

Assignment 1

Read Pennell's *Is Photography Among the Fine Arts?* and consider the following:

Choose any photograph in your textbook that piques your interest and consider the arguments for and against the artistic merits of photography. Define "art" and identify what characteristics any work must have in order to be called art. Discuss visual elements of your photo that support your position.

What aspects of the photos as objects, and the process of making photographs led to debates on the artistic merits of photography? Consider that to this day, photographs have less monetary value than paintings and sculpture. Why? What biases are in operation in this circumstance? Discuss Victorian views on the nature of art and art making, and how that perspective diminished the importance of photographic media.

- or -

Using the website links provided, create one of the following photographic devices:

Camera Obscura

Follow the directions at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvWX6-0_VHU, to create a room-sized camera obscura.

Sun Print

Purchase "sun print" or "cyanotype" paper from a craft/ art supply store. (You can also find directions at http://www.ehow.com/how_2063489_make-cyanotype.html to create your own, but use caution!) Alternately, you may use construction paper to create a sun print, using the directions at www.ehow.com/how_5668084_make-sunprints-construction-paper.html.

Pinhole Camera

Follow the directions at www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/pringles_pinhole.html or www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Make-A-Pinhole-Camera/, to make a photograph using a pinhole camera.

Zoetrope

Follow the directions at www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHmSG1j7hXM or www.randommotion.com/html/zoe2.html, to create your own zoetrope.

Describe the photographic device you made and how it works. Explain the process of making an image and describe any difficulties you encountered. Document your creation with a photo of your device/print, and attach to your essay.