

## **A Quick Trip Through the History of Photography**

Camera Obscura

400 bce and on. 1490 Leonard da Vinci

By 1700's devices are common

1794 – discovery that substances mixed with silver nitrate react to light  
But no way to FIX - Keep from disappearing

1826 the world's first photograph -Fixing a Shadow

1851 Wet Plate Collodion Glass Negative

Contact Negative on Hand-Coated Paper

albumen (egg white & silver nitrate), cyanotype, platinum

Wet Plate Collodion Method -- All in Dark All WET

Contact prints

- Albumen, Cyanotype, Platinum-Palladium – others
- Coat paper with light sensitive chemistry
- Dry paper in dark place
- Place object (for photograms) or negative on paper
- Expose to sunlight
- Image appears
- Treat to secure image

1871 Mass Produced Large Format Pre-Coated Glass  
Gelatin Dry Plate

1885 Flexible Roll Film: Kodak “You take the picture, we do the rest”

1900's Brownie Camera – “Snap Shots

35mm Leica (1925) Rangefinder

Single Lens Reflex (SLR) 1949

Black and White (silver gelatin) photograph

- Place object or negative on medium (contact)
- OR project using negative enlarger
- Expose onto Manufactured silver gelatin paper (ALL kinds)
- Develop/Reveal image with a chemical bath
- Treat to “fix” image with another chemical bath

Color Photographs popularized after WW2

### Kodachrome

- Color film is much more complicated: Rocket Science
- Processing prints (development, fix) is almost universally done by machine

### Digital Camera (1975)

### Mobile Phone with Camera (2000)

### Footnote:

Processes that capture image AND  
create unique, on-of-a-kind, photograph

- Daguerrotype
- Polaroid

<https://eastman.org/photographic-processes-video-series>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoxGEymA8ro>