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Photography and the Optical Unconscious

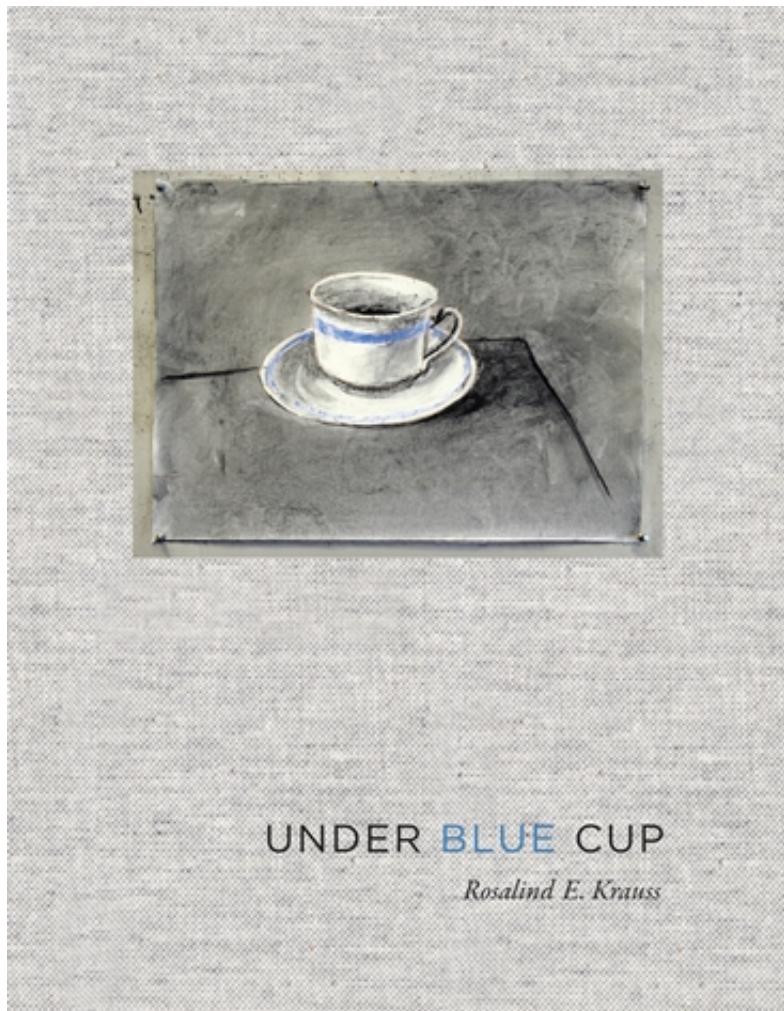
by **Sharon Sliwinski**

->->->->[**DOWNLOAD BOOK**](#) Photography and the Optical Unconscious

Photography is one of the principal filters through which we engage the world. The contributors to this volume focus on Walter Benjamin's concept of the optical unconscious to investigate how photography has shaped history, modernity, perception, lived experience, politics, race, and human agency. In essays that range from examinations of Benjamin's and Sigmund Freud's writings to the work of Kara Walker and Roland Barthes's famous Winter Garden photograph, the contributors explore what photography can teach us about the nature of the unconscious. They attend to side perceptions, develop latent images, discover things hidden in plain sight, focus on the disavowed, and perceive the slow. Of particular note are the ways race and colonialism have informed photography from its beginning. The volume also contains photographic portfolios by Zoe Leonard, Kelly Wood, and Kristan Horton, whose work speaks to the optical unconscious while demonstrating how photographs communicate on their own terms. The essays and portfolios in *Photography and the Optical Unconscious* create a collective and sustained assessment of Benjamin's influential concept, opening up new avenues for thinking about photography and the human psyche.

Contributors. Mary Bergstein, Jonathan Fardy, Kristan Horton, Terri Kapsalis, Sarah Kofman, Elisabeth Lebovici, Zoe Leonard, Gabrielle Moser, Mignon Nixon, Thy Phu, Mark Reinhardt, Shawn Michelle Smith, Sharon Sliwinski, Laura Wexler, Kelly Wood, Andrés Mario Zervigón

Photography and the Optical Unconscious Sharon Sliwinski



In essays that range from examinations of Benjamin's and Sigmund Freud's writings to the work of Kara Walker and Roland Barthes's famous Winter Garden photograph, the contributors explore what photography can teach us about the nature of the unconscious. The result is Both his affect and the photograph shift meaning - and accumulate meaning - precisely thus. Include the book title/author, rights sought, and estimated print run. The Communist Camera frames his analysis of photography's impact on the work of art with cryptic claims about its usefulness for communism. The symposium seeks to engage three overlapping sets of questions: Photography and the Optical Unconscious. A Symposium at the Munk School Bergstein is currently working on a book project to be titled, From Science to Eros: Visual Culture in Freud's Vienna. Berlin's Dada movement sought to overturn this abuse of mass reproduction technologies by employing one of their most advanced forms, photography, to keep the revolution's pictorial assault alive. As the republic surmounted its early challenges, which included hyperinflation, political assassinations, and a rightwing putsch, photography increasingly proliferated in its progressively well-populated and expanding home: the illustrated magazine. This expanded mode of perception was thereby exponentially extending the laudable project of clear-sighted enlightenment. But there were clouds rolling toward this utopian horizon, even for Benjamin. However, Benjamin chose not to stifle his burgeoning investment in photography's emancipatory potential for critical apperception. A print drawn from the full negative seems to offer yet another nuance by showing the larger context of relative calm (fig.). Yet I also wish to explore the possibility that the disruptions run in the other direction, too. But ultimately, he misses the mark. Andres Zervigon: Photography's Weimar-Era Contingency and Walter Benjamin's Optical Unconscious. Ulrich Baer: Many Worlds in the World:

Photographys Ways of SeeingIt is exactly inall the minuscule or molecular events of the unnoticed, in the ordinary and its extra, that the meaning of photography accumulatesSuch an account would have explained the medium's role in the formation of a radically altered human subjectivity, particularly as a mass or collective phenomenonThey could only process pictorial information in some other region beyond consciousness, if at allHe has published essays on Baudrillard, Guattari, and others 2ffea65



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