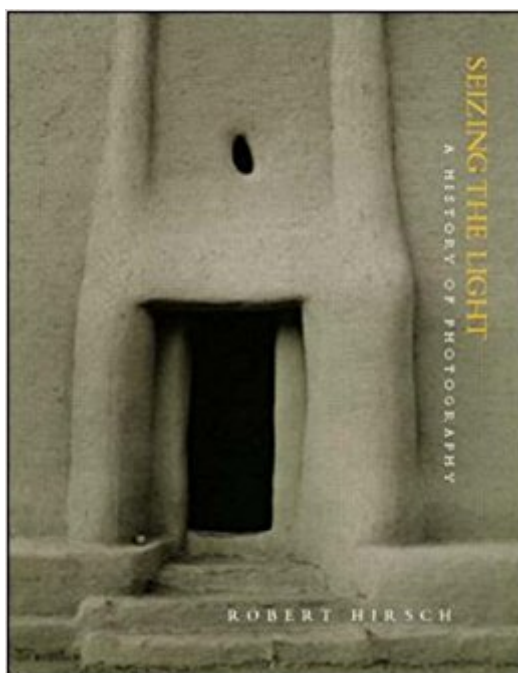


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# Seizing The Light: A History Of Photography



## Synopsis

"Its chief virtues are a succinct, mostly lucid style, a wide intellectual scope, a flood of ideas and insights at every turn, sensitivity to the technology and culture of photography, and a willingness to attend to images . . . In the end, perhaps the best measure of a text is whether or not one would choose it from among all the offerings to use in class. I have chosen to use this book." - Photo Review, Spring 2000. . "An excellent introductory history book." - Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism. . In this wonderful and entertaining book, Hirsch has produced the most useful, readable, and practical successor to Newhall. Seizing the Light is written in a friendly, accessible way -- dense with information, but more hip and lively than other offerings, especially those aimed at college students." - exposure: The research journal of the Society for Photographic Education. Vol. 32.2 (Fall, 1999) . . Hirsch's prose is very digestible. He writes in a clear, lively style with a minimum of jargon." - Views: the newsletter of the Visual Material Section of the Society of American Archivists. . Science, culture, and art come together in this comprehensive history of photography. With superlative production values, rare and unusual prints, and a fresh perspective, Robert Hirsch has written the ideal companion to the first 200 years of photography..

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Robert J. Hirsch (Buffalo, NY) is the Associate Director of Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY and co-director of Visual Studies Workshop Graduate Program. He is also Associate Professor of Art at SUNY/Brockport.. . Until June of 1999, he was the Director for Photographic Arts (CEPA

Gallery), Rochester, NY.

Robert Hirsch's survey of the origins and evolution of photography, "Seizing the Light," is a welcome addition to the expanding study of the medium. In clear, insightful, and engaging prose, Hirsch unfolds photography's hit-or-miss birth which was rapidly followed by coherent technological developments almost at the speed of light. Hirsch makes us believe that photography was inevitable; the darling and necessary child of destiny wed to information theory. And Hirsch's treatment of early 20th century Modernist photography and the philosophy behind Pictorialism is excellent. As a primer for the invention of photography and its chemical underpinnings, "Seizing the Light" is as good as it can be. It falls a little short, however, in its treatment of contemporary photography. The book would have been better served by including a few in-depth surveys of important contemporary photographic projects in order to emphasize the centrality of this discipline in contemporary art history and postmodern theory which is heavily dependent on the nature of images and processes of image-making.

History can be boring, and dry. The book starts with, as one may expect, the dawn of photography. At first, I avoided this book, letting my reading for class pile up until midterms hit and SURPRISE! I found myself needing to read half of a textbook. It was that task that led me to love this book. I sat and read it, which at first, was painful. Then as it drew on, I realized, that I was enjoying learning the roots of my passion, and that Hirsch wrote it in such a way that drew me in, and was actually entertaining. I got a 102% on that midterm, and I went on to buy a used copy of this book when I stumbled across it.

When I first got the book I thought it would be a lot more beat up than it was. But to my surprise, the pages were in tact and also just a few pages were a little worn and folded. I was skeptical, because books seem like they are always beat up when you get to read it next. In the meantime, I am using this book until the semester is over with because of how low the pricing is for rentals. Thanks, I will highly recommend to students to check out your site. Marie

This book delves into more of the cultural and societal implications of photography. Highly recommend for photo students and those interested in photographic history.

I'm enrolled in a basic photography history course at a community college. This is the textbook we

were assigned to buy for the class. The book is well put together and full of great facts. The size is rather large but this allows for the many pictures and nice size text used in the book. The chapters flow well and the book is not hard to read. I am all around satisfied with the textbook. I also found out after purchasing it that it's available for digital download onto the Kindle. Some in my class have downloaded it and say they read it throughout the day and can study on the go with the book in digital format.

This textbook is a wealth of information. I had no idea the history of photography was so rich. You never really think much about the history of our technology, etc the way you do about the history of people or cultures as a whole. There are several pages of pictures in each chapter to accompany all of the writing, and each chapter ends with endnotes, citations and information about the text from the chapter. The writing is very organized. I have no complaints. It's a great textbook to learn from.

I rented this book for my History of Photography class and it was a pleasure to read. Like most history books, there were a few areas of very boring text (I'm looking at you Post-Modernism). However, overall, I found this book flowed very well with the class and even found myself liking many of the chapters.

Very helpful book for my History of Photography class.

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