



## Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography (3 Volumes)

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The *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography* explores the vast international scope of twentieth-century photography and explains that history with a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary manner. This unique approach covers the aesthetic history of photography as an evolving art and documentary form, while also recognizing it as a developing technology and cultural force. This *Encyclopedia* presents the important developments, movements, photographers, photographic institutions, and theoretical aspects of the field along with information about equipment, techniques, and practical applications of photography. To bring this history alive for the reader, the set is illustrated in black and white throughout, and each volume contains a color plate section. A useful glossary of terms is also included.

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### Editorial Review

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In these alphabetically arranged volumes, Warren, along with 227 contributors, strives to "provide a useful resource on the entire scope of photography in the twentieth century." The set has an international reach, and 324 of its 525 entries cover people, mostly photographers. The remaining articles, as outlined in the thematic list of entries, cover "Equipment" (*Camera: Digital; Enlarger*); "Institutions, Galleries, and Collections" (*Museum of Modern Art*); "Publications and Publishers" (*National Geographic*); "Regions" (*Mexico, photography in*); and "Topics and Terms" (*Contact printing, Industrial photography, Photographic "truth"*). Some articles, such as *Camera: An overview*, offer surveys on broad topics. Other, such as *Cable release*, zero in on specifics.

Articles on equipment tend to describe features and operation rather than historical development. Other types of entries, such as those on publications, regions, and photographic genres, provide a more historical overview. Many articles are 2 to 3 pages long, with some entries spanning 8 pages or more (e.g., *Museums: Europe* is 13 pages). The signed articles conclude with *see also* references and lists of further readings. Entries on people can include additional reference categories such as individual exhibitions, group exhibitions, books of photographs, and selected works (e.g., notable photographs). Also, readers can quickly scan a person's biographical highlights--entries on people include a capsule biography.

The alphabetical and thematic lists of entries, set index, and a 10-page glossary are repeated in each volume. Less helpful is a list of contributors without affiliations. Each volume also contains about 100 black-and-white photographs along with an 8-page glossy insert. Picture quality is fair. Warren states, "This is a work of scholarship, a book intended to be read rather than viewed," and some readers will be disappointed.

*The Oxford Companion to the Photograph* (2005) covers a longer time period, has more than 1,600 entries, and reviews about 800 photographers and other persons. However, most articles are much shorter and include fewer references. *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography* should prove useful for academic and larger public libraries. *Stephen Fadel*

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Review

**'Thorough and optimally organized work ... This reference tool belongs in every public, academic, and special library. Highly recommended.'** – *Library Journal*

**'A resource that will be invaluable to all collections that have any interest whatsoever in media studies generally and photography in particular. Larger public library reference collections will also find this work more than useful.'** – *Reference Reviews*

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