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Photography of the arts

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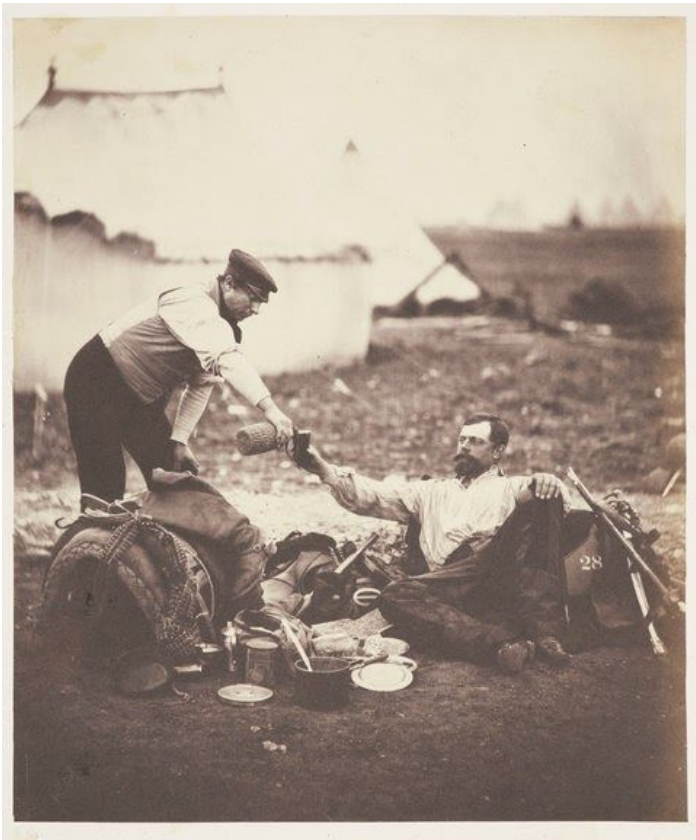
How have artists utilised the digital world exploring Identity and conflict?

When the camera was first invented photography was not a form of art but a new form to document the world to a truer format . Looking back at some of the first images we can see, maybe understand more of that time then any painting or piece of writing could show us. It has definitely made learning about our history more advanced than just stories. we can see what our ancestors went through during great conflict for us to be as free as we are. After many generations of the camera just being a tool of documentation of horrific and wonderful steps the human race has made it began to become a paint brush for photographers as technology advanced and contemporary art blossomed you couldn't believe everything you saw in a photograph you definitely can't now.

"Beneath the technological surface of digital image production, important cultural continuities are at work." (Lister, Martin 2013)

In this essay I will be discussing how artists have used the advances of technology to bend and manipulate the truth of an image. How it went from a tool of documentation of conflict and great strides of generations to an

opportunity for artists to make believe. To show an identity and emotion how did artists stride in contemporary and modern art using new technology and the old ways of tradition? I will be concentrating comparing the truths of what the old processes tells us compared to the new, who do trust and whether photography documentation of conflict has conflicted people on what to believe.



Roger Fenton known as the first Great War photographer, the photographer

who documented the Crimean war. Realising that he would have

relied on large cumbersome cameras and unhandy glass plates, and long

exposures it does

not exactly define or follow the rules of

documentary war photography of the modern age.

Which confuses me as to what Fenton's work

actually is as his images would have been posed

because of the time that would have had to be

taken to consideration when it was composed

due to the long exposure.

"Freed at last from being mere recorders of reality our

creativity will be given free rein." (Lister

, Martin)

“setting up some false dichotomies and oppositions” (lister,Martin)

I don't believe the work that was being produced by Fenton was the reality the technology of his time couldn't allow him to show the British people the true reality. Still he is noted as one of the first war photographers and a godfather of the subject of conflict in the photography world. Fenton was first commissioned to take photographs of the Crimean war by the publisher Thomas Agnew and sons so that Thomas Barker could use the Images as the basis for paintings. Sources indicate that some of the reasoning of Fenton taking the images in the first place too was due to the motivation from Royal family members that wanted to shape the British public opinion.

You can tell what message Fenton wanted to communicate with the composure of this image, that ideals of that time were carried by the soldiers even at war. Even in conflict the white supreme male is still served by a person considered less than the status co but is still just an

average soldier serving his country when then it would have been the lesser ranks on the front line .

