

FREEZE FRAME

Site features iconic images

The power of a photograph is that it can freeze a moment in time. What happens when every moment in time is frozen?

The proliferation of camera phones means that more people are freezing more moments every day. According to the New York Times, people will take more than 1 trillion photographs this year. One trillion photos a year works out to approximately 2.7 billion photos a day. There are 86,400 seconds in a day, so that means that every second of the day is being captured by someone, somewhere, about 31,600 times.

Each picture is as unique as a snowflake, but how can a single picture possibly stand out in this blizzard of

images? The folks at Time Magazine selected what they consider to be the 100 most influential photos of all time. You can see them online at 100Photos.time.com. Interestingly, only about six of the pictures were taken after camera phones became ubiquitous.

Whenever a publication tries to rank things that are subjective with a list like this, there's bound to be disagreement over what should be included. For instance, the two most recent photos selected are the lifeless body of 3-year-old Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi face down in the surf and the Oscars selfie of Ellen DeGeneres surrounded by a bunch of actors. One is a heartbreaking image of a world gone mad, and the other is a group of privileged people congratulating themselves. They don't belong in the same collection.

Other photos have become such a strong part of our collective memories that the list wouldn't be complete

without them. The young, naked girl running in agony from her napalmed village in Vietnam, the lone figure plummeting from the burning Twin Towers on 9/11, and the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

More than half of the images deal with suffering. War, famine, poverty, tragic events and other ways that people treat each other badly are all well represented.

But there are uplifting images as well: the Pillars of Creation photo of a stellar nursery taken by the Hubble telescope, the Earth rising over the moon by astronaut William Anders and 11 iron workers having lunch on a girder suspended high above Manhattan.

Some images were chosen not because they're great pictures but because they capture an event for the first time. The blurry View from the Window at le Gras, which is considered the first photograph, a milk drop

forming a coronet as it splashes on a table, and the first X-ray picture were made possible by technological advances.

The website is good looking and easy to use. You can pick through a random gallery of images or display them in chronological order. Clicking on a picture gives you details about the circumstances surrounding it. Some also have videos with interviews and history. Viewing the images on this

site takes you through a range of emotions. The moments we choose to freeze say a lot about us.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites and apps with him at koneill@times-shamrock.com.



KEVIN O'NEILL
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