

self portrait vivian maier

self portrait vivian maier has become one of the most intriguing and celebrated images in the world of street photography. This captivating self-portrait not only reveals the mysterious identity of Vivian Maier but also offers a rare glimpse into her personality, her creative vision, and her life behind the camera. As one of the most influential figures in contemporary photography, Maier's self-portrait continues to fascinate art enthusiasts, historians, and casual viewers alike. In this comprehensive article, we explore the story behind her self-portrait, her life and work, and her enduring legacy in the realm of street photography.

Who Was Vivian Maier?

Early Life and Background

Vivian Maier was born on February 1, 1926, in New York City. She led a life shrouded in mystery for many decades, working as a nanny in Chicago while secretly pursuing her passion for photography. Despite her relatively private existence, her work as a street photographer eventually gained worldwide recognition, cementing her legacy as a prolific and talented artist.

The Discovery of Her Work

Maier's photographs remained largely unknown until 2007 when John Maloof, a Chicago-based historian and collector, purchased a box of her undeveloped film and negatives at an auction. As he developed her images, he uncovered a treasure trove of stunning street photography capturing urban life in Chicago and New York during the mid-20th century. Her work was further popularized through exhibitions, books, and documentaries, revealing her unique perspective and mastery of candid

photography.

The Significance of Self-Portrait Vivian Maier

The Role of Self-Portraits in Maier's Work

Self-portraits in street photography serve as a window into the photographer's soul, offering insights into their identity, emotions, and perspective. Vivian Maier's self-portrait, often captured through mirrors, windows, or reflections, showcases her introspective nature and her desire to merge her personal identity with her art.

Key Characteristics of Her Self-Portrait

Maier's self-portraits are distinguished by:

- A contemplative or enigmatic expression
- Use of reflections and mirrors
- An unposed, candid style that emphasizes authenticity
- Creative framing and use of shadows and light

Analyzing Vivian Maier's Self-Portrait

Visual Elements and Composition

Maier's self-portrait typically features her face or figure captured through reflective surfaces, such as windows or mirrors. These images often include urban backgrounds, adding context and depth.

Key visual elements include:

- Symmetry and framing through reflective surfaces
- Natural, unforced expressions
- A sense of mystery and introspection
- Use of black and white to emphasize contrasts and textures

Themes Conveyed in the Self-Portrait

Her self-portraits reveal several recurring themes:

- Identity and anonymity
- Observation and reflection of society
- Personal solitude amidst urban chaos
- The intersection of personal and public life

The Cultural and Artistic Impact of Maier's Self-Portrait

Influence on Street Photography

Vivian Maier's self-portrait has inspired countless photographers to explore self-representation and candid imagery. Her innovative use of reflections and candid framing has become a staple technique in street photography.

Legacy and Recognition

Today, Maier is celebrated as one of the most important street photographers of the 20th century. Her self-portrait, along with her extensive body of work, challenges traditional notions of artist identity and underscores the importance of capturing authentic human moments.

How to Appreciate Vivian Maier's Self-Portrait

Viewing Tips

To fully appreciate her self-portrait:

- Observe the use of reflections and framing
- Note her facial expressions and body language
- Consider the urban context and background
- Reflect on the emotional tone conveyed

Interpreting the Image

Her self-portrait invites viewers to ponder:

- Who was Vivian Maier?
- What emotions or thoughts was she experiencing?
- How does her self-image relate to her broader photographic work?
- What does her perspective reveal about urban life and personal identity?

Where to Find Vivian Maier's Self-Portrait Today

Exhibitions and Collections

Maier's self-portrait, along with her other photographs, is showcased in major museums and galleries worldwide, including:

- The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- The Vivian Maier Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Photography

Books and Documentaries

Several publications and films feature her self-portrait, such as:

- Vivian Maier: Street Photographer (book)
- Finding Vivian Maier (documentary film)
- Vivian Maier: The Color Work (collection)

Online Resources

Many websites and online archives host her images, allowing global audiences to explore her self-portrait and extensive oeuvre.

Conclusion: The Enduring Mystery and Artistic Power of Vivian Maier's Self-Portrait

Vivian Maier's self-portrait is more than just an image; it is a mirror into her soul, capturing her contemplative, enigmatic presence within the bustling urban landscapes she so vividly documented. Her mastery of candid, reflective imagery continues to influence generations of photographers and art lovers. As her work gains more recognition and her self-portrait remains an iconic testament to her unique perspective, Vivian Maier's legacy endures—an inspiring reminder of the profound stories that can be told through self-exploration and street photography.

