

Theme: Movement

Photographers have recorded movement in different ways. The early work of Eadweard Muybridge sought to analyse movement, whereas Jacques-Henri Lartigue and the more recent work of Ernst Haas sought to convey impressions of movement. Each of these artists sought to represent movement through still photography.



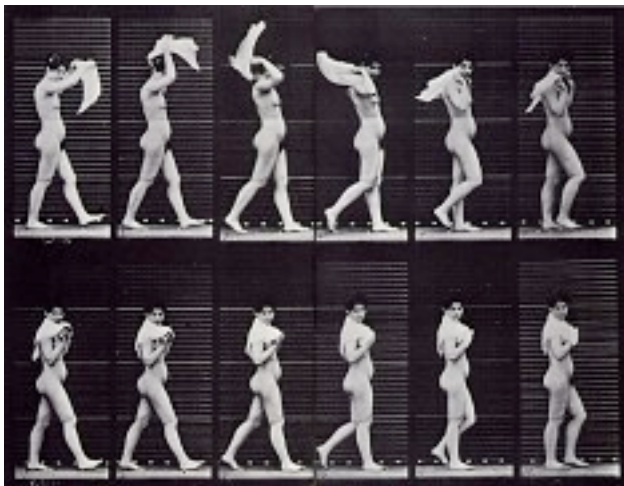
Eadweard Muybridge - Galloping Horse, 1878

Eadweard Muybridge - Ascending Stairs, 1884-85



Eadweard Muybridge - Striking a blow with right hand, 1884-85

Eadweard Muybridge - Descending stairs and turning around, 1884-85



Eadweard Muybridge - Walking and throwing a handkerchief over shoulders, 1884-85

Jacques-Henri Lartigue - Car Trip, Papa at 80 kilometers an hour, 1913





Jacques-Henri Lartigue - Bichonnade Leaping

The paradox of photography, its unpredictable generosity and democratic inclusiveness is exemplified in the story of Jacques-Henri Lartigue. Late in his life, Lartigue would be hailed as one of the founders of modern photography. In reality, he was the ultimate amateur, who in a remarkable series of family albums assembled a portrait of turn-of-the-century France, as it appeared to the eyes of a fun-loving boy, from the age of 8 to 18.

"He is essentially the gifted amateur. He has got access to all the best equipment, the state art equipment, he has a father who is passionate about photography, he is a subscriber to all of these magazines – he's just got all the advantages. But he is also, throughout his entire life, you understand this about him - that he understands the look of the world at any given moment; he understands how things look; how women look at a certain period in time; and how to capture the essence of that moment, whatever form that's in." Kevin Moore (Lartigue biographer) Striking though they are, Lartigue's pictures are not without precedent. Instant photography, which arrested movement for humorous effect, was a cliché of the amateur repertoire. Lartigue simply did what everyone else was doing, but with more flair and more daring. "All the jumping and flying in Lartigue's photographs, it looks like the whole world at the turn of the century is on springs or something. There's a kind of spirit of liberation that's happening at the time and Lartigue matches that up with what stop action photography can do at the time, so you get these really dynamic pictures. And for Lartigue part of the joke, most of the time, is that these people look elegant but they are doing these crazy stunts." Kevin Moore (Lartigue biographer)

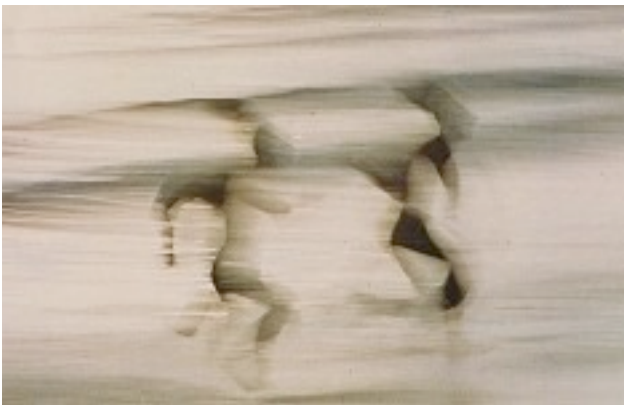
Jacques-Henri Lartigue - Rouzat, Dé Dé, Lartigue's cousin, diving with water wing 1911





Jacques-Henri Lartigue - Rouzat, riding the "Bobsleigh Course" 1910

Jacques-Henri Lartigue - Mr Folletête (Plitt) et Tupy, Paris, March 1912



Ernst Haas - Motion Runners

"Living in a time of crucial struggle, the mechanization of men, photography for me became nothing but another example of this paradoxical problem: how to overcome, how to humanize the machine on which we are so very dependent – the camera. This mechanical instrument forces and enables us for for the first time to learn how to read and write simultaneously visual aspects resulting from a discussion with reality expressed with a language of light called photography. Disinterested in scientific objectivity, I want to transform reality with a poetic conception by relating the unrelated into vision – forcing the viewer to feel what I felt as well as to think what I thought. I believe photography can be an art and I want to give everything to help achieve it. There is only you and your camera – the limitations of your photography are in yourself, for what we see is only what we are."

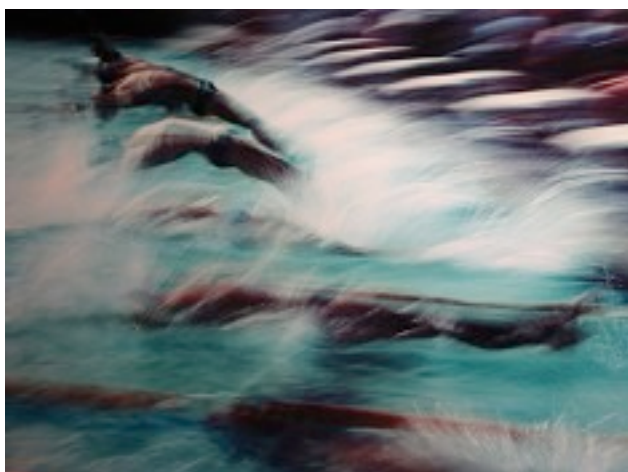
Ernst Haas

Ernst Haas - Black Wave, 1966



Ernst Haas - Bronco Rider, 1957

Ernst Haas - Bird in Flight, 1959



Ernst Haas - Swimmers, Olympics, 1984

Ernst Haas - Motion Flower, 1967

"You become things, you become an atmosphere, and if you become it, which means you incorporate it within you, you can also give it back. You can put this feeling into a picture. A painter can do it. And a musician can do it and I think a photographer can do that too and that I would call the dreaming with open eyes."

Ernst Haas

