

Photographing People

A Presentation by Gary D. Saretzky

Humanity has been one of the most common subjects in the history of photography since 1839. In the 1860s, the volume of professional photographic portraits increased very substantially with the introduction of inexpensive cartes-de-visite. With the advent of cell phone cameras, billions of photographs of people are being made daily. This presentation, illustrated with photographs from the 19th to the 21st centuries, explores what makes for excellence in this genre of photography, with respect to formal portraiture, informal portraits, and candid photographs, indoors and in the open air. Topics covered include posing, lighting, and overall composition. Examples of photographs of people in portrait studios, at home, relaxing, and at work will be included. The lecture will conclude with a section on photographing musicians illustrated with the presenter's photographs.

Bio

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives. Saretzky also taught photography and the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and served as coordinator of the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994–2016. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews, including “A Question of Priority: George G. Rockwood, Charles D. Fredricks, and Early Cartes de Visite in the United States,” *The Daguerreian Annual* 2024. He lectures on a variety of photography-related topics. His website, <http://saretzky.com> includes his photos, history of photography resources, lecture schedule, and an online photo bookstore. Saretzky regularly exhibits his own photographs and has published two books of his pictures of blues musicians.