Key Points Summary:

- Vivian Maier was a secretive street photographer whose work gained posthumous fame.
- Her self-portrait often features reflections, mirrors, and candid expressions.
- The images reveal themes of identity, solitude, and societal observation.
- Her innovative techniques have influenced modern street photography.
- Today, her self-portrait and work are celebrated worldwide through exhibitions, books, and online archives.

For anyone interested in exploring street photography, understanding the power of self-portraits, or appreciating the artistry of Vivian Maier, her self-portrait remains a poignant and inspiring visual narrative—an enduring testament to the beauty of candid, authentic self-expression.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Vivian Maier and why is her self-portrait photography significant?

Vivian Maier was a prolific street photographer whose work was discovered posthumously. Her self-portraits are significant because they offer a unique, introspective perspective into her life and identity,

showcasing her technical skill and artistic vision.

How did Vivian Maier create her self-portraits, and what techniques did she use?

Maier primarily used homemade mirrors, reflective surfaces, and self-timers on her camera to capture her self-portraits. She often incorporated creative framing and candid compositions, demonstrating her mastery of street photography techniques even in self-portraiture.

What themes are prominent in Vivian Maier's self-portraits?

Her self-portraits often explore themes of anonymity, identity, introspection, and the everyday human condition, reflecting her nuanced understanding of self and society.

How has the discovery of Vivian Maier's self-portraits impacted the art and photography community?

The revelation of her self-portraits has sparked renewed interest in her work, highlighting the importance of self-representation in street photography and challenging traditional notions of self-portraiture, inspiring many contemporary photographers.

Are there any notable exhibitions featuring Vivian Maier's self-portraits?

Yes, her self-portraits have been featured in numerous exhibitions worldwide, including major retrospectives at institutions like the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago and the International Center of Photography in New York.

What makes Vivian Maier's self-portraits stand out compared to other

street photographers?

Maier's self-portraits stand out for their candidness, emotional depth, and technical brilliance. They provide intimate glimpses into her personality and life, captured with the same authenticity and artistry as her street scenes.

Additional Resources

Self-Portrait Vivian Maier: An Intimate Glimpse into the Enigmatic Photographer's Soul

Introduction: The Mystery Behind Vivian Maier and Her Self-Portraits

Vivian Maier remains one of the most captivating and enigmatic figures in the history of street photography. A private nanny by profession, she led a life shrouded in mystery, yet her prolific body of work—particularly her self-portraits—offers an intimate window into her personality, insecurities, humor, and artistic vision. Her self-portraits are not merely images; they are reflections of her inner world, expressions of her identity, and silent narratives that continue to resonate with viewers decades after her death.

In this comprehensive review, we explore the multifaceted dimensions of Vivian Maier's self-portraits. From her technical approach and thematic concerns to her personal motivations and the cultural significance of her work, we aim to provide a detailed understanding of this compelling aspect of her photography.

Who Was Vivian Maier? An Overview

Before delving into her self-portraits, understanding Maier's life contextualizes her artistic choices.

Early Life and Background

- Born in 1926 in New York City, Vivian Maier's early years were marked by mobility and cultural influences, including her exposure to Chicago and later, Europe.
- She was raised in a modest family, and her early fascination with photography was self-taught, often experimenting with her father's camera.
- Her personality was complex—introverted, observant, and deeply introspective.

Her Life as a Nanny

- Vivian worked as a nanny for over four decades, primarily in Chicago and New York.
- Her employment took her into diverse neighborhoods, from affluent areas to impoverished districts, fueling her keen social observation.
- Her work as a caregiver kept her largely invisible to the public eye, which paradoxically allowed her to document her surroundings with candid authenticity.

Rediscovery and Posthumous Fame

- Vivian Maier's work was largely unknown during her lifetime.
- Her photographs were discovered in boxes of undeveloped film and negatives after her death in 2009.
- Exhibitions, books, and documentaries soon followed, elevating her to an iconic status in the art world.

The Significance of Self-Portraits in Maier's Oeuvre

Self-portraits serve as a mirror to an artist's inner life, and Maier's work is no exception. Her self-portraits are particularly compelling because they often blend spontaneity with deliberate introspection.

