

Histories of Photography

Date/Time	Tuesdays 4 October-1 November 2022, 11am-1pm	Price	£90
Venue	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9DP NB: first floor with no lift	Lecturer	Ben Street

The history of photography in terms of still images is much shorter than that of drawing, painting or sculpture. This course will trace the history of photography looking at specific examples of photographs from a range of contexts. We will not only contextualise photography in terms of technology and function but also explore how to look at and analyse a photograph.

Lectures

Week 1 – **Writing with light: the early years.** This lecture will explore the origins of photography in nineteenth-century France and Britain, its relationship with painting and the possibilities and shortcomings of the medium.

Week 2 – **Photography and modernism.** This lecture will investigate the use of photography in early twentieth-century art in Russia, Germany and France in order to trace its adoption as a medium for modern art.

Week 3 – **Photography in motion.** This lecture will consider the rise of street photography in France and elsewhere and draw parallels with the rise of urban culture and photography itself.

Week 4 – **Photography at mid-century.** This lecture will look at photography's coming of age in the 1950s in America, Japan and elsewhere. The importance of war photography will also be addressed.

Week 5 – **Photography as an art.** The 1980s and 90s saw the rise of new voices in photography whose works shifted the public perception of the artform.

Lecturer

Ben Street is a freelance art historian, lecturer and writer. He is the author of numerous books on art for general audiences and has been a lecturer for the National Gallery, Tate and many other museums and institutions.