“The more powerful the class the more it claims not to exist.” (Debora,Guy:1967)

Before researching and wanting to understand what the photography business had done to utilise but from the beginning it was a tool of proper-ganda.

Robert Capa is responsible for one of the most famous photographs ever to come from a conflict “The falling soldier”. Robert Capa was considered a brave photojournalist who put himself in danger often in the name of documenting wars.



“I never looked at my pictures there” (Capa, Robert)

The way technology had developed by the time Capa was capturing the shots of dreadful war and death scenes as allied troops faced a fascist with a machine gun. He could get more

of a snapshot without thought of a composure or need
a element to last long enough in the
image for the image he would to take just snap and
then a secret of war and the uncomfortable
reality of death rates were forever on record I had
always felt capa to have utilised the
technology of his time and the sources of his time e.g
Life magazine as the best he could to
explore the different conflicts he had to endure to be a
beacon of information and reality to
women back home waiting on their man home.
Still after nearly seventy five years of Robert Capa's
"falling soldier" an image from the Spanish
civil war is one of the most famous photographs of
conflict there has been but also the most
questioned. A lot of critics think the image in question
was faked by Capa in the last 20 years
where technology has been utilised in getting the truth
about people out in the open. "Beneath
the technology surface of digital image production
important cultural continuities are at work"
(Lister, Martin 2013) Although specifying their digital

image production I believe there is always
cultural progression behind frames of conflict. there
has been plenty declared that the image in
question couldn't have been captured where when
Capa claimed although plenty of that
investigation was confining for many involved experts
still believe that 'the falling soldier' is true
and honest in the tragedy of death with so much of that
happening at that time I don't believe it



would have been
necessary to
compose a image
as real life was at
that time was as
scary as any horror
story people had heard
of then the reality of war
wasn't
welcomed but I really
believe that's

where technology was utilised by capa again as his
work was seen by millions and believed by millions
because of the status of each platform he

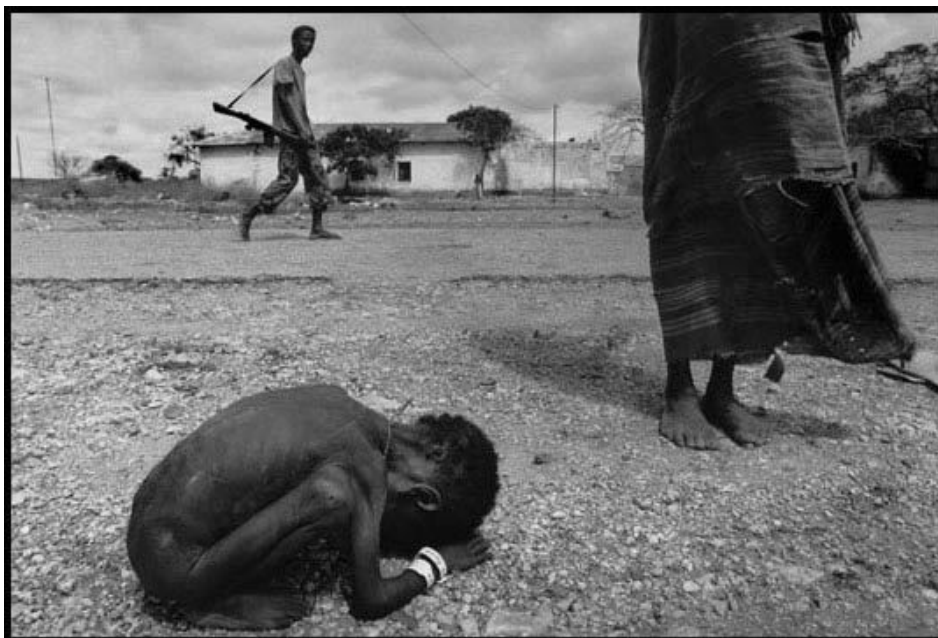
showed his work on, life magazine was one of the first great magazines for photography and one the first to show everyone what was happening far from home.

