

MDCCCXXXIX

Photographs by Lisa McCarty

MDCCCXXXIX

Chronology

- 1826 Nicéphore Niépce makes the earliest known extant photograph of the view from his studio window at Le Gras, his estate in Chalon-sur-Saône, France
- 1835 William Henry Fox Talbot makes the first surviving photographic negative of a latticed window at Lacock Abbey, his estate in southern England.
- 1837-1838 Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre makes first successful photographs including a view from his window in Paris of the Boulevard du Temple, which is believed to be the first photograph of a human being.
- 1839 Daguerre reveals his process to the French Government and the discovery of a method to fix images was publically announced for the first time in the *Gazette de France*.

MDCCCXXXIX

Photographs by Lisa McCarty

MDCCCXXXIX (1839) is a narrative of how photography came about, and how it continues to. In *Latent Image: The Discovery of Photography*, curator and historian Beaumont Newhall states, “Photography has no single inventor. At the same time, distantly removed from one another, experimenters were working on the same problem unaware of each others work until, in January of 1839, an announcement was made in Paris by the Academie des Sciences of the success of one of them.”

Though the 1839 announcement publicly illuminated the discovery of the method to fix images, experiments to this end have been documented as early as 1802 and have never ceased. Consequently, 1839 is both a fixed date and an idea. It signifies the moment photography was born, though this is a moment that repeats with every generation of imagemakers. With the emergence of every new method for fixing images the medium is reborn, persisting much like a phoenix, cyclically regenerating from its own ashes. Therefore, one could say it is the project of every photographer to reinvent the medium whether by technical, formal, and/or conceptual means.

MDCCCXXXIX is an account of one such project. My particular experiments have involved pilgrimages to document sites where Fox Talbot, Daguerre, and Niépce worked, reading and generating facsimiles of their instructions for building cameras and fixing images, and finally the creation and systematic testing of my own cameras. Through this process I have discovered photography yet again, and have the pleasure of rediscovering it each and every time I make an image.

And so, still distantly removed from one another across geographic and temporal expanses, the cycle endures. Experimenters are still working on the same problem and MDCCCXXXIX continues to unfold.

MDCCCXXXIX

Photographs by Lisa McCarty

CHECKLIST

- 1) *Facsimile of facsimile of title page to “Notice on Heliography” by Nicéphore Niépce*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7”x10” | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 2) *Facsimile of facsimile of title page to “A Practical Description of the Process Called The Daguerreotype” by Louis Daguerre*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7”x10” | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 3) *Facsimile of facsimile of title page to “Some Account of the Art of Photogenic Drawing” by William Henry Fox Talbot*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7”x10” | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 4) *View from the Window at Le Gras (First View)*
LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25” x 2.25” | 2011
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 5) *View from the Window at Le Gras (70 cm)*
LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25” x 2.25” | 2011
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 6) *Oriel Window with Mousetrap Camera, Lacock Abbey*
LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25” x 2.25” | 2011
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300

- 7) *Boulevard du Temple, Paris (Hommage)*
 LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25" x 2.25" | 2011
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 8) *Boulevard du Temple, Paris, (Reflection)*
 LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25" x 2.25" | 2011
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 9) *Corridor, Lacock Abbey (Double Exposure)*
 LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25" x 2.25" | 2011
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 10) *View through Correspondence, Le Gras (Double Exposure)*
 LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25" x 2.25" | 2011
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 11) *View from the Window at Le Gras (Last View)*
 LightJet Print from Color Negative | 2.25" x 2.25" | 2011
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 12) *11:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m. (Ticking Clock)*
 4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40" x 32" | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
 30" x 24" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 13) *2:00–1:00 a.m. (Kaleidoscope Picture)*
 4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40" x 32" | 2012
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
 30" x 24" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 14) *2:05–2:12 p.m. (Portrait with Box Camera)*
 4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 16" x 20" | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$575
 24" x 30" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard \$875

- 15) *5:00–6:00 p.m. (Filaments)*
4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 16" x 20" | 2013
Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$575
24" x 30" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard \$875
- 16) *6:55–7:07 a.m. (Bedroom Window)*
4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40" x 32" | 2012
Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
30" x 24" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 17) *1:35–2:13 p.m. (Lace)*
4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40" x 32" | 2012
Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
30" x 24" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 18) *11:45–11:58 a.m. (Flower Arrangement)*
4"x5" Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40" x 32" | 2012
Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
30" x 24" Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 19) *Facsimile of facsimile of first facsimile of a photograph by
William Henry Fox Talbot*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7"x10" | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 20) *Facsimile of facsimile of "Botanical Specimen" by William Henry Fox Talbot*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7"x10" | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 21) *Facsimile of facsimile of "View of Courtyard" by Nicéphore Niépce*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7"x10" | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 22) *Facsimile of facsimile of "Boulevard Temple" by Louis Daguerre*
Gelatin Silver Print | 7"x10" | 2013
Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300

- 23) *Facsimile of facsimile of diagrams from “The Daguerreotype” by Louis Daguerre*
 Gelatin Silver Print | 7”x10” | 2013
 Set of Six, Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$1200
- 24) *9:08 - 9:09 a.m. (View from Studio Window)*
 4”x5” Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 16” x 20” | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$575
 24” x 30” Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard \$875
- 25) *Facsimile of facsimile of Camera Obscuras and the earliest known surviving negative by William Henry Fox Talbot*
 Gelatin Silver Print | 7”x10” | 2013
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300
- 26) *7:00–7:12 p.m. (Preserved Butterflies)*
 4”x5” Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40” x 32” | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
 30” x 24” Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 27) *1:00–2:00 p.m. (Electric Hurricane Lamp)*
 4”x5” Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 40” x 32” | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$1200
 30” x 24” Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$875
- 28) *7:15–7:35 p.m. (The Focal Encyclopedia)*
 4”x5” Film Sheet Exposed with Handmade Camera, LightJet Print | 16” x 20” | 2013
 Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard | \$575
 24” x 30” Edition of 12, Mounted on Archival Mattboard \$875
- 29) *Facsimile of facsimile of detail of “Boulevard du Temple” by Louis Daguerre*
 Gelatin Silver Print | 4.5”x7” | 2013
 Edition of 18, Matted with archival mattboard | \$300