Why Did Vivian Maier Create Self-Portraits?

- Self-exploration: As an introvert, she might have used self-portraiture as a means to understand herself.
- Experimentation: They allowed her to experiment with camera techniques, angles, and expressions.
- Identity and Persona: Self-portraits offered a way to craft an identity or explore different facets of herself.
- Technical Practice: They served as opportunities for her to practice self-timing, lighting, and framing.

The Role of Self-Portraits in Documenting Her Life

- These images are not just artistic expressions but personal records.
- They reveal her mood, confidence levels, and moments of vulnerability.
- Her self-portraiture acts as a form of visual diary—an ongoing narrative of her existence.

Technical Aspects of Maier's Self-Portraits

Understanding her technical choices illuminates her artistic ethos.

Equipment and Techniques

- Camera Types: Vivian primarily used Rolleiflex twin-lens reflex cameras, which influenced her style and framing.
- Self-Exposure Methods:
 - Using the waist-level viewfinder to frame herself.
 - Employing timers or asking others to take her picture.
 - Sometimes, she set her camera on surfaces or used mirrors.
- Lighting and Composition:
 - She often utilized natural light, favoring candid, unposed images.

- Her compositions range from tightly cropped headshots to full-body explorations.
- Focus and Sharpness:
- Her images are generally sharp, with precise focus on her face.
- The grain and contrast vary, indicating different film stocks and processing techniques.

Common Themes in Technique

- Mirror Self-Portraits:
- Many self-portraits feature her reflection in mirrors, windows, or shiny surfaces.
- These imbue her images with layers of meaning and layers of obscurity.
- Close-Ups and Self-Examining Gazes:
- She often captured herself in close-up, emphasizing emotion.
- The intense gaze conveys vulnerability, confidence, or curiosity.

Thematic Elements in Vivian Maier's Self-Portraits

Her self-portraits are rich with thematic diversity. Below are key motifs recurrent in her work.

Identity and Self-Perception

- Many images depict her with varied expressions—serene, amused, pensive.
- Her facial expressions often oscillate between detachment and engagement.
- Some photos reveal her experimenting with disguises or altering her appearance.

Humor and Playfulness

- Several self-portraits feature playful or absurd elements—funny faces, props, or unusual angles.
- Her humor is subtle but evident; she seems to enjoy capturing her own quirky side.

Vulnerability and Introspection

- Her introspective gaze suggests moments of reflection or self-questioning.
- Some images appear somber or contemplative, hinting at inner struggles or loneliness.

Social Commentary and Alienation

- The positioning of her in urban environments, reflected in windows or mirrors, suggests themes of alienation.
- Her self-portraits sometimes serve as commentary on her place within the crowded cityscape.

The Body as a Canvas

- Her physical posture and gestures often express mood or narrative.
- Postures range from relaxed to tense, revealing her emotional states.

Notable Self-Portrait Series and Iconic Images

While Maier produced countless self-portraits, a few stand out for their emotional depth and technical mastery.

The Mirror Series

- Images where she gazes directly into a mirror, offering a self-portrait within a reflection.
- These photos often reveal her experimenting with identity, obscurity, and self-awareness.

The "Laughing Vivian" Series

- Photos capturing her smiling or laughing, displaying a playful or joyful side.

- These images challenge perceptions of her as solely introverted or reserved.

The "Serious and Pensive" Series

- Introspective images with her looking away or deep in thought.
- They evoke themes of solitude and contemplation.

Notable Individual Self-Portraits

- Maier with a hat and contemplative expression: Demonstrates her mastery of mood.
- Self-portrait with a fur collar: Reflects her keen eye for fashion and personality.
- The mirror reflection with a playful face: Captures her humor and spontaneity.

Interpreting Maier's Self-Portraits: Insights and Debates

Critics and historians have debated the meaning behind her self-portraits.

The Artist's Intent

- Did Vivian consciously craft her self-portraits as a form of self-expression?
- Or were they spontaneous captures driven by curiosity and technical experimentation?

The Role of Self-Representation

- Were her self-portraits an attempt to control her image?
- Do they reflect her desire for connection or her sense of invisibility?