Don McCullen is not considered a war photographer in any sense as he didn't want to be remembered as that so he is one of the greatest photojournalists ever to live to me as his snaps of conflict are just that snap shots of conflict all over the world. In his photography I don't just think he utilises the technology that has been stumbled upon in his time as a photographer he understood that it was new technology coming through and that people who would have been the audience would have been set in there ways by then I believe he understood this so when colour was a option as probably the truest form a photograph is in these days he chooses against that and uses film black and white film to be particular and I believe this to be him utilising the technology because the conflict he was seeing was no change to civil conflict the world had seen yes different innocents losing their life's but still uncivilised

and unnecessary death which I do believe that is what McCullen wanted but by using the standard black and white and film he utilised the technology of great conflict images.

A trusted documentary photographer whose work opened the eyes of the many that world war may be over but war isn't extinct it's a thing happening still to this day and I believe that to be because of the utilisation of all technology and weapons that are available to this day making war easier and helping those already privileged be more so and vice versa.

“Almost over night, it seemed , the photographic image and other analogue visual media (film, television and video) became realist images viewed by passive dupes” (Lister, Martin)



James Nachtwey yet another world renowned

photographer in the world of conflict. Nachtwey hasn't

just concentrated on the conflict that we would

associate with guns and bad people but conflict again
AIDS in the poorest communities of this world as well
as hunger and the civil war those people fight day to
day just to breathe makes us fortunate people feel
much more so. Natchwey has definitely utilised
technology to his advantage just by pushing to travel
this far to be able to communicate with the audience he
built with life magazine again a thing brought by
technology that can print thousands of copies at the
same time and then distribute them. Sticking with the
classic black and white film ages the issues addressed
in photography of his. AIDS being an illnesses that we
discovered in the eighties, hunger being something
ancient that should have been abolished by now. The
black and white film is an aesthetic that documentary
photographers tend to stick with no matter the
technological advances the greats are always black and
white and to me I believe it's because of the weight a
black and white image carries but also the old way has
been most effective to get across what they want to
communicate and I feel a colour image can be taken
for granted so easily because in this day and age you

don't go five minutes without a colour image passing by in your digital world that you forget it's a privilege this technology exists now and although it is everywhere it is considered a privilege to have access to so when a black and white image comes along it emphasising our a privilege it has a bigger effect on the world. I believe that is a use of the technology word as it contrasts against what we should have with this new world but really it's the same conflict and pain being experienced by less privileged people of this world that everyone experienced in some of the biggest wars we've ever encountered as a species and it's still happening in a digital age like this. So the sticking to the traditional ways in documentary photography and conflict imagery utilises the technological world without actually having to change there set ways.

"Photography images become meaningful by the context of the spoken word and casual oral culture" (Lister, Martin)

"Freed at last from being mere recorders of reality, our creativity will be given full rein." (Lister, Martin)

I believe this to be true but also not, the great

photographers of conflict whose work was mainly during battle is questionable no one in this generation can tell whether the images depict what they are supposedly about or are a set up image . As the technological world has progressed artist have utilised it in outing the truth and also manipulating the truth it's a push and shove system as I would trust an image that's been taken today more than I would trust any photograph from the eighteenth century because as an artist I have the eye for technological manipulation or and edit of some kind but because I have had the privilege to make my work with brilliant advanced programming but I've never really had the need to manipulate a composition manual and had to lie as a photographer. I believe we as photographers have always been free in what we could capture. Yes a camera is a great tool for documenting things like conflict but it always has been. Through the generational technological advances artist have utilised it in documenting conflict by the exposure time being shortened with a smaller camera being invented but they have also utilised technology by using and

experimenting with the traditional way of process and
printing creating the desire for tactile images,
photographs with the want of being held instead of it
just being something you look at an image is
something sometimes especially images exploring
conflict that you want to be able to be close enough to
smell down to the distrust people have against images
and I feel as if that is something artists have created to
keep the traditional processes alive.

Overall I believe that artists have used up and coming
technology in the growth of it to explore all sorts but
definitely conflict and I believe they've used it by
making the traditional ways more concrete because it
creates an illusion of age and maturity in the
photographic world using the traditional processes
because of the foundations set by the historical
documentary photographers.

"Photographs will be freed from our perpetual construct, that of having definition,
to record the reality of things, that which is reality occurring... freed at least from
being mere recorders of reality our creativity will be given free rein." (Lister,
Martin)

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