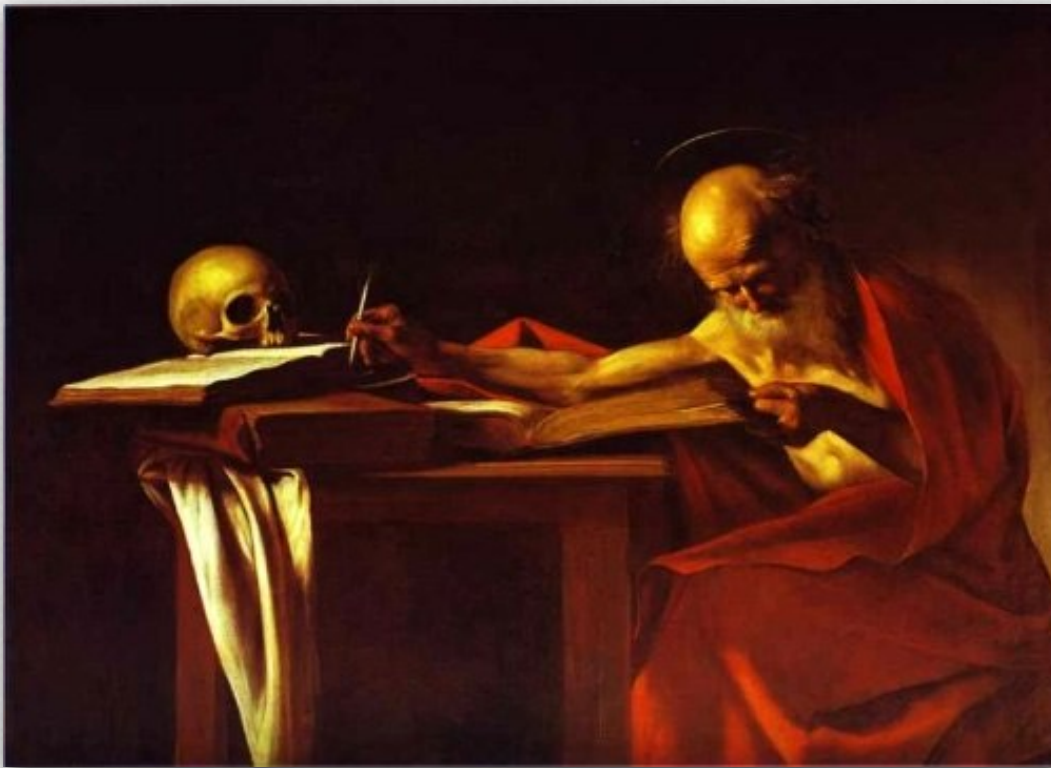
- anamorphic image of skull
- to view without distortion, stand near lower-left corner of painting
- salvation is represented by crucifix in upper-left corner

Hans Holbein,  
The Ambassadors,  
1533



# Memento mori (“Be mindful of death”)

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Caravaggio, St. Jerome, 1606



Lawrence Olivier in Hamlet, 1948,  
“Alas, poor Yorick!  
I knew him, Horatio.”

# Photographic still life

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Hermann Krone, Still Life  
of the Washerwoman, 1853



Charles Aubry,  
Leaves, 1864



(Rosenblum)

(Baxendall)

# Dead nature

(Rosenblum)



Adolphe Braun, Still Life with Deer and Wildfowl, 1865



Jean-Baptiste Oudry, Hare, Sheldrake, Bottles, Bread and Cheese, 1742



# Genres: still life

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(Rosenblum)



Adolphe Braun, Still Life  
with Deer and Wildfowl, 1865



Jean-Baptiste Oudry, Le Pâté, 1743  
(at the S.F. Palace of Legion of Honor)

Ansel Adams,  
Still Life, 1932



# Still life photographs from CS 178

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Nora Willett, *Memento Mori* (2009)

Tatiana Iskandar  
Vanitas (2009)



Wajahat Qadeer  
Heart Ring (2009)



ChangWhan Yea,  
Caustics (2010)



# Naturalism

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(Rosenblum)

- reaction against the artificiality of genre photographs
- blend of Romanticism, lyricism, and early Impressionism
- importance of pose, camera vantage point, and atmosphere



