

16 Ways of Looking at a Photograph

Class Exercise: Chapter 9, The Question of Genius

One term of the debate over whether photography could be considered an art inspired by ‘genius’ is the question of the role played by the machine, the camera, in creating the image. In the 21st century, photographers wonder if all the photographs have already been taken, that is, if there is *any* original image left to capture. Photographers Sherrie Levine and Cindy Sherman create works that suggest there is no original image left to create through the camera. They create images that are entirely, clearly, and unapologetically copies of other artists’ original work. Google Sherrie Levine's *After Walker Evans*, and compare the image to Evans’ own work. What differences are there, or, are there no differences? How about Cindy Sherman’s ‘Old Master’ series in comparison to the paintings on which her photographs are based <http://www.dailyartmagazine.com/cindy-sherman-old-masters/> ? What do artists like Levine and Sherman express about photography in the late 20th and early 21st century?