

Article Outline of *Photograms: Adventurous Experiments Using Objects, Paper, and Light* written by Christopher Finch

- It was once feared the popularization of photography would make painting obsolete
- This advance in art pushed painters to experiment with new styles such as abstraction in the early 20th century
- Photographers felt the need to engage the avant-guard as well including Paul Strand, Edward Weston, and Albert Renger-Patzsch
- Some photographers used photograms to make abstractions of objects
 - Photogram: a silhouette photograph made by placing an object directly on sensitized paper and exposing it to light (Photogram)
- Photogram history
 - 1800's Thomas Wedgwood used white leather coated with silver nitrate to make "profile" of bugs and plants
 - In 1833 William Fox Talbot experimented with "photogenic drawings"
 - This technique was mainly used for scientific purposes until after WWI
 - Christian Schad was a German painter and was one of the first people to produce a large body of work using photograms.
 - He called these "Schadographs"
 - Similar in nature to Dadaist Kurt Schwitters's *Merz*.
 - Other Dadaists including Schwitters and Raoul Hausmann eventually experimented with photograms
 - Man Ray, influenced by Marcel Duchamp's exploration of the relationship between the subconscious mind and machine, started to use a technique similar to Schad's in 1912 but often used three- dimensional objects.
 - He called these "Rayographs"

Reference List

Finch, C. (1996, December). Photograms: Adventurous Experiments Using Objects, Paper and Light. *Architectural Digest* , 170-173.

Photogram. (n.d.). Dictionary.com Unabridged. Retrieved July 27, 2010, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/photogram>