Frank Sutcliffe, Water Rats, 1886



George Caleb Bingham,  
Fur Traders Descending  
the Missouri, 1845

(Honour)



Frank Sutcliffe, Water Rats, 1886



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(Rosenblum)



Lidell Sawyer, In the Twilight, 1888

© Marc Levoy



Édouard Manet, *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe*, 1863

(Gardner)

(Rosenblum)



Lidell Sawyer, *In the Twilight*, 1888

© Marc Levoy

# Pictorialism

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- photography needed to emulate the art of painting
- extreme manipulation of the photograph
- photographic Impressionism

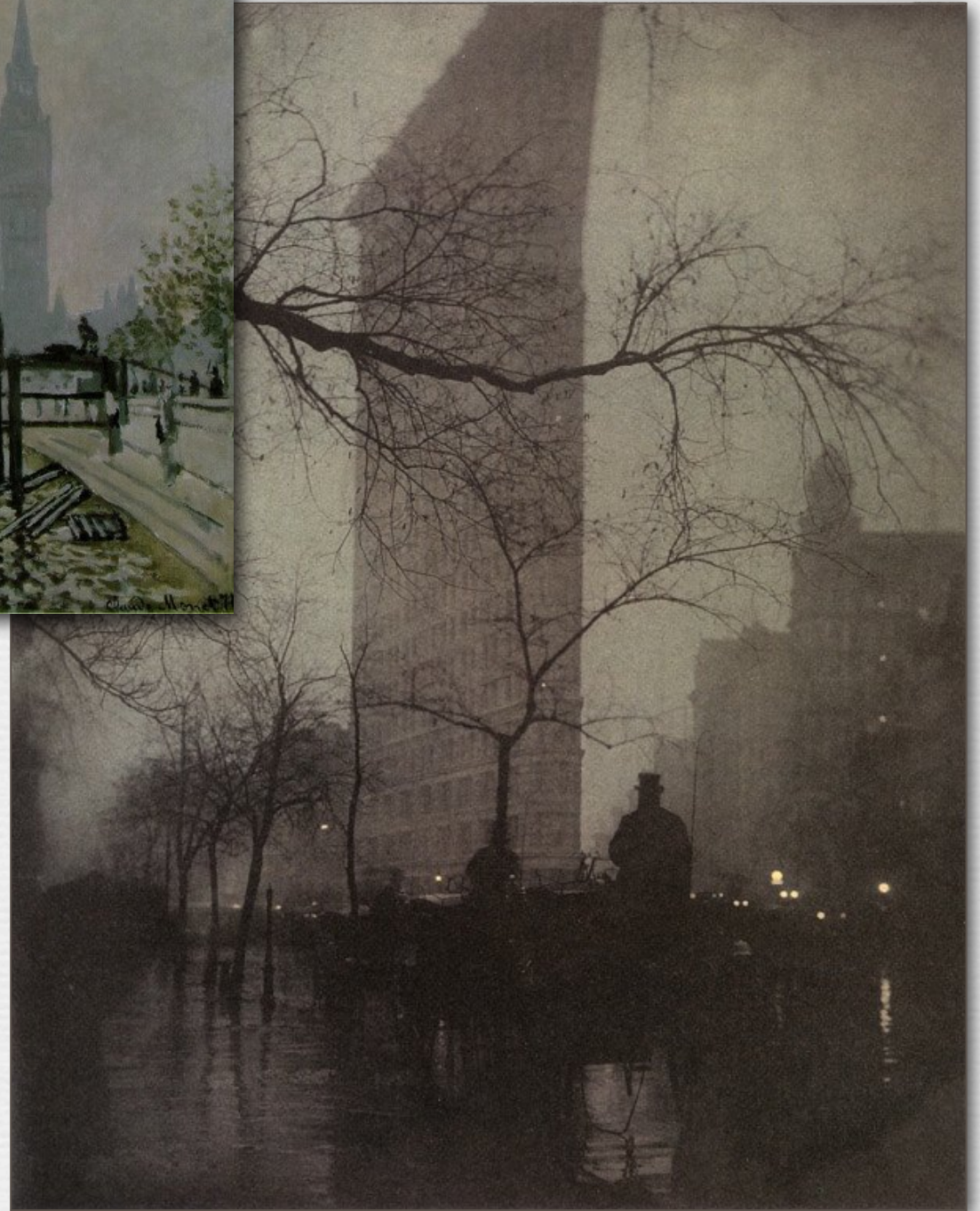
Edward Steichen,  
The Flatiron,  
1904





Claude Monet, The Thames  
and the Houses of Parliament,  
1871

Edward Steichen,  
The Flatiron,  
1904



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(Rosenblum)

