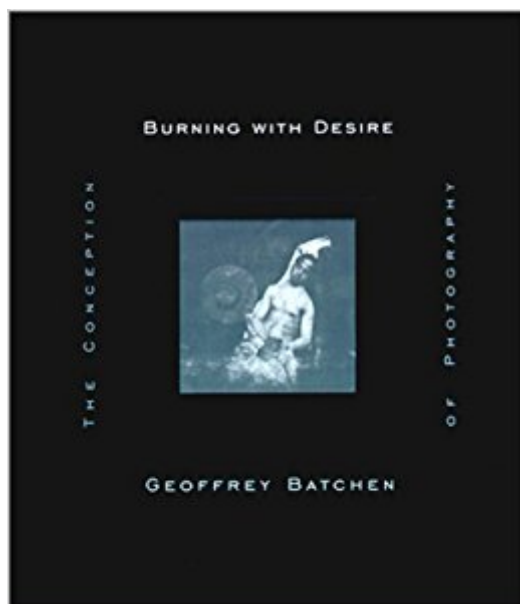


The book was found

# Burning With Desire: The Conception Of Photography



## Synopsis

In an 1828 letter to his partner, Nicéphore Niépce, Louis Daguerre wrote, "I am burning with desire to see your experiments from nature." In this book, Geoffrey Batchen analyzes the desire to photograph as it emerged within the philosophical and scientific milieus that preceded the actual invention of photography. Recent accounts of photography's identity tend to divide between the postmodern view that all identity is determined by context and a formalist effort to define the fundamental characteristics of photography as a medium. Batchen critiques both approaches by way of a detailed discussion of photography's conception in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He examines the output of the various nominees for "first photographer," then incorporates this information into a mode of historical criticism informed by the work of Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida. The result is a way of thinking about photography that persuasively accords with the medium's undeniable conceptual, political, and historical complexity.

## Book Information

Series: MIT Press

Paperback: 286 pages

Publisher: The MIT Press; Reprint edition (February 26, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0262522594

ISBN-13: 978-0262522595

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #472,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #150 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays

## Customer Reviews

If, by 1725, all the chemical and optical necessities for the practice of photography already existed, why wasn't the art form invented until 1839? Geoffrey Batchen, an associate professor of art history and author of *Burning with Desire*, has an interesting answer: people simply weren't ready for it. Along with a blossoming in literature, philosophy, music, and science, the 18th century was also host to a whole new way of thinking about nature and landscape. The camera obscura, a portable box equipped with a lens or a mirror, was a popular tool that people used to first capture views and then trace them. The ability to reproduce a scene--however imperfectly--whet people's appetites for

more exact methods, leading first to what Batchen calls the "proto-photographers," and then sometime later to the invention of Louis Daguerre's daguerrotype and Henry Fox Talbot's photography in the same year. Batchen's history lesson is filled with eccentric characters and fascinating insights into passions and obsessions of the Age of Enlightenment. The book becomes controversial, however, in Batchen's assertion that the early photographers, rather than trying to capture reality, were, in fact, attempting to deconstruct it--long before Jacques Derrida created the theory of deconstruction. Whether or not you end up agreeing with Batchen, *Burning with Desire* is a unique look at photography's roots, one sure to engender heated discussion among enthusiasts of the art form. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an original and provocative rethinking of photography's origins and the scholars who inhabit the 'battlefield' of opinion that seeks to define its essence. In highly readable prose, Geoffrey Batchen deploys Foucauldian and Derridean insights to issue a challenge to the medium's postmodernist as well as its formalist critics, shaping an argument about photography and power that flies in the face of received wisdom. (Carol Squiers, Senior Editor, America Photo) *Burning with Desire* in its lucid and innovative blend of historical and theoretical reflections, will quickly become an enduring and indispensable text within contemporary studies of photography and visual culture. Especially amid current debates over whether or not we have entered a "post-photographic" era, Geoffrey Batchen's work will be essential reading for its deeply intelligent archaeology of the material and philosophical status of the photograph. (Jonathan Crary, Columbia University) I wholeheartedly recommend Geoffrey Batchen's book *Burning with Desire*. It is a cultural studies or cultural history text, with ramifications for art history, the history of philosophy, studies in visuality, contemporary theory, and, of course, photographic history. Batchen writes with great clarity and pedagogic patience about ideas that are often judged difficult. I have no doubt that the book's lucidity and range will make it popular with scholars in all of these fields, as well as in graduate seminars. (Mary Warner Marien, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Fine Arts, Syracuse University) Given its ambitious and groundbreaking scope, *Burning with Desire* is bound to become a touchstone for any further consideration of the topic of photography's invention. (Douglas R. Nickel, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art) Given its ambitious and groundbreaking scope, *Burning with Desire* is bound to become the touchstone for any further consideration of the topic of photography's invention. (Douglas R. Nickel, Assistant Curator of Photography, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art)

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Burning with Desire: The Conception of Photography Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Photography Business: Sell That Photo!: 10 Simple Ways To Make Big Bucks Selling Your Photography Online (how to sell photography, freelance photography, ... to start on online photography business) Photography: Complete Guide to Taking Stunning, Beautiful Digital Pictures (photography, stunning digital, great pictures, digital photography, portrait ... landscape photography, good pictures) Photography: DSLR Photography Made Easy: Simple Tips on How You Can Get Visually Stunning Images Using Your DSLR (Photography, Digital Photography, Creativity, ... Digital, Portrait, Landscape, Photoshop) Photography Business: 4 Manuscripts - Adventure Sports Photography, Portrait Parties, Music Business Photography, Real Estate Photography The All-Day Fat-Burning Cookbook: Turbocharge Your Metabolism with More Than 125 Fast and Delicious Fat-Burning Meals Sex and Marriage: More Sex, Passion and Desire for Married Couples: Discover the 10 Ways to Turn Your Sex Life From Routine to Lustful Desire (Sex Tips, ... Marriage, Marriage Advice, Marriage Help) Desire's Promise: The Desire Series Book 1 Sex and Marriage: How to Guide for Sex and Passion and Desire for Married Couples: Discover the 10 Ways to Turn Your Sex Life From Routine to Lustful Desire Photography: Portrait Photography: 9 Tips Your Camera Manual Never Told You About Portrait Photography DSLR Photography for Beginners: Take 10 Times Better Pictures in 48 Hours or Less! Best Way to Learn Digital Photography, Master Your DSLR Camera & Improve Your Digital SLR Photography Skills Stock Photography for Beginners: How to Make Money Online with Microstock Photography & Build Passive Income with Your Photography Business Photography: Photography Lighting: Top 10 Must-Know Photography Lighting Facts to Shoot Like a Pro in Your Home Studio Photography: Landscape Photography: 10 Essential Tips to Take Your Landscape Photography to The Next Level Photography Hacks: The Complete Extensive Guide on How to Become a Master Photographer in 7 Days or Less: Photography Hacks and 7 Day Photography Photography: Darkroom Photography: The Complete Guide to Mastering the Basics of Darkroom Photography photography books for beginners: Advices, Understanding exposure triangle in Digital Photography - the most basic lesson, and tips about portrait, Wedding photography and more Quadcopters and Drones: How to Bring Your Photography or Videography to the Next Level (Drone Photography - Aerial Drone Photography - Quadcopter book - Aerial Drone Videography) Desert to Dream: A Dozen Years of Burning Man Photography, Revised Edition

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)