The Psychological Dimension

- Some interpret her self-portraits as revealing her inner solitude and emotional complexity.
- Others see them as playful explorations devoid of deeper psychological intent.

The Question of Authenticity

- Are her self-portraits authentic expressions or constructed personas?
- Many images suggest a blend—she seems to oscillate between vulnerability and performance.

Cultural and Artistic Significance

Vivian Maier's self-portraits hold immense cultural and artistic importance.

A Reflection of Urban Life

- Her images mirror the vibrancy, anonymity, and complexity of city living.
- Her self-portraits often include urban elements—reflections in windows, street scenes—blurring boundaries between self and environment.

Feminist Perspectives

- Her self-portraiture challenges traditional notions of female representation.
- Maier's images portray a woman photographer capturing herself on her own terms, often without conforming to societal expectations.

Influence on Contemporary Photography

- Maier's candid, unposed style has inspired countless street and self-portrait photographers.
- Her work exemplifies the power of anonymity and the artistic potential of everyday moments.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Vivian Maier's Self-Portraits

Vivian Maier's self-portraits are more than mere images; they are profound statements of identity, vulnerability, humor, and artistic exploration. They offer an intimate dialogue with herself and the viewer—a silent conversation that transcends time and space. Her photographs challenge us to reconsider notions of self-representation, authenticity, and the hidden depths within ordinary lives.

Through her self-portraits, Maier invites us into her world—a world of quiet observation, playful experimentation, and profound introspection. As her work continues to inspire and mystify, Vivian Maier's self-portraits remain a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit captured through a lens.

Final Thoughts

Vivian Maier's self-portraits are a testament to her unique vision and deep understanding of human nature. They serve as a personal archive of her inner life and as a mirror for viewers to reflect on their own identities. Her work reminds us that even the most private moments can resonate universally, and that self-portraiture—when done with honesty and curiosity—can

[Self Portrait Vivian Maier](#)

self portrait vivian maier: *Vivian Maier: Self-Portraits* , 2013-10-29 The original, instant classic which set the world afire. The first book to introduce the phenomenon that is the life story and work of Vivian Maier. A good street photographer must be possessed of many talents: an eye for detail, light, and composition; impeccable timing; a populist or humanitarian outlook; and a tireless ability to constantly shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot and never miss a moment. It is hard enough to find these qualities in trained photographers with the benefit of schooling and mentors and a community of fellow artists and aficionados supporting and rewarding their efforts. It is incredibly rare to find it in someone with no formal training and no network of peers. Yet Vivian Maier is all of these things, a professional nanny, who from the 1950s until the 1990s took over 100,000 photographs

worldwide—from France to New York City to Chicago and dozens of other countries—and yet showed the results to no one. The photos are amazing both for the breadth of the work and for the high quality of the humorous, moving, beautiful, and raw images of all facets of city life in America's post-war golden age. It wasn't until local historian John Maloof purchased a box of Maier's negatives from a Chicago auction house and began collecting and championing her marvelous work just a few years ago that any of it saw the light of day. Presented here for the first time in print, *Vivian Maier: Street Photographer* collects the best of her incredible, unseen body of work. Please note that all blank pages in the book were chosen as part of the design by the publisher.

self portrait vivian maier: Vivian Maier John Maloof, 2024-05-21 The definitive monograph of the American photographer, exploring the full range and brilliance of her work and the mystery of her life. Foreword by New York Times -bestselling author Laura Lippman Vivian Maier's story—the secretive nanny-photographer during her life who becomes a popular sensation shortly after her death—has, to date, been pieced together only from previously seen or known images she made and the handful of facts that have surfaced about her life. During her lifetime she shot more than one hundred,zero images, which she kept hidden from the world. In 2007, two years before her death, Chicago historic preservationist John Maloof discovered a trove of negatives, and roll upon roll of undeveloped film in a storage locker he bought at auction. They revealed a surprising and accomplished artist and a stunning body of work, which Maloof championed and brought to worldwide acclaim. Written and edited by noted photography curator and writer Marvin Heiferman, *Vivian Maier: A Photographer Found* presents the most comprehensive collection and largest selection of the photographer's work—created during the 1950s through the 1970s in New York, Chicago, and on her travels around the country—almost exclusively unpublished and including her previously unknown color work. It features images of and excerpts from Maier's personal artifacts, memorabilia, and audiotapes, made available for the first time. This remarkable volume draws upon interviews with people who knew Maier, which shed light on Maier's photographic skill and her life. Features 250 black-and-white images, color work, and other previously unpublished materials

