



# On Selfies: Digital Photography and Self-Representation

Zaldy Dueñas of De La Salle University Manila, Philippines

## Abstract

Since its commercial introduction in 1839, photography has permeated aspects of human life as a source and repository of information about human experiences (Wells 200, 11). Scientists, journalists, sociologists, psychologists, and artists among others have used photography in expressing and communicating their ideas. On the one hand, photography has served as a medium for scientific pursuits and for attaining objective knowledge. It has been prized for its precision and for producing empirical and verifiable facts that can be of use in the natural and social sciences. On the other hand, the invention of photography has been viewed as a culmination of Western visual representation and a breakthrough in the visual arts. From its conception in the nineteenth century to the postmodern period, photography has been integrated to various works of art and has been used by many artists as a visual representation in their artistic creations. As such, some of the issues and problems which scientific disciplines, philosophy of art, and aesthetics address emanate from photography.

Moreover, in the advent of digital technology, photography's use as a tool and aid for scientific and artistic pursuits has been changed. As a visual representation, photography is no longer used solely for remembering but as a tool for communication and self-presentation. In this regard, this paper explores photography in view of the development of digital technology and its philosophical implications. Particularly, it discusses how digital technology shifted photography's use as a form of self-presentation through digital self-portraits referred to as 'selfies'. Furthermore, this research aims to contribute on the discussion of photography as a medium or tool for scientific, artistic, and philosophical undertakings.

## Keywords

Digital Photography, Selfie, Photography, Self-Presentation, Digital Technology