

Eugène Atget:

Atget had originally aspired to take drama classes but was kept from doing so because of his services in the military. Upon becoming an actor, Atget was diagnosed with vocal cord infection in 1887. Instead of giving up on life entirely, he began to move towards photography. His first images came out when photography was becoming a popular skill. By 1890, Atget became a specialized photographer. He supplied study documents to designers, architects and painters. He sold images of flowers, landscape and other content of interest to the buyers.

I was drawn to his work because although the photos were rustic, that was the beauty of it as photography was a new thing back then. I felt motivated to go out and take pictures and learn something new as Atget had done. Not only were his images pleasing to the eye but I also thought that he was telling a sort of story, or making the viewers more aware of things throughout his photos. His old images relay daily life back in the 1890s so it is interesting to see the differences of the city in France over the years and how things have changed.

After an infection that made him change careers, I felt that it was inspiring that he had moved onto something new rather than just giving up. I had felt more motivated upon hearing Atget's story, to put in more effort to explore new areas in photography. Frequently there are things I want to do but give up on because of how difficult the process is. From now on, I hope to push myself to finish learning the entire process of photography and editing photos the way I'd want them to be presented.

"Eugene Atget." *FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHERS*,
<https://www.famousphotographers.net/eugene-atget>.

"Eugène Atget." *International Center of Photography*, 19 Apr. 2019,
<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/eug%C3%A8ne-atget?all%2Fall%2Fall%2Fall%2F0>.



Daido Moriyama:

Daido Moriyama was born in 1938 in Osaka, where he studied photography before moving to Tokyo in 1961. Moriyama began to produce his own collection of photographs after working as the assistant of another photographer and filmmaker. Shortly afterwards, he was awarded the New Artist Award from the Japan Photo-Critics Association. Many of his early photographs were influenced by the 'Provoke' group which published three magazines illustrated almost entirely with photography. Moriyama joined the movement for the solidification of a type of Japanese aesthetic for 'grainy, blurry and out of focus' images, embracing a tradition of experimental image making and rebellion against the technical precision promoted by the culture of the time.

What drew me to Moriyama's work was his works focused on the time period after the war which displayed the change that the people could look back to while looking for the history of Japan. As his works were primarily black and white, I was attracted to the ancient-type of feeling these photos gave off. While maintaining the aesthetics of the lifestyle in Japan, there were also sad aspects that the story of the pictures told.

The work connects to my work because he focuses on taking photos of his home country. Although he had lived there his whole life, in comparison to my life in the United States, I still felt a sort of connection of his love for the country that had given birth to him. He incorporated details that only Japanese people had gone through, so I felt even more inspired to correctly depict the history of Korea through my pictures, while being limited due to the place I live in.

“Daido Moriyama Biography.” *Hamiltons*,

<https://www.hamiltonsgallery.com/artists/daido-moriyama/biography/>.



Rinko Kawauchi:

Rinko Kawauchi was born in Shinga, Japan, and she went on to study photography and graphic design at the Seian University of Art and Design. After a period of working as a freelance photographer in advertising, Kawauchi released three photobooks of her personal work in 2001. She became a famous photographer almost overnight, and has gone on to release several more photo books which have also received positive attention from the audience. Kawauchi is also the recipient of many awards as she continues to live and work in Tokyo.

I was led to her work as it was more modern compared to the other photographers I had researched. All her photos had a similar theme of the color blue as well as including some sort of angelic feature to the photograph. Along with the angelic feature however, there was also something mildly unsettling about her pieces such as the flies on the body of a man. Her photos seem to represent both life and death which are two highly paradoxical topics. Her photos are very interesting to view and are sometimes humorous while remaining completely silent.

Rather than connecting or relating to my works, I found that she is a photographer I can look up to for motivation. All her photos display a sense of uniqueness which is a quality I hope to acquire. She has two distinct topics that are highly respectable and can easily be caught in the human eye. Because of the simplicity of the ability to follow her works, I wish to use her as someone whose pieces and works I can look up to and find my own style that is distinct.

“Rinko Kawauchi - Biography.” *The Lapis Press*,

<https://lapispress.com/artists/40-rinko-kawauchi/biography/>.

