This is a chapter in piero scaruffi’s “A Visual History of the Visual Arts”: http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history
The Modernist Age

• Photography
  – Edward Steichen (1879, USA)

“Gloria Swanson” (1924)

"The Pond—Moonlight" (1904)
The Modernist Age

- Photography
  - Edward Weston (1886, USA)

"Nautilus" (1927)
The Modernist Age

- Photography
  - Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908, France)

"Quai de Javel/ Ragpickers" (1932)
The Modernist Age

• Photography
  – Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895, Hungary)

New Year’s Morning 7am (1930)

Radio Tower,
Berlin (1928)
The Modernist Age

- Photomontage
  - László Moholy-Nagy

“The World Foundation” (1927)
The Modernist Age

- Photomontage
  - Dadaists
    - Nonsense
    - Destruction of meaning
    - Fragmentation
    - Anti-art for the avantgarde elite
  - Surrealists
    - Photography, not photomontage
  - Socialists (John Heartfield, Gustav Klutsis, Alexander Rodchenko)
    - Didactic information for the masses
    - Sense, meaning, narrative
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – Helmut Herzfeld/ John Heartfield (1891.

“The Face of Fascism” (1928)

“I will change the face of Italy in the next 15 years so that no one will recognize it again.”

“Hurray the Butter is Finished” (1935)
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – Paul Citroen (1896, Germany)

"New York" (1919)  "Metropolis - City of My Birth" (1923)
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – Boris Bilinsky (1900, Russia)

Poster for Marcel L'Herbier's "Feu Mathias Pascal" (1925)

Poster for Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" (1927)
The Modernist Age

- Photomontage
  - Otto Umbehr "Umbo" (1902, Germany)

"The Racing Reporter" (1926)

"Mystery of the Street" (1928)
The Modernist Age

- Photomontage
  - Otto Umbehr "Umbo" (1902, Germany)

"Tea for Two" (1935)
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – Gyorgy Kepes (1906, Hungary)

“Juliet” (1937)

“Shadow Picture” (1938)

“Cosmological Eye” (1941)
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – El Lissitsky
  – Alice Lex-Nerlinger (1893, Germany)
  – Edmund Teske (1911, USA)
  – Clarence John Laughlin (1905, USA)

Lex: “Seamstress” (1930)
Teske: “Shirley Berman and Demolition” (1938)
Laughlin: “The Mirror of Long Ago” (1946)
The Modernist Age

• Photomontage
  – Val Telberg (1910, Russia)

“Portrait of a Friend” (1947)

“Event at Golgotha” (1956)
The Modernist Age

• New Objectivity
  – Karl Blossfeldt (1865, Germany): "Prototypes of Art" (1928), photographs of plant details
  – Albert Renger-Patzsch (1897, Germany): "The World is Beautiful" (1928)
  – August Sander (German, 1876): "Face of our Time" (1929)
The Modernist Age

- New Objectivity
  - Karl Blossfeldt (1865, Germany): "Prototypes of Art" (1928), photographs of plant details
The Modernist Age

• New Objectivity
  – Albert Renger-Patzsch (1897, Germany): "The World is Beautiful" (1928)
The Modernist Age

- Photography/ California
  - Ansel Adams (1902): Yosemite (1921)
  - Imogen Cunningham (1883, USA)
  - Dorothea Lange (1895, USA)

  - Lange: “Migrant Mother” (1936)
  - Cunningham: “Three Dancers” (1929)
The Modernist Age

• Photo-journalism
  – 1842: the Illustrated London News, the first illustrated magazine
  – 1861: Mathew Brady photographs the Civil War for Harper's Weekly
  – 1855: Roger Fenton photographs the Crimean War for the Illustrated London News
The Modernist Age

• Photo-journalism
  – 1891: Leopold Ullstein founds the Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung that uses innovative technology to mix text and photos
  – 1925: Leica introduces a camera built by Oskar Barnack that uses 35mm film
  – 1928: Photo-journalist Erich Salomon joins the Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung
The Modernist Age

• Photo-journalism
  – 1930: Henry Luce’s Fortune magazine, specialized in photo-journalism
  – 1932: Henri Cartier-Bresson’s exhibition in New York
  – 1936: Kodak's Kodachrome and Agfa Agfacolor
  – April 1938: William-Robert Moore’s 35mm Kodachromes photos of Austria in National Geographic magazine
The Modernist Age

- Photojournalism
  - W. Robert Moore (1899)

- Hong Kong 1932

- Burma 1929

- Ethiopia 1930
The Modernist Age

• Photojournalism
  – Margaret Bourke (1904, USA)

Bourke: "Kentucky Flood“ (1937)
The Modernist Age

- Photography
  - Gjon Mili (1904, Albania)

"Strobe Shot of Nora Kaye Dancing on Pointe" (1947)

"Stroboscopic Study - Dancing" (1936)

"Stroboscopic study of nude descending staircase" (1942)
The Modernist Age

• Photography
  – Andreas Feininger (1906, USA)

“Wysse, Sweden, Beach” (1934)

“Pattern Made by Helicopter Wing Lights” (1949)

“The Gyro Globe Coney Island” (1949)
The Modernist Age

- **Photography**
  - Photography becomes the main medium for the production of images in the industrial society
  - Advertising and Graphic Design drive demand for photography
  - Illustrated magazines (1930s) drive the demand for photography
  - Photography makes the sculpture of the entire world available to Western artists (Andre Malraux: an "imaginary museum", 1947)
The Modernist Age

• Photography
  – Photography eliminates painting's elitist requirement of manual skills that favors males
  – Germany:
    • 1890: The Lette Verein opens a Photographic School for women
    • Opportunities in advertising, especially fashion, and family portraits
    • 1931: 20% of photo studios in Berlin are owned by women
    • Travel photography
The Modernist Age

• Photography/ German women
  – Lotte Jacobi (1896, Germany)
  – Germaine Krull (1897, Germany)
  – Aenne Biermann (1898, Germany)
  – Lisette Model (1901, Austria)
  – Lotte Rosenberg-Errell (1903, Germany)
  – Gisele Freund (1912, Germany)

Lotte Errell: "Kurdish Wedding Procession" (1934)
Lotte Jacobi: “Niura Norskaya” (1929)

Lotte Jacobi: "Lotte Lenya Weill" (1928)

Lisette Model: “Reflection” (1939) Aenne Biermann: "Paris" (1929)
The Modernist Age

- Germaine Krull (1897, Germany)

"Metal" (1928)

"The Friends" (1924)

"Nude Study" (1930)
The Modernist Age

• Germaine Krull (1897, Germany)

“Love Abstractions - Poiret Poster” (1926)

"Magic Mirror"

"Velo Wheels" (1929)
The Modernist Age

• Video art
  – Len Lye (1901, New Zealand)

"Tusalava" (1929), 10-minute
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