

Rationales: General Framework

Modern Marvels (TV Series Season 3, Episode 14), Captured Light: The Invention of Still Photography (1997)

The ___Art___ Department has carefully evaluated ___this video_ (50 minutes)_____ as a whole and deemed it worthy for the 8-12 grade Digital Photography curriculum.

I. PLOT SUMMARY

Plot summary from http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3326150/plotsummary?ref=tt_ov_pl

“The development of the still camera was one of the most significant advances of the age of invention. The captured image has transformed the way we see our world, preserving moments forever with the push of a button. *Modern Marvels*; presents the strange saga of the birth of photography, and the men at the heart of this tale. See how Frenchman Joseph Nicéphore Niépce was the first to succeed in photographing an image in 1826, but his work was co-opted after his death by the artist and showman Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre. The Daguerreotype became popular, and Daguerre claimed the credit for himself, never recognizing the work of his former partner. Trace the story of Englishman William Henry Fox Talbot, who invented the negative-positive process that is still used today. And see how George Eastman brought photography to the masses with his affordable, easy to use cameras. With expert interviews and incredible images from the early days of photography including Matthew Brady's legendary images of the Civil War this is the illuminating story of *Captured Light*.”

With our course focused on non-film photography, it is important to understand how photography was born and the similarity of the process to the digital art form. This video provides a foundation of knowledge prior to the fall semester research project in which they each research a different historical process/ inventor for a research paper and class presentation.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES BASED ON STANDARDS

National Core Arts Standards (<http://nationalartsstandards.org/>)

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Connecting: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

We re-visit these early photo processes later in the semester when mastering PhotoShop.

We use our own photos to create the illusion of historic cyanotype, daguerreotype, wet-plate collodian, and autochrome.

III. SENSITIVE SUBJECTS IN THE TEXT AND HOW POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS WILL BE HANDLED

Possible sensitive topics contained in *Captured Light: The Invention of Still Photography (1997)*: brief nudity.

In the classroom, sensitive topics will be dealt with in a mature fashion, toward an understanding of why this material is included in the video. There are a couple of brief glimpses of historic daguerreotypes for a total of no more than 40 seconds. This video is an episode of the Modern Marvels t.v. series that aired on the History Channel in prime time. The Art department feels that the historical merit of this film more than compensates for the inclusion of this VERY BRIEF sensitive subject matter. If the student is uncomfortable at any time, the student should meet with the teacher to discuss his/her concerns.