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VAP 101  
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## 10 Photographers

### Bill Brandt

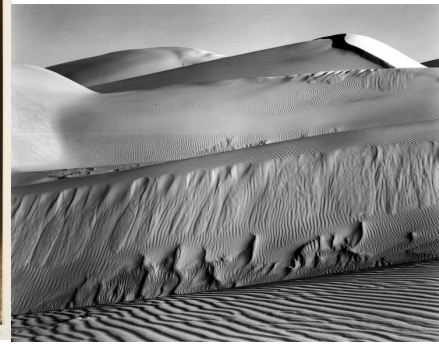
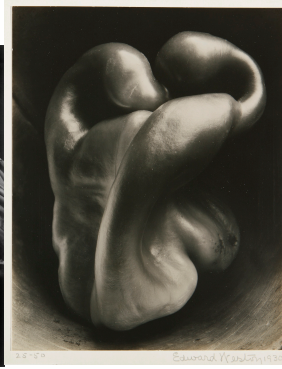


Bill Brandt was born in 1904 on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and when he was about sixteen years old, he contracted tuberculosis and had to stay in the hospital for six years. After he was released from the hospital he traveled to Vienna where he got a job. This led to his discovery of photography and caused him to move to Paris when he was 25. In Paris, he worked for a studio where he was influenced by the style of Eugene Atget as well as surrealism. Bill Brandt did a lot of freelance photography and work for Paris Magazine. Bill Brandt really started to be more well known around the mid 1930s where his surrealist photographs were being published and he wrote his first book, which documented the social condition of people in England during the depression.

I really enjoy the work that Bill Brandt has done, I love the perspective that he brings which transports the viewer into his photo. I also really enjoy his use of line in his photos. In the first two above he uses the lines to direct the viewer through his photos and to share with us the main focal point. In the second photo, he uses both vertical and horizontal lines which is very interesting. In his third photo, there are three sections to the photo which is very interesting. Both the top and bottom are very interesting and have a lot of detail and a lot going on while the middle almost provides rest for the eyes because it is not as busy. I find his perspective very interesting and I really enjoy his photographs.

<http://iphf.org/inductees/bill-brandt/>

## Edward Weston



Edward Weston was born on March 24, 1886. He spent the majority of his childhood in Chicago and he began taking photos when he was sixteen years old after receiving his first camera from his father. He began taking photos of areas in Chicago and his aunt's farm. After he published his first photo in *Camera and Darkroom* he moved to California. For his photographs, he traveled and took pictures of animals, funerals, and children. He chose to go to school at the Illinois College of Photography because he felt that he needed to be trained in photography. After college and after meeting his wife, he opened up a portrait studio in California where he developed his soft and pictorial, or illustrated style.

Edward Weston's photography takes simple to a whole new level because he makes the viewer question the simplicity of the objects he photographs. I really enjoy the lines and the movement that he captures because you don't really expect to find movement in a lettuce leaf or a bell pepper. Having the photographs black and white also forces me to focus only on the lines and shapes inside his photographs because I no longer can figure out what the object is and then dismiss it. I believe that he has successfully been able to take simple objects or vegetables and bring out the complexity in them and help the viewer recognize the beauty in the objects.

<http://edward-weston.com/edward-weston/>

## Marion Post Wolcott



Marion Post Wolcott, who lived from 1910 until 1990, was born to two very different parents. Her father was a conservative and a physician and her mother was an activist for progressive causes. Her parents were divorced and then Marion and her older sister were able to get a scholarship to a boarding school, which helped her grow tremendously. When Marion and her sister spent time with their mother, they went to art exhibits and performances in the theatre.

Marion went to school for dance and education. When she obtained a teaching position, she observed that there were much more privileged children of mill owners and there were not as privileged children of the millworkers. This upset her very much. After her father died, she used some of the money she got to travel to Paris to study dance and then later child psychology at the same university as her sister. This is where she found photography and learned that she was quite talented at it. Marion and her sister had many Jewish and anti-Nazi friends who were being threatened and hurt and Marion felt she needed to step in so she worked in the local schools at great risk to herself to help the new homeless children. She was forced to return to the United States after the University of Vienna, which she was attending, closed.

