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Capturing Motion

Allison Marsh

University of South Carolina - Columbia, marsha@mailbox.sc.edu

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CAPTURING MOTION

*“ Don’t make me out to be an artist.
I am an engineer. I’m after the facts.
Only the facts. ”*

// Harold E. Edgerton

Through innovative and iconic work in photography, Harold E. Edgerton permanently altered the way we perceive motion. Edgerton’s development of a stroboscopic camera and electronic flash made synchronous movements appear stationary. Edgerton uncovered a fast-moving world once invisible to the naked eye, ranging from cascading water droplets to the swing of a golf club.

People were both enamored and doubtful of these new depictions, sometimes questioning the legitimacy of Edgerton’s work. Skeptics doubted that his photographs of flying bullets were real. Edgerton responded to these questions by depicting bullets passing through apples, bubbles, soap, and even playing cards.

Imaging the unseen inspired Edgerton to pursue new projects later in his career. In addition to his stroboscopic photography, Edgerton was also influential in reconnaissance imaging for World War II, developing new cameras for underwater photography, and lending equipment in the hunt for the Loch Ness Monster.