Photography

Cameras began to duplicate the world at the same moment that the industrial revolution created the ability to duplicate through mechanical means. What relationships are evident here?

Images provide most of the knowledge people have about the look of the past and the reach of the present.

Educated by images
- Artisanal images (portraits)
- Photographs

Creating new visual code
- Altered and enlarged notions of what is worth looking at
- What we have right to observe
- Ethics of seeing

Camera
- Makes exotic close (Africa, etc)
- Familiar distant
- Curiosity = unwanted, unfamiliar

Writing, painting, illustration = interpretations

Photographs = representations of reality
- Furnish evidence = truth
- Reality
- Existence

Functions
- Institutions
  - Surveillance
    - Control of mobile populations
    - Passport
    - Driver's licence

Family
- Symbolic

To photograph
- = Power
- Predatory act
- To photograph = to violate
- Like a gun, both point and shoot
i think therefore i am - cogito ergo sum
i am photographed therefore i am

African, Arab and other cultural groups believe that to be photographed steals part of your soul

the act is > beyond “scientific” explanation

photographs may distort
but even so we presume something exists

more innocent and more accurate representation

**mirror of reality**

examples
- WPA photos
  - supported propaganda
  - took hundreds of photos to do this
  - how does this deviate from reality?

audience loses sight that it is the photographer who is interpreting
images are aggressive

**democratize ALL experiences by translating them into images**
cumbersome -- popular + accesible
artistic activity -- social use

awaken our desire and conscience
the specific = conscience
- stalin
death of one person is a tragedy, the death of a million is a statistic=

context
the photographer creates propaganda
- civil war, matthew brady
- 1960’s vietnam

used to reinforce a moral position
more memorable than moving
moment in time
staeck quote here

photographs = grammar
= captured experience
= experience captured

**collection**
to collect photos = collecting the world
see the world
own the world?
**THE PHOTOGRAPH**

**tourism** converts experience into souvenirs
principal device for experiencing something
experience may be limited by search for photogenic
documentation of world traveler
after EVENT has ended, photograph remains
what is photogenic?

**photograph = social rite**
every one does it
family photographs
all that remains
know the unknown
memorialize achievements
**time positions photograph at the level of art**
ideology determines what constitutes an EVENT
what determined possibility of being affected morally by photographs
= existence of relative political consciousness
feelings people have depends on degree of their familiarity with
images (starvations, etc)
the ante continues to be raised
holocaust...something needs to beat that
    suffering, pornography, etc.
therefore we are all too familiar with this, or so we think
a photograph can create the familiar and remote

**SELECTION**

**father and son** borders = framing
    separate
discontinuity
denies interconnectedness of things/EVENTS + continuity

**benneton ad, AIDS** every photograph has multiple meanings
    we think we understand
    we think we DON’T understand
the camera always hides more than it discloses

effect on our ethical sensibilities
    we think:
        world is more readily available than it is
reality confirmed
experience enhanced ——— aesthetic consumerism we are addicted to

longing for beauty
shallowness
celebration of the physical

**reality**
photograph = representation of the real
image = copy
original = depicted thing

photograph as surrogates
information (science, truth)
experience

cultures prohibit photos for taking away the soul

objective ——— subjective
we can know how we looked
no need for memory
impossible before the invention of the camera

portraits communicated an IDEAL of sitter

PROPER SUBJECTS
cannot separate
photo as art
photo as documentary

capitalistic society requires culture based on images.

can the function of the image world created by cameras be other than it is?