

16 Ways of Looking at a Photograph

Class Exercise: Chapter 1, The Photographic Negative

William Henry Fox Talbot used his new invention of photography to create image ‘catalogs’ or inventories, of objects around his home—items of glass, and china, for example. In what ways do we now commonly use photography as a means of creating catalogs of images? Do you yourself have photographic ‘catalogs’ of objects that are important to you? How about 'catalogs,' records, of people or events? How do you organize or group images? How do online sites like Amazon and Facebook correspond to Talbot’s original urge to use the camera to create visual archives of things that were important to him? Create a list of all the objects that you interact with through photographic catalogs, both those that you come across—for example when shopping online—and those that you may create, for example, with your Instagram account.