self portrait vivian maier: Vivian Maier Developed Ann Marks, 2021-12-07 The “astonishing” (People) and definitive biography that unlocks the “riveting” (Vogue) story of Vivian Maier, the nanny who lived secretly as a world-class photographer, featuring nearly 400 of her images, many never seen before, placed for the first time in the context of her life. Vivian Maier, the photographer nanny whose work was famously discovered in a Chicago storage locker, captured the imagination of the world with her masterful images and mysterious life. Before posthumously skyrocketing to global fame, she had so deeply buried her past that even the families she lived with knew little about her. No one could relay where she was born or raised, if she had parents or siblings, if she enjoyed personal relationships, why she took photographs and why she didn't share them with others. Now, in this “thorough, fascinating overview of an artist working for art's sake” (The New York Times), Ann Marks uses her complete access to Vivian's personal records and archive of 140,000 photographs to reveal the full story of her extraordinary life. Based on meticulous investigative research, the “compelling and richly detailed” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) *Vivian Maier Developed* reveals the story of a woman who fled from a family with a hidden history of illegitimacy, bigamy, parental rejection, substance abuse, violence, and mental illness to live life on her own terms. Left with a limited ability to disclose feelings and form relationships, she expressed herself through photography, creating a secret portfolio of pictures teeming with emotion, authenticity, and humanity. With limitless resilience she knocked down every obstacle in her way, determined to improve her lot in life and that of others by tirelessly advocating for the rights of workers, women, African Americans, and Native Americans. No one knew that behind the detached veneer was a profoundly intelligent, empathetic, and inspired woman—a woman so creatively gifted that her body of work would become one of the greatest photographic discoveries of the century.

self portrait vivian maier: Vivian Maier Developed Ann Marks, 2023-07-04 The definitive and authorized biography that unlocks the remarkable story of Vivian Maier, the nanny who lived secretly as a world-class photographer, featuring nearly 400 of her images, many never seen before,

placed for the first time in the context of her life. Vivian Maier, the photographer nanny whose work was famously discovered in a Chicago storage locker, captured the imagination of the world with her masterful images and mysterious life. Before posthumously skyrocketing to global fame, she had so deeply buried her past that even the families she lived with knew little about her. No one could relay where she was born or raised, if she had parents or siblings, if she enjoyed personal relationships, why she took photographs and why she didn't share them with others. Now, the full story of her extraordinary life is explored by the only person who has been given access to her personal records and archive of 140,000 photographs. Based on meticulous investigative research, *Vivian Maier: Developed* reveals the story of a woman who fled from a family with a hidden history of illegitimacy, bigamy, parental rejection, substance abuse, violence, and mental illness to live life on her own terms. Left with a limited ability to disclose feelings and form relationships, she expressed herself through photography, creating a secret portfolio of pictures teeming with emotion, authenticity, and humanity. With limitless resilience she knocked down every obstacle in her way, determined to improve her lot in life and that of others by tirelessly advocating for the rights of workers, women, African Americans, and Native Americans. No one knew that behind the detached veneer was a profoundly intelligent, empathetic, and inspired woman—a woman so creatively gifted that her body of work would become one of the greatest photographic discoveries of the century--

