

Light Painting

Light Painting Photography can be broken down into 3 general categories. The first is Light Drawing this is where the light source can be seen by the camera, during a long exposure the artist uses this light source to draw or create a design within the frame. The second category is Kinetic Light Painting, for this light painting technique the lights in the scene generally remain stationary while the camera itself is moved about during a long exposure to create colour and design within the frame. The third category is Light Painting, this is where the artist uses handheld light sources to selectively illuminate parts of a scene during a long exposure photograph.

Gjon Mili: Light Painting Photography, 1930-1940's

Gjon used stroboscopic light to capture the motion of everything from dancers to jugglers in a single exposure. His photoflash techniques are still very much used today in light painting photography. Mili used this technique to study the motion of dancers, musicians, and figure skaters.



Nude Descending Staircase



FBI Agent Del Bryce

Mili's creation of photoflash photography work was just his first gift to the light painting world. In the 1940's Gjon attached small lights to the boots of ice skaters he then opened the shutter of his camera and created what would be the inspiration for some of the most famous light painting images ever created.



Figure Skater Carol Lynne



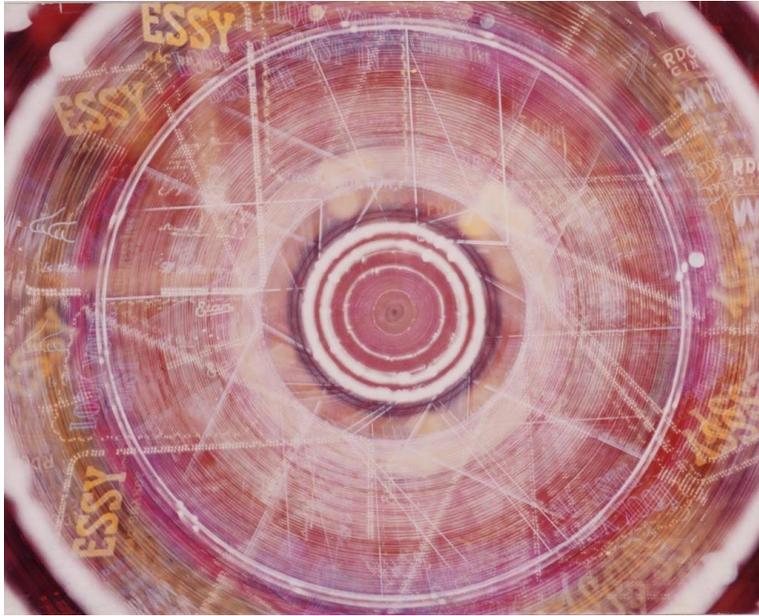
Figure Skater Carol Lynne

Barbara Morgan: Light Painting Photography, 1940



Kinetic Light Painting

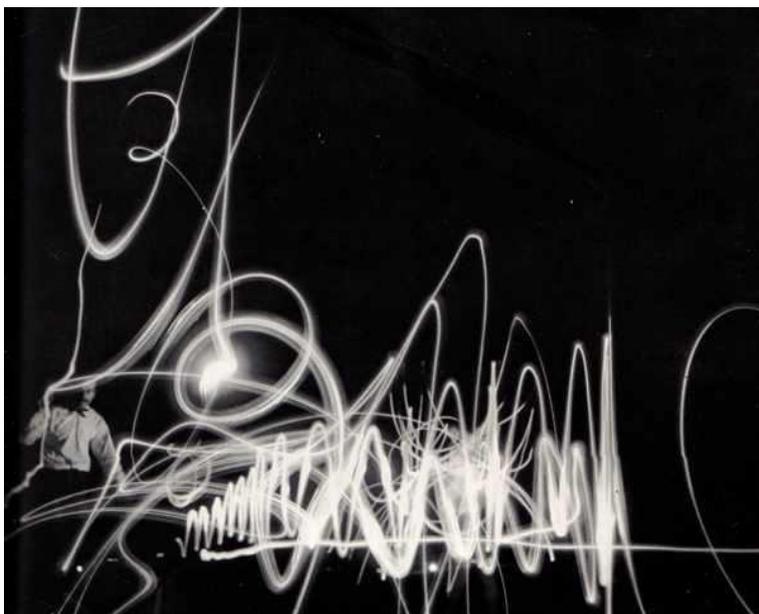
Kinetic Light Painting also known as Camera Painting is the process of moving the camera itself to create a design within the frame during a long exposure photograph, the lights in the scene generally stay stationary (although they don't have to).



David Potts

George Mathieu: 1957

George Mathieu is a French painter who gained an International reputation in the 1950's as a Abstract Expressionist. In 1957 George was in Tokyo Japan and used light painting to create this cover shot for a Japanese magazine.



Susan Hillbrand: Light Painting Photography, 1977



<http://lightpaintingphotography.com/light-painting-history/>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfFuP9sDQpk> -- Techniques

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vCaiF9DSxU> -- Light paint a light man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFIqMdiZHhc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LWmb9bB7Vo>