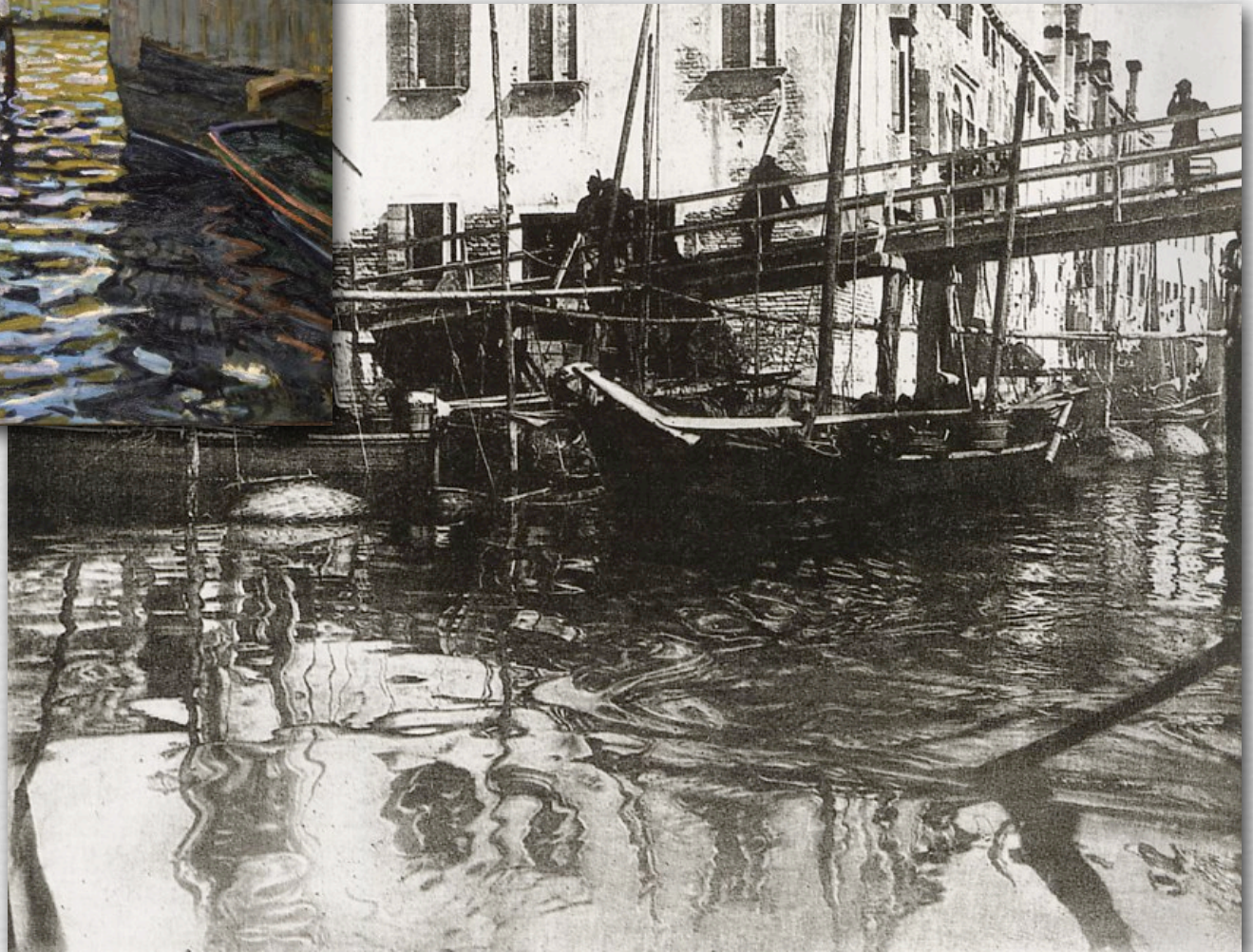


James Craig Annan,  
A Black Canal, 1894



Claude Monet, La Grenouillère (The Frog Pond), 1869

(Rosenblum)



