

Photography and painting

Vakhtang Egiazarov

Amaghleba st 9 Tbilisi, Georgia.



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Corresponding Author:
Vakhtang Egiazarov

Abstract: The fields of painting and photography occupy a large and important place in art. Both fields serve the laws of visual perception. What do they have in common and how do they differ from each other?



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Historically, painting has been the only way to preserve visual information for centuries. The advent of photography in 1839 showed that these two fields are not competitors, but rather complementary, changing the culture of human vision. Despite their technical differences, both fields are based on optics and geometry. The techniques for their creation are radically different, both fields speak the same visual language. In both fields, great importance is attached to composition, the arrangement of light and shadow, storytelling, and thematics. In both fields, the arrangement of objects in space and balance are of paramount importance. For both the artist and the photographer, light is the main tool for conveying form and mood. Photography and painting allow the artist to convey an emotion, capture a moment, or express a certain idea. Portrait, landscape, still life - these genres are common to these art directions. The artist starts with empty space and adds shapes, colors, lines to it, he is the creator of his work. He can change the anatomy of the painting, the color, and so on. The photographer, on the other hand, captures what is important through the frame. His art is to choose what to leave in the frame so that the photo is interesting and captures an important moment. The photographer and the artist alike maintain compositional balance, diagonal lines, and symmetry to guide the viewer's gaze. Both classical painting, such as Caravaggio's technique, and black-and-white photography rely on the contrast between light and shadow to create form. The combination of colors, the interplay of warm and cool tones, is equally important in oil painting as in digital processing of a photo. Each brushstroke by the artist is individual and physically noticeable, while in photography the photographer's vision is visible in the selection of the moment and the control of light. The original canvas created by the artist is

unique, while photography is replicated, many identical copies can be made. Photography is always connected with physical reality, a photograph cannot exist if the object being photographed has not stood in front of the camera at least once. It is an imprint left by light, therefore photography is a registration imprint. Painting does not always require the physical existence of the object. An artist can paint something that has never been seen or something that does not exist at all, it will only be the result of his feelings, emotions and imagination. Painting is the art of interpretation. In photography and painting, there is a phenomenon of time. This is one of the sharpest dividing lines: photography stops time, it captures a third of a second that will never happen again. In painting, a painting is an accumulation of time. The artist works for hours, for many days. Each layer of the brush is time superimposed on the previous layer. In painting, time does not stop, where the viewer sees the entire history of the author's thoughts and movements. The art of photography is the knowledge of light, exposure and optics. Photography preserves the fact of how the photographed object looks, while painting preserves the character. The artist adds details to his painting himself, while photography starts from a full frame, where the photographer filters out unnecessary details. Creating a painting often requires long work: hours, days, sometimes even months. In photography, the frame is captured in a split second, although the preparation for the shoot can last a long time. The artist can paint with his imagination what does not exist, while photography is usually based on existing objective reality, the camera records what is in front of the lens, although minor changes can be made through editing as the photographer decides. Despite the technical differences, both fields rely on the laws of visual perception. Painting is about thinking

about the image, while photography is about seeing the moment. The artist shows what he feels, what he experiences, while the photographer shows what he saw, although there is a lot of feeling in this seeing. Ultimately, the difference between photography and painting is in the technique, but the goal is the same - to understand the world and visualize human experience. Photography tells us - look, this exists. And painting tells us - look, this is how I feel.