

In celebration of **Women's History Month**, we are highlighting a few early contributions made by women photographers who left a lasting legacy and paved the way for modern photography today.

ART CHALLENGE The only criteria for this art challenge is that you include photography as one of the elements in your art and express a personal tribute to a woman who made a difference in your life.

EARLY WOMEN PIONEERS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Anna Atkins, botanical artist and photographer, changed the way we look at science. She was the first person to illustrate a book with photographic images. Her nineteenth-century cyanotypes used light exposure and a simple chemical process to create impressively detailed blueprints of botanical specimens.



<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/559356/how-19th-century-photographer-anna-atkins-changed-way-we-look-science>

Clementina Hawarden took up photography in 1857; using her daughters as models, she created a body of work remarkable for its technical brilliance and its original depiction of nascent womanhood.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/283095>



Photographic Study

Date: Early 1860s

Medium: Albumen silver print from glass negative

Frances Benjamin Johnston is most famous for her self-portrait, depicting the 'New Woman' of the 1890s, with her petticoat showing, a mug of beer in her hand, and a cigarette hanging from her mouth. The photo was very empowering for its time, and it reflects Johnston's views regarding feminism and the general liberation of women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

<https://www.all-about-photo.com/photographers/photographer/705/frances-benjamin-johnston>

Self Portrait (as New Woman), 1896



Florestine Perrault Collins is noted for having created photographs of African-American clients that "reflected pride, sophistication, and dignity," instead of racial stereotypes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florestine_Perrault_Collins#cite_ref-1

<https://www.myneworleans.com/visions-of-early-rampart-street/>