self portrait vivian maier: *Vivian Maier* Pamela Bannos, 2017-10-05 “Look[s] past the mystique of the ‘eccentric nanny with a camera’ to tell the true Maier story . . . [An] extraordinary work.” —Library Journal Who was Vivian Maier? Many know her as the reclusive Chicago nanny who wandered the city for decades, constantly snapping photographs, which were unseen until they were discovered in a seemingly abandoned storage locker. They revealed her to be an inadvertent master of twentieth-century American street photography. Not long after, the news broke that Maier had recently died and had no surviving relatives. Soon the whole world knew about her preternatural work, shooting her to stardom almost overnight. But as Pamela Bannos reveals in this meticulous biography, this story of the nanny savant has blinded us to Maier's true achievements, as well as her intentions. Most important, Bannos argues, Maier was not a nanny who moonlighted as a photographer; she was a photographer who supported herself as a nanny. In *Vivian Maier: A Photographer's Life and Afterlife*, Bannos contrasts Maier's life with the mythology that strangers—mostly the men who've profited from her work—have created around her absence. She shows that Maier was extremely conscientious about how her work was developed, printed, and cropped, even though she also made a clear choice never to display it. She places Maier's fierce passion for privacy alongside the recent spread of her work around the world, and explains Maier's careful adjustments of photographic technique, while explaining how the photographs have been misconstrued or misidentified. Bannos also uncovers new information about Maier's immediate family, including her difficult brother, Karl—relatives once thought not to exist. This authoritative biography shows that the real story of Vivian Maier, a true visionary artist, is even more compelling than the myth. “An excellent book that reads like a mystery novel . . . Wonderful and engrossing.” —Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, author of *Starstruck: The Business of Celebrity* “It's a portrait as direct as any of Maier's, and what a distinct pleasure it is to meet her gaze again.” —The New York Times “This book is by far the finest yet published on the artist. I believe it will become a classic in the field.” —Art in America

self portrait vivian maier: Vivian Maier: The Color Work Colin Westerbeck, 2018-11-06 The first definitive monograph of color photographs by American street photographer Vivian Maier. Photographer Vivian Maier's allure endures even though many details of her life continue to remain a mystery. Her story—the secretive nanny-photographer who became a pioneer photographer—has only been pieced together from the thousands of images she made and the handful of facts that have surfaced about her life. *Vivian Maier: The Color Work* is the largest and most highly curated published collection of Maier's full-color photographs to date. With a foreword by world-renowned photographer Joel Meyerowitz and text by curator Colin Westerbeck, this definitive volume sheds light on the nature of Maier's color images, examining them within the context of her

black-and-white work as well as the images of street photographers with whom she clearly had kinship, like Eugene Atget and Lee Friedlander. With more than 150 color photographs, most of which have never been published in book form, this collection of images deepens our understanding of Maier, as its immediacy demonstrates how keen she was to record and present her interpretation of the world around her.

self portrait vivian maier: Vivian Maier Anne Morin, 2024-10-10

self portrait vivian maier: Psychobiographical Illustrations on Meaning and Identity in Sociocultural Contexts Claude-Hélène Mayer, Paul, J.P. Fouché, Roelf Van Niekerk, 2022-01-01 This book explores psychobiography with focus on meaning making and identity development in the life and works of extraordinary individuals. Meaning-making and identity development are existential constructs influencing psychological development, mental health and wellbeing across the lifecourse. The chapters illustrate through the eyes of 25 international psychobiographers various theoretical and methodological approaches to psychobiography. They explore how individuals, such as Angela Merkel, Karl Lagerfeld, Henri Nouwen, Vivian Maier, Charles Baudelaire, W.E.B. du Bois, Loránt Hegedüs, Kim Philby, Zoltan Paul Dienes, Albertina Sisulu, Ruth First, Sokrates, and Jesus construct their lives to make meaning, develop their identities and grow as individuals within their sociocultural contexts. The texts provide deep insight into life's development.

self portrait vivian maier: Candide. Journal for Architectural Knowledge Axel Sowa, Nicholas Boyarsky, Lard Buurman, Davide Deriu, Ela Kacel, 2021-02-25 Die zwölfte Ausgabe von *Candide* widmet sich dem Thema Visual Urbanism – ein vollkommen neues Forschungsfeld. Fotograf*innen und Wissenschaftler*innen experimentierten mit anthropologischen, kulturwissenschaftlichen, soziologischen und geografischen Methoden, für eine Reflexion über die meist unkritische Nutzung von Bildern des öffentlichen Raums. *Candide* 12 sucht Möglichkeiten, diese Ergebnisse in Architektur und Stadtplanung zu integrieren. Dabei beantworten Autor*innen drängende Fragen, wie nach der Nutzbarmachung fotografischer Bilder für die Architektur und vice versa.

