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DESIGN PROJECT „HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PHOTOGRAPHY!“

In 1826, Nicéphore Niépce pointed his camera out of his study window and, with an exposure time of several hours, created the first surviving photograph in history – a blurred, barely legible image of a roof and some house walls. 200 years later, photography is one of the most influential media of our time.

In this seminar, we will explore the most important milestones in the history of photography together: from the early chemical processes of the 19th century to the documentary and artistic photography of the 20th century to digital imagery and AI-generated images. Each participant chooses a historical focus, researches it independently and then develops their own photo series that refers to this milestone in terms of technique, method or content.

The choice of process is part of the conceptual process: we work analogously, digitally or with AI – depending on what fits the historical reference. Those who wish to do so can also work in the dark-room or with alternative processes such as pinhole cameras or cyanotype.

At the end of the semester, we will present the resulting works in a joint exhibition – with analogue or digital prints, printed magazines or individual websites. In other words, diverse, varied and exciting, just as a good birthday party should be!

The design project takes place on Tuesdays with Prof. Andreas Kunert.