Marion Post Wolcott's photos are very inspiring because of the conditions they are taken in. They are photographs of families who still manage to stay together despite difficult times in mills, coal mines, or during the depression. Seeing these families maintain their closeness and stick together and have the parents do everything they can for their children is wonderful. Despite the hard times, the families are still able to overcome. I really enjoy her photography because they share a small part of these family's lives. I really enjoy portrait photography because portraits capture the feelings of a person in that specific moment, which can convey more meaning than any other type of photography.

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/womphotoj/wolcottessay.html>

## Eugene Smith



William Eugene Smith was born in 1918 and died in 1978. His interest in photography started when he was fourteen years old and he later started to photograph for local newspapers. Upon receiving a photography scholarship to the University of Notre Dame, he attended but only for a year because we went to New York to work at Newsweek and LIFE. He continued to work with LIFE and Ziff-Davis publishing company during World War II. He was wounded in 1945 that caused him to have to recover for two years, after which he continued to work and produced some of his best photo essays. Ten years after he was wounded he joined an international cooperative photography agency called Magnum and worked on a large photographic study. For 16 years, from 1959 until 1977, Eugene Smith taught in Japan at the New School for Social Research, the School of Visual Arts in New York, and the University of Arizona. He was a master at photography and his work became a standard for photojournalism for many years.

I find his photography very real and dark. The more contrast that he has in the photographs makes me believe that the photo was taken in a difficult situation, such as the people fishing or

the photographs he has from the war. The contrast and feel to his photos almost seems dirty, like they came from exactly where they were taken. I really enjoy his style and when looking at the different photographs he has taken, it is clear that his work contains a lot of shadows and they are mostly dark photos. This style indicates the mood that he is trying to convey; that they condition during the war or the situation he was taking the photographs in was not pleasant and not an easy place to life or work in.

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/w-eugene-smith?all/all/all/all/0>

## Dorothea Lange



Dorothea Lange was raised in a middle-class family in New Jersey. She grew up in a family that valued education and culture, which brought literature and arts into Dorothea's life. When Dorothea was seven, she caught polio, which gave her a weakened right leg and foot. Instead of looking at this as an unfortunate event, she believed it to be the most important thing that ever happened to her. After her parents were divorced, she felt very strongly about her father and never forgave him because she believed it was his fault for their marriage ending. With her interest in photography, she decided to pursue it as a career. She became a receptionist for Arnold Genthe, a very successful portrait photographer. Despite being a receptionist, Arnold taught her many skills such as making proofs, retouching photographs, and mounting pictures. Learning these skills helped her tremendously. She took many successful photographs during the Depression, which made a huge impact on how other Americans perceived the struggle that the poor were going through.

I believe that portrait photography can tent to be very difficult, yet Dorothea Langue has mastered it and can pull the viewer into her photos instantly with the emotion that she has captured on their faces. Looking at Dorothea Langue's photographs makes me both delighted and sad because of how wonderful the photographs are and how skilled she is, yet I am also sad because of the terrible conditions that these families and people lived in during the Dust Bowl and the Depression. She was able to take everyday photographs of these family's lives, which I'm sure was not easy capturing candid faces and emotions with her camera. I really enjoy the realism in her photographs and enjoy the emotion that each of them contain.

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-lange-dorothea.htm>

## Maxime Du Camp



Maxime Du Camp was born in 1822 and died in 1894 and he was a French photographer and writer known for his accounts of French life in the 1800s. He traveled many places and his published works in many literary genres was very extensive. He traveled a lot with Flaubert and after one of their adventures, they created one of the first books that was illustrated with pictures. In 1848, he was wounded during the revolution and was then decorated for counterrevolutionary activity in France. He documented many of his adventures and travels with writing and photography, such as his experience as a volunteer with the Italian revolutionary.

Through his photographs, it is clear to see that he has traveled many places and documented with photography where he has gone. I really enjoy the lines that he has in his photos due to the architecture. I think the combination of writing and photography is wonderful because they can both tell a story on their own, yet when they are combined, the author is able to specifically guide the viewers and readers in a specific direction. Personally, I enjoy taking photographs of architecture, so I really enjoy his photos. The structures that he photographs are also very interesting because they are from different places around the world.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Maxime-Du-Camp>

## Arnold Genthe



When Arnold Genthe was nineteen, he was looking to pursue painting and so he asked for the advice of one of the most prominent German painters from the 1800s, who was also a distant family relative, Adolf Menzel. Arnold was told that he did not have much talent for painting and he advised that he follow in his father and grandfather's footsteps. After hearing this, Arnold enrolled in the University of Jena where he received a Doctorate in Classical Philology. Arnold

became a tutor in 1895 for a German-American family and traveled with them to San Francisco. Between tutoring the family, he taught himself photography and started to publish some of his work in local magazines. Once he realized this was his passion, Arnold decided to stay in America and continue to work as a photographer. Four years after he decided to stay in America, he was one of the most sought-after portrait photographers on the West Coast.

