

PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND TECHNIQUE: INTRODUCTION -

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR CLASS:

1) Reflect on the title of the book (Photography Beyond Technique). What do you think the editor intends by this? What is the significance? What is “beyond technique”?

2) The author starts out with a bold claim that photography is not dead nor is it dying. It has instead suffered from a constrictive definition. He then says, “Photography is not simply a process, artifact, or gesture.” What does he mean by these three descriptors?

3) Reflect on these ideas and consider how they might relate to the future of art and photography?

A) One of my mentors has often said, “when a commercial process becomes obsolete, the artists take it over.”

B) Think about the cycle of fashion trends...it starts on the fringes, moves toward mainstream, and then back to the fringes or to those who are behind the curve. And the cycle begins anew.

4) On page 11, Persinger discusses the relationship of “subject, content, and process (form)” unite in artwork to make the most successful work. How do these choices impact the successful reception of the work? Can you think of process and ideas that work well together? How about that would not work well together?

5) The author hints at why he believes there is a resurgence of alternative photographic process. Can you pick them out? Do you agree? Do you see other possibilities?