Charcoal is unusually good at exposing thought. It can be dense and decisive, but it can also be pushed, smeared, lifted and partially erased. A sheet records hesitation.

ARTCOLLECTORNEWS
2026
William Kentridge and the City That Cannot Stop Being Erased
www.artcollectornews.com

William Kentridge
1989
Drawing for Johannesburg 2nd Greatest City After Paris
Charcoal on Paper.
Photo By Vanessa Branson
www.royalacademy.org.uk

I observe with horror an anterior future of which death is the stake. By giving me the absolute past of the pose, the photograph tells me death in the future. What pricks me is the discovery of this equivalence... Whether or not the subject is already dead,...

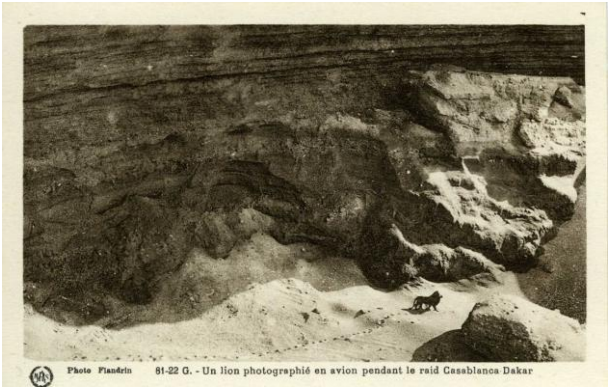
Barthes, Roland
1980
Camera Lucida – reflections on photography
Translated by Richard Howard.
New York: Hill and Wanamaker, Inc.

Jean Laurent
1870's
A photograph of Goya's Saturn devours his son, in its original condition at la quinta del Sordo, Madrid.
www.journals.openedition.org

Matt Collishaw
2018
Mask of Youth,
www.mattcollishaw.com

Photographs are a way of imprisoning reality... One can't possess reality; one can possess images — one can't possess the present but one can possess the past.

Susan Sontag
1977
On Photography. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
www.goodreads.com



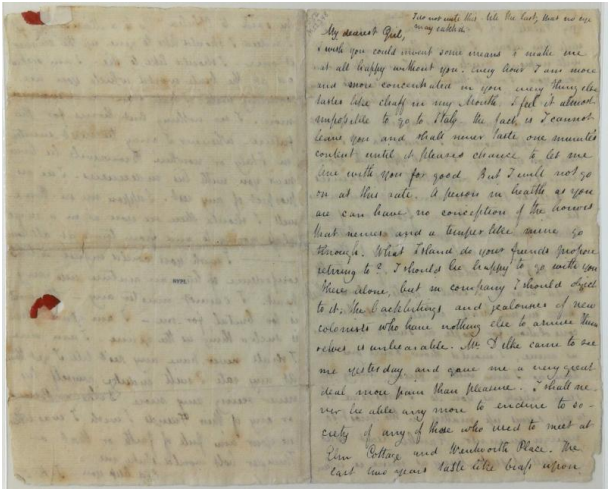
Marcelin Flandrin
1925
The last photograph of a wild lion in the Moroccan Atlas Mountains

David Allan
1775
The Origin of Painting
www.nationalgalleries.org

Vivian Maier
1950s
Street photography
www.vivianmaier.com

For all this I am averse to seeing you – I cannot bear flashes of light and return into my gloom again. I am not so unhappy now as I should be had I seen you yesterday.

John Keats
2011
Love Letters and Poems of John Keats to Fanny Brawne.



My dearest Girl,
I wish you could invent some means to make me at all happy without you. Every hour I am more and more concerned about in your every thing the harder blow struck on my Health. I feel it almost impossible to go to Italy the Sea is to I cannot leave you and shall never taste one minute's comfort until it pleases Heaven to let me live with you for good But I will not go on at this rate. A person in health as you are can have no conception of the horrors that prey upon a temper like mine so irritable. What I have to do your friends propose returning to Town I should like to go with you there alone, but in company I should object to it. The Gabblings and jealousies of new colonists who have nothing else to occupy their selves with are unbearable. Mr Dilke came to see me yesterday and gave me a very great deal more pain than pleasure. I shall never be able any more to endure to society of any of those who used to meet at Elm Cottage and Wentworth Place. The last two years little else upon

John Keats
1820
New York Public Library, n.d. John Keats's final letter to Fanny Brawne
www.nypl.org

I guess I thought it would be nice to have her initials up there, and people have said 'How long will they be there?' I tell them as long as the flag will be there. As long as my final footsteps will be there. Forever. However long forever is. And that's something none of us can understand. That's a concept of time.

Gene Cernan
2013
Gene Cernan: A conversation with the last men on the Moon. By C Clark
www.rocketstem.org

Thomas W Devlin
2025
Fireworks
Private Collection

Joyce Cook
1969
Dragging Trees in the Forest of Dovey
Private Collection