



Speaker: In 1839 photography was simultaneously invented in England and France. Now a moment in time could be captured. It was immediate, although in early photography it was not spontaneous. The time required to expose the film was too long to catch action shots. With the invention of photography, the demand for portrait painting instantly declined. Photography was an economically accessible medium which meant, that most with some economic means could afford a portrait photograph.

A new industry was created very quickly. Again, slow exposure time required the sitters to remain frozen while the aperture of the camera was open. It was too hard to maintain a frozen smile for that long, so that's why everybody looked so serious in those old photographs. Those old photographs, the first type of photography was called a daguerreotype which used silver or silver coated copper plates in order to print the film.

The American civil war was the first war to be documented in photography. The photograph couldn't capture the action of the war but poignantly captured the aftermath. As camera technology improved, photographers could use it to record things in nature that had never been seen before. Artists quickly recognized that photographs could be composed artistically and through the developing process beautiful art could be achieved.

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