self portrait vivian maier: *Seizing the Light* Robert Hirsch, 2024-02-08 The definitive history of photography book, *Seizing the Light: A Social & Aesthetic History of Photography* delivers the fascinating story of how photography as an art form came into being, and its continued development, maturity, and transformation. Covering major events, practitioners, works, and social effects of photographic practice, author Robert Hirsch provides a concise and discerning chronological account of photography, drawing on examples from across the world. This fundamental starting place shows the diversity of makers, inventors, issues, and applications, exploring the artistic, critical, and social aspects of the creative thinking process. This new edition has been fully revised and updated to include the latest advances in technology and digital photography, as well as information on contemporary photographers such as Granville Carroll, Meryl McMaster, Cindy Sherman, Penelope Umbrico, and Yang Yongliang. New topics include the rise of mobile photography and surveillance cameras, drone photography, image manipulation, protest and social justice photography, plus the roles of artificial intelligence and social media in photography. Highly illustrated with over 250 full-color images and contributions from hundreds of artists around the world, *Seizing the Light* serves as a gateway to the history of photography. Written in an accessible style, it is perfect for those newly engaging with the practice of photography and for experienced photographers wanting to contextualize their own work.

self portrait vivian maier: *Artist Complex* Jadwiga Kamola, 2021-10-11 With the Jungian term of the complex the present volume inquires about the making of the artistic persona in twentieth-century photography. The articles examine photographic (self-)portraits, the dynamics between self-statements of artists and photographers, the interrelations of photography, of painting and of performance art and investigate their origins in the history of ideas. The volume traces a portrait of photography as a metascience; as preparatory work, a source of inspiration and an alternate medium in which artists could explore different subjects. With essays by Ulrike Blumenthal, Till Cremer, Victoria Fleury, Jadwiga Kamola, Weronika Kobylińska-Bunsch, Nadja Köffler, Constance Krüger, Wilma Scheschonk, Gerd Zillner.

self portrait vivian maier: Technologies of the Self-Portrait Gabriella Giannachi, 2022-07-29 This book demonstrates how artists have radically revisited the genre of the self-portrait by using a range of technologies and media that mark different phases in what can be described as a history of self- or selves-production. Gabriella Giannachi shows how artists constructed their presence, subjectivity, and personhood, by using a range of technologies and media including mirrors, photography, sculpture, video, virtual reality and social media, to produce an increasingly fluid, multiple, and social representation of their 'self'. This interdisciplinary book draws from art history, performance studies, visual culture, new media theory, philosophy, computer science, and neuroscience to offer a radical new reading of the genre.

self portrait vivian maier: Authentic Portraits Chris Orwig, 2019-09-06 The most successful portraits take us well beyond the surface of how someone looks and show us the inner essence of who someone is. They reveal character, soul, and depth. They uncover hidden hopes and profound truths, revealing that authentic and deeply human light that shines within. And while technical expertise is undoubtedly important, it's not the light, camera, or pose that creates a great portrait. It's you, and it's the connection you create with the subject that makes all the difference. In *Authentic Portraits*, photographer Chris Orwig teaches you that the secret to creating meaningful portraits is simple: curiosity, empathy, kindness, and soul...plus a bit of technique. While Chris spends significant time on the fundamentals of "getting the shot"—working with natural light, nailing focus, dialing in the correct exposure, effectively posing and directing the subject, intentionally composing the frame—he also passionately discusses the need for personal development, creative collaboration, and connection with the subject. Because who you are directly and deeply affects what you create, and it is only through cultivating your own inner light that you will be able to bring it out in your subjects. Filled with instruction, insight, and inspiration, *Authentic Portraits* is an honest and personal book about creating better frames. It's also about becoming your best self. Take the journey, and you'll learn to find your vision and voice, bring intention to your photography and your life, embrace mystery, and understand the importance of gratitude and empathy. Along the way, you will teach the camera to see in a way that replicates how you feel, and you'll find you have all you need to create work of lasting significance.

self portrait vivian maier: People Pictures Chris Orwig, 2011-09-15 Bestselling author/photographer Chris Orwig offers 30 photographic exercises to renew your passion for capturing the people in your world. This is not a traditional portrait photography book. The goal isn't flattery, but connection and depth. Whether you are a student, busy parent, or seasoned pro photographer, these exercises provide an accessible framework for exploration and growth. With titles like: *Be Quiet*, *Turn the Camera Around*, and *the Fabric of Family*, each of the 30 exercises encourages you to have fun and experiment at your own pace. With step-by-step instructions and using natural light, you will explore everything from street, lifestyle, candid, and environmental shots. The projects are small artistic endeavors meant to change how you see and the pictures that you make. All that's required is a camera, an intrepid attitude, curiosity, and some imagination.

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