

Bob

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PAUL'S COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

1. Although Susan Sontag mentions Barthes only briefly in her writings about photography, there is a significant influence. Barthes himself thought so when he described her relationship (intellectual) to him as "toujours fidele" (always faithful). Write an essay exploring the main assumptions, consonance, and divergence of their ideas about photography. To what degree can Sontag's position be seen as semiological?

2. Pick an influential photograph (or series of related photographs) from each of the following phases of 20th century communications/history: 1) the period when print journalism was dominant (1900-1930); 2) the golden age of radio (1930-1950); 3) the television era (1950 - present). Discuss how each photograph affected social sensibilities within the context (considering its relationship to other media of its time). Highlight the points each example has in common, for example, how certain types of reaction persist through the decades, also comment on how the power/influence of even similar kinds of photographs has changed through time.

3. Write an essay exploring the relationship of photography to high art, such as painting and cinema, and the degree to which it constitutes a form of social documentation analogous to journalism. Your discussion should include the work of several major theorists who have assessed the photographic image, contrasting their positions with a number of photographers who have written about the medium.

- A History of Photography discusses the Art Q.
- Also in Goldberg's - writings on Photography.  
Mind's Eye/Mind's Truth.

P·11 Stryker - Is it art?