James Craig Annan,  
A Black Canal, 1894

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(Rosenblum)



E.J. Constant Puyo,  
Summer, 1903



Claude Monet, Poppy  
Field near Vétheuil,  
1879

(Rosenblum)



E.J. Constant Puyo,  
Summer, 1903



# Animating pictures

[Chuang SIGGRAPH 2005]



Claude Monet, Bridge at Argenteuil, 1874

# Animating pictures

[Chuang SIGGRAPH 2005]



# Animating pictures

[Chuang SIGGRAPH 2005]



# Cinemagraphs

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(cinemagraphs.com)



# Cliplets

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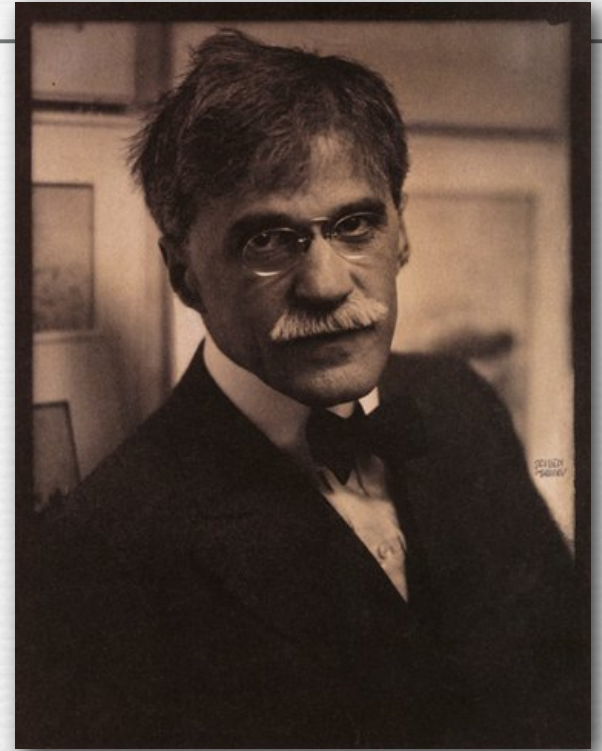
Nikon V1 Motion Snapshot  
(60fps for 1 second, slowed 2.5x, cross-dissolve to still, played with music)

⌘ THE BEAUTY OF A **SECOND** ⌘  
ROUND 3

# Alfred Stieglitz (1864 - 1946)

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- ◆ began as a Pictorialist
- ◆ became a Realist as he addressed social themes, then a Modernist as he photographed urban landscapes
- ◆ photographed (and married) painter Georgia O'Keeffe
- ◆ first of the “heroic age” of artist photographers



(Rosenblum)



Sun's Rays - Paula,  
Berlin, 1889





Venetian Canal,  
1897



Leonardo, Mona Lisa  
(detail), 1503-1519  
example of *sfumato*



Miss Thompson, 1907  
(collaboration with  
Clarence White)

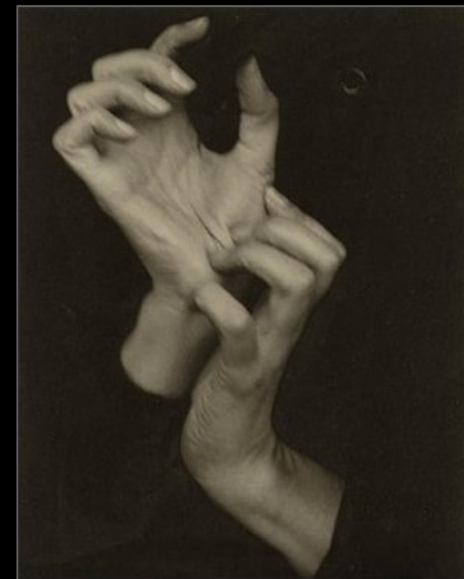
(Daniel)



