

**IMPRESSIONISM, PHOTOGRAPHY, SERIALISM:  
The Impressionist Eye as Camera**

- I. New technologies of the visible, ca. 1850s Paris
  - A. Age-old pictorial devices
  - B. Baudelaire and the threat of photography

*...this industry, by invading the territories of art, has become art's most mortal enemy, and... the confusion of their several functions prevents any of them from being properly fulfilled.... If photography is allowed to supplement art... it will soon have supplanted or corrupted it altogether, thanks to the stupidity of the multitude which is its natural ally.*

– Baudelaire, Salon of 1859
  - C. Photography and the theater of attractions (Magic Lanterns and other wonders)
  - D. Was photography nothing new? (Varnedoe) or a revelatory new machine vision? (Joel Snyder et al.)
    - 1) The camera lucida and the “pencil of nature” (Talbot) – 1820s-30s
    - 2) Mechanical objectivity
    - 3) The lure of the figure (early montages)
- II. What painting took, and avoided, from the photographic
  - A. Stereoscopy vs. the mastery of one-point perspective
  - B. Time
    - 1) The art of the blur
    - 2) Weather
    - 3) Happenstance
    - 4) Focus
- III. Negotiating “Impressionism” as an alternate vision
  - A. Edgar Degas – the modern classicist
  - B. Claude Monet – “*seulement un oeil, mais quel oeil!*” (Only an eye, but what an eye!)

See verso for slide list

Slide List (selected) for 4:2

*machine visions*

Jan Vermeer  
Magic Lantern slides

*panoramas, heliographs, and other photo-graphic wonders*

Niepce, View from Window at Gras, 1826 \* **the first “fixed shadow”**  
Talbot, Latticed Window August 1835  
Muybridge, Panorama of San Francisco 1877  
Muybridge, Galloping Horse 1878  
Marey, Walking, 1885  
Bertillon, Identification anthropometrique, 1898

*the painters, the paintings*

Bazille, Summer Scene, 1862  
Monet, Boulevard des Capucines, (two versions) 1872 and 1873  
Caillebotte, Rue de Paris, temps de pluie 1877  
Degas, M. & Mme. Edouard Manet, 1868-9  
Degas, Place de la Concorde, 1875  
Manet, tinted photograph of The Railway (photo by J. M. Godet), 1873-4  
Manet, The Balcony 1868-69  
Zola, New Version of Manet’s Balcony, photograph, ca. 1890  
Le Gray, Effect of the Sun, Normandy, photograph, 1856-59  
Monet, Impression: Sunrise, 1873 (stolen from Musee Marmottan)  
Monet, Nymphs, (and detail) 1919-26

*negotiating “Impressionism”*

Degas, Self-Portrait 1857-8  
Degas, Young Spartans Exercising, 1860  
Degas, Au Café, L’Absynthe, 1877  
Degas, Woman on a Café Terrace, Evening, 1877  
Degas, Le Viol (The Rape), 1866-67  
Degas, Dans le salon d’une Maison Close, 1879 (monotype)  
Degas, Laundress (variants) 1869, -74, -86  
Degas, Dance School, 1873  
Degas, Aux Ambassadeurs (a café) 1877