Arnold Genthe's work is quite beautiful. It captures the style of people in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Yet his photographs also step beyond what was expected of portraits at that time. With the first picture on the left, this woman looks like she is on a beach dancing, which probably would not have been as common in Arnold's time. Arnold's work brings about an interesting part of people and shares the everyday people he encounters.

<https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entry.php?rec=190>

## Minor White



Minor White was born in 1908 in Minnesota and lived until 1976. He went to the University of Minnesota and in 1933 he earned a degree. Five years after he earned his degree he moved to Oregon where he began his photography career. Minor joined the Oregon Camera Club and then started taking on assignments from the Works Progress Administration. He was also exhibiting his work at the Portland Art Museum. He served in military intelligence during World War II, after which in 1945 he moved to New York City. He went back to school at Columbia University to study aesthetics and art history. He then began to develop his own style and became involved with other photographers such as Edward Weston, Ansel Adams and Alfred Stieglitz. He then moved back to California to work at the California School of Fine Arts where he continued to develop photography at the school and actually developed the first fine art photography department in the United States.

I really enjoy Minor White's photography because there is such contrast between the whites and blacks. I feel as if I am almost looking at a negative instead of a positive, which is so interesting and makes me want to look closer. I really like his work and his use of line and roads to lead the viewer to the main focal point.

<http://www.howardgreenberg.com/artists/minor-white>

## Alfred Stieglitz



Alfred Stieglitz was born in 1864 in New Jersey and died in 1946. He went to school for engineering in Germany, yet he returned to the United States in 1890 and lived in New York. He was on a mission to prove that photography was an artistic expression comparable to painting or sculpture. He became the editor of *Camera Notes*, which was the journal of the Camera Club of New York where amateur photographers were able to publish their work and share in their enthusiasm about photography. Alfred often made platinum prints, which are known for developing photos with a rich and only slightly varied tonal range. He really enjoyed photographing nature. From 1903 until 1917 Alfred edited *Camera Work* and organized photography exhibitions with the help of Edward Steichen. Alfred supported many photographers and American modern artists.

I especially enjoy Alfred's photograph on the right because of the symmetry and the beauty of the nature. Even though it is centered, I believe it fits this composition and the subject matter. The photograph on the right is also centered, which is an interesting choice, yet I also believe it works. Alfred Stieglitz seems like a wonderful observer, who photographs what he finds how he finds it. I really enjoy this method of photography and that is a way I can enjoy his work even more.

[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/stgp/hd\\_stgp.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/stgp/hd_stgp.htm)

## Edward J. Steichen



Edward Steichen was born in 1879 and died in 1973 and he helped direct the development of photography in the twentieth century. He came to the United States when he was about two years old. He began with painting and worked in lithography before he became a photographer in 1896. His first exhibition was three years later in 1899, a year before he became a naturalized citizen. After his first exhibition, he was encouraged to continue working by Clarence White. Edward practiced painting in Paris occasionally between 1900 and 1922. In Paris, he was exposed to modern art movements. He cofounded the Photo-Secession and designed Camera Work's front cover in 1902, which was a magazine that often published his work. Edward directed aerial photography for the Army Expeditions Forces during World War I, and shortly after that he no longer painted and adopted a modernist style.

I really enjoy how eerie his work is and how his photographs can make you slightly uncomfortable. This is achieved by bringing people into his photographs and staging them along with props. I really enjoy the photograph on the left with the woman in a head wrap looking through some lace because it is very mysterious and it looks like she is staring into your soul. His work also looks like there is a story behind the person, they are looking at the viewer in this way for a reason, yet I do not know why. I really enjoy his photography style even though it makes me slightly uncomfortable.

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/edward-steichen?all/all/all/all/0>