

A History of Women Photographers


By Naomi Rosenblum




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Women have had a special relationship with the camera since the advent of photographic technology in the mid-nineteenth century. Photographers celebrated women as their subjects, from intimate family portraits and fashion spreads to artistic photography and nude studies, including Man Ray's *Violon d'Ingres*. Lesser known— and lesser studied— is the history of women photographers, who continue to make invaluable contributions to this flourishing art form.

Featuring more than 300 illustrations, *A History of Women Photographers* is the only comprehensive survey of women photographers from the age of the daguerreotype to the present day. In this edition, author Naomi Rosenblum expands the book's coverage to include additional photographers and fourteen new images. The text and the appendix of photographer biographies have been revised throughout, and Rosenblum also provides a new afterword, in which she evaluates the influence of rapidly changing digital technology on the field of photography and the standing of women photographers in the twenty-first century.

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A History of Women Photographers By Naomi Rosenblum Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this landmark volume, Rosenblum (*A World History of Photography*) examines sympathetically the achievements of women in photography since its invention in 1839, and highlights society's failure to give them appropriate recognition. One research obstacle the author encountered was the 19th-century practice of men taking credit for work done by women. Here is work from 250 female camera artists, from Julia Margaret Cameron (b. 1815) to Annie Leibovitz (b. 1949), who, despite strong cultural resistance, mastered everything from early wet-plate views and portraits to 35 millimeter photojournalism, often initiating aesthetic and commercial improvements. Her chronicle of women's part in each era's artistic movements and media transitions, plus capsule biographies with an in-depth bibliography and index, make this a seminal reference work. The author's choice of 263 photographs seems to favor the esoteric, bringing to light a largely unknown world in vivid originality and broad archival conception.

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From Library Journal

Here is yet another publication that strives to rescue from oblivion the neglected achievements of women in the visual arts. Juxtaposing the past 155 years of photographic history with events from women's social history, Rosenblum (*A World History of Photography*, LJ 2/1/85) documents women's contributions to the technological, artistic, and experimental development of photography. Her feminist narrative explores women's creativity both as a means of self-expression and as a lucrative profession. The 36 color plates, along with over 200 black-and-white illustrations, include fine examples of portraiture, advertising, and photojournalism. The last section contains valuable thumbnail biographies of approximately 240 female photographers—from the obscure to the famous—whose illustrations appear in the text. An ambitious bibliography makes this a prime tool and stimulus for researchers. Highly recommended for photography, women's studies, and young adult collections.

Joan Levin, MLS, Chicago

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Review

"Landmark volume... a seminal reference work... brings to light a largely unknown world in vivid originality and broad archival conception." —*Publishers Weekly*

"The definitive book on the subject." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"Rich in revelation and discoveries." —*Art New England*

"There are surprises in every chapter of this well-written history, and the supporting material... is equally valuable." —*Chicago Tribune*

"A 'must' acquisition." —*Choice Magazine*

"This volume is a remarkable resource and a wonderful work of art...In all, an unaccustomed luxury of quantity and quality." —*The Art Book*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Monica Ceja:

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Edna Brooks:

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Samuel Brooks:

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