

Hailee Ramirez

Writing 3

Susan Sontag's "In Plato's Cave" has got to be my favorite reading so far in this course. It made me looking at the art of photography in a whole different way. While reading through this chapter, I was able to make connections to my own experiences and interests in photography. Because of that, I believe Sontag's critique of photography is still relevant even in the digital age. Even though the way we capture images has been changed and transformed by technological advances, with the inventions of digital cameras, scanners, and cameras within our own smartphones, the effect an image has on a person has not changed. Despite how we acquire an image, the "art" found within it is not hindered whether it was captured on an old camera then developed in a darkroom or captured on an iPhone X with instant access to how it looks.

I don't think photography has completely evolved into this totally brand new means of visual communication. If anything, the advancement in digital technology and the emergence of all these new inventions in the photographic arts has augmented the medium, expanding its creationism and influence and increasing what is already present. Digital technology has taken the art of photography to heights we never thought were imaginable. As seen in Hammer's article, Maygar, a photographic artist, uses digital technology to literally warp time and space and change the way we see reality through an image. I believe his images capture the true essence of reality and the true essence of a single moment, which is what I believe photography was aiming for in the first place: capturing a moment and preserving it. Enhanced digital technologies have allowed artists like Maygar to go above and beyond what any person thought the art of photography could ever accomplish or capture.

Rather than saying this new digital age brings an “entirely new” means of visual communication, I would say that the ever advancing digital age builds on the foundation that original photography has built for the arts. It has enhanced our ways of visual communication and although it may look different from how it was before, before all of these technological advances in digital arts, the foundation it was built on is nonetheless the art of photography derived from the nineteenth century. The digital age has allowed the augmentation of the art of photography, and photography is not dead. It is very much alive.