The Terminal, 1893 (printed 1913)



The Steerage, 1907



Portraits of  
Georgia O'Keeffe

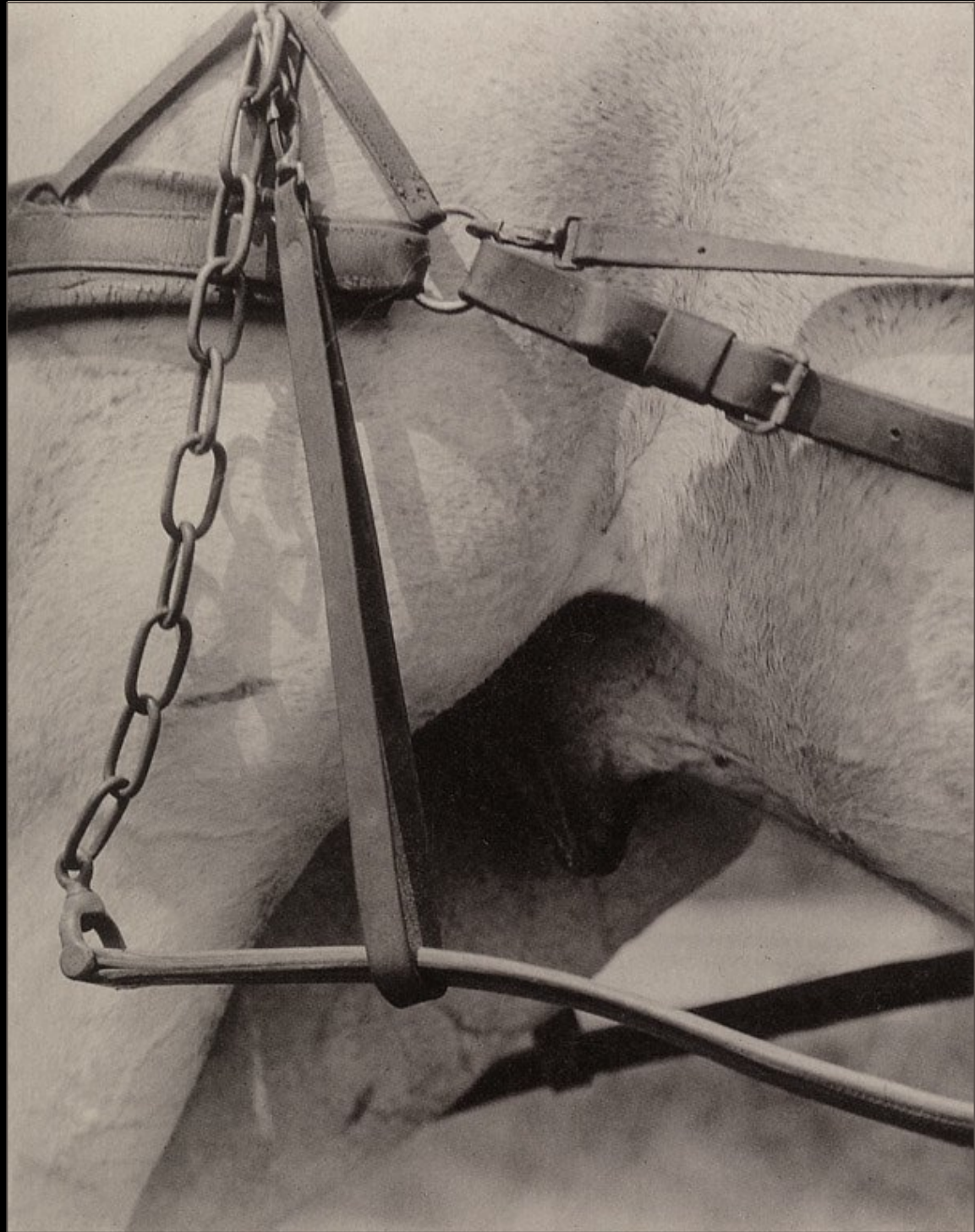


1907



1918

(Daniel)



Spiritual America,  
1923



From the Shelton  
Westward, New York,  
1931



# Slide credits

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