

## Pictorialism

Pictorialism is one of the first and likely most influential photography movements. Beginning in the mid 1880's and spanning to roughly 1920 or so, Pictorialists were pivotal in establishing photography as a legitimate art medium and gaining acceptance as artists.

Pictorialism was an international movement. Due to the increase of international travel and commerce in the late 19th century, people were able to travel to new places and the distribution of publications and even prints created a productive and exciting operating system for the exchange of ideas and concepts. T

This gave photographers of the time a global support in their efforts, not unlike what the internet has done for photography in modern times.

Photography faced an acceptance challenge at its birth; by experimenting with the chemicals used to process their images, photographers found they could produce painterly-like qualities within their work, and in so doing, define their own photographic style.

This was one way of proving their worth, in a time when photography was seen by some as mere copying of an image or a view.

*For more modern pictorial photography, visit:*

*<http://jeanmarcrobin.com/blog/2013/11/week-1052-pictorialistimpressionist-techniques/>*



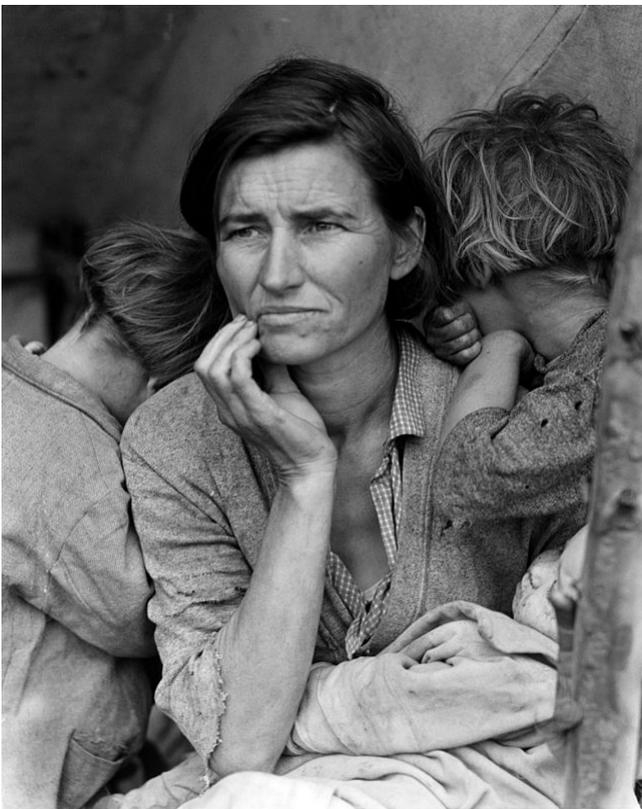
## Romanticism

The characteristics of Romanticism include a focus on strong emotion, awe of nature, and a break from following rigid structure. These and other characteristics arose, to an extent, from a desire to rebel against the scientific rationalisation of the natural world that was occurring due to rapid increases in scientific progress. As such, emphasis was placed on the power of nature, the importance of imagination, and the use of mythical and religious symbolism.

Some of the characteristics of Romanticism are based in thematic rather than stylistic concerns. Much romantic literature, for instance, focused on isolated and heroic artist figures in unpleasant or difficult situations. Some literature from the Romantic movement took on supernatural or occult subjects, and many early important works in the horror genre originated from this movement. The vast power of nature and the powerlessness of man against nature was another of the prominent thematic



## Social Realism



Migrant Mother (1936)  
Nipomo, California.  
Florence Owens Thompson, aged 32,  
and two of her seven children.  
Photographed by Dorothea Lange.

Social Realism is an international art movement, referring to the work of painters, printmakers, photographers and filmmakers who draw attention to the everyday conditions of the working classes and the poor, and who are critical of the social structures that maintain these conditions.

While the movement's artistic styles vary from nation to nation, it almost always utilises a form of descriptive or critical realism.



## High Key Photography

High-key lighting is a style of lighting for film, television, or photography that aims to reduce the lighting ratio present in the scene.

This was originally done partly for technological reasons, since early film and television did not deal well with high contrast ratios, but now is used to suggest an upbeat mood.

It is often used in sitcoms and comedies. High-key lighting is usually free from dark shadows. The terminology comes from the key light (main light).

High key photography uses unnaturally bright lighting to blow out most or all harsh shadows in an image. High key methods were originally developed as a solution to screens that couldn't properly display high contrast ratios, but has developed into more of a stylistic choice.



High key images usually convey a positive or upbeat tone. This method is perfect for a subject that is funny, lighthearted or beautiful.

## Low Key Photography

The opposite of high key is low key. Instead of eliminating shadows as in high key photography, low key photographers utilize dark scenes and heavy contrast to convey a sense of drama or foreboding. Where high key lighting seeks to over light the subject to the point of reduced contrast, low key lighting intensifies the contrast in an image through intensely reduced lighting. The key here is not just to produce a dark image but to use lighting very selectively so that only specific portions of the image are illuminated.

Instead of avoiding intense shadows, you'll have to consider them as the primary element of the

You see high key used regularly for model photography, flowers and other subjects that are relatively feminine in nature. Another area perfect for high key is product photography. Practically speaking, the bright nature of the photo really highlights the product and can make for some great attention-grabbing contrast.

*Psychologically speaking, a product shown on white tends to suggest that it is high quality or upscale in nature.*



The Nikon image above probably reminds you of a number of ads you've seen for premium products like the iPhone. Apple is fond of using high-key artwork and photography to show off their line of super-stylish electronic devices.

<http://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/the-complete-beginners-guide-to-shooting-high-key--photo-2949>



composition; one that defines the mood of the entire photograph. The trick then becomes manipulating your lighting and the positioning of your subject so that the shadows fall in just the right spots to create the look you want.