

Photography in the age of
Digital Manipulation.

Question:

**DOES PHOTOGRAPHY ALWAYS
DEPICT TRUTH?**



Photograph by Allan Detrich
Courtesy of the Toledo Blade Newspaper

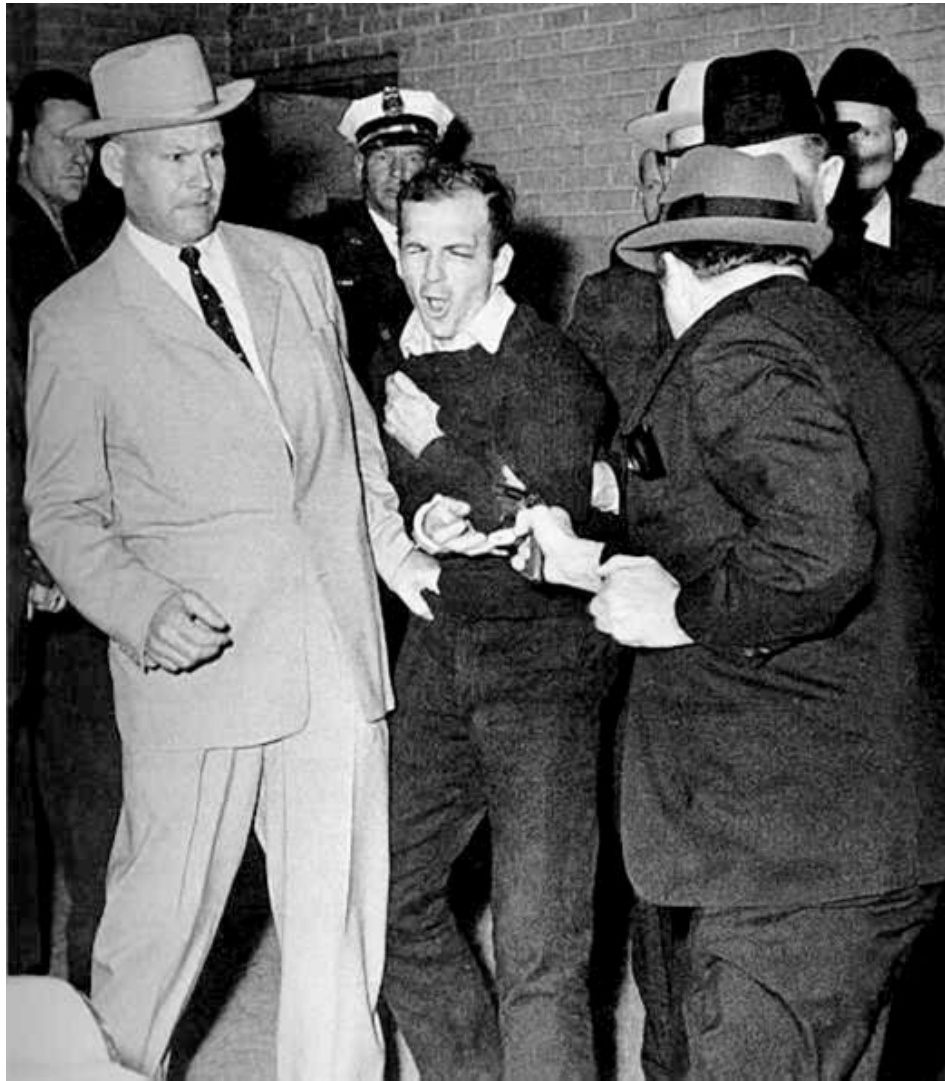


April 2007: Newspaper photographer Allan Detrich resigned from The Blade of Toledo Ohio after admitting he had altered a photo that appeared in the paper. Detrich submitted at least 79 photos for publication since the beginning of the year that were digitally altered, 58 of which appeared in print. In a printed letter to readers, Blade Editor Ron Royhab said "the changes Mr. Detrich made included erasing people, tree limbs, utility poles, electrical wires, electrical outlets, and other background elements from photographs. In other cases, he added elements such as tree branches and shrubbery." The Blade released three examples of how Detrich altered photos. "Readers have asked us why this was such a big deal. What's wrong with changing the content of a photograph that is published in a newspaper? The answer is simple: It is dishonest," Royhab wrote. "Journalism, whether by using words or pictures, must be an accurate representation of the truth."

Questions:

**DOES DIGITAL IMAGING ALLOW US TO
ALTER THE WAY A SCENE LOOKED
WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY
PHOTOGRAPHED?**

**HOW CAN THIS AFFECT OUR
PERCEPTION OF THE SCENE?**



Photograph by Bob Jackson, 1963.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the man responsible for the assassination of president President John F. Kennedy, was shot to death while handcuffed to officer Jim Leavelle as the Dallas Police were escorting him through the basement garage of the city jail. His killer, Jack Ruby, accomplished his goal with a single shot to Oswald's abdomen from a .38 special Colt Cobra pistol. Bob Jackson caught the moment on film.

George Mahlberg. Oswald/Ruby as a Rock Band, 1996.



“One sunny afternoon in 1996, I was eating lunch and surfin' the web when I came across the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Bob Jackson of Jack Ruby shooting Lee Harvey Oswald. Bob's camera certainly caught a rare moment in time; that grey area between certainty and unreality. Jack Ruby was in a posture that spoke of conviction and drive and there was something in Oswald's face—a look of passion that's hard to duplicate. The phrase "screamin' the blues"; came to mind because he looked to me like a young Rock 'n' Roller belting out a serious tune. The Photoshop bug sunk its teeth into me. 40 minutes later, my photo-illustration was born.”

http://www.pbs.org/ktca/americanphotography/features/digital_essay1.html

Read the article and highlight three main ideas. These will be discussed as a class.

As you settle into class:

Think back to yesterday's discussion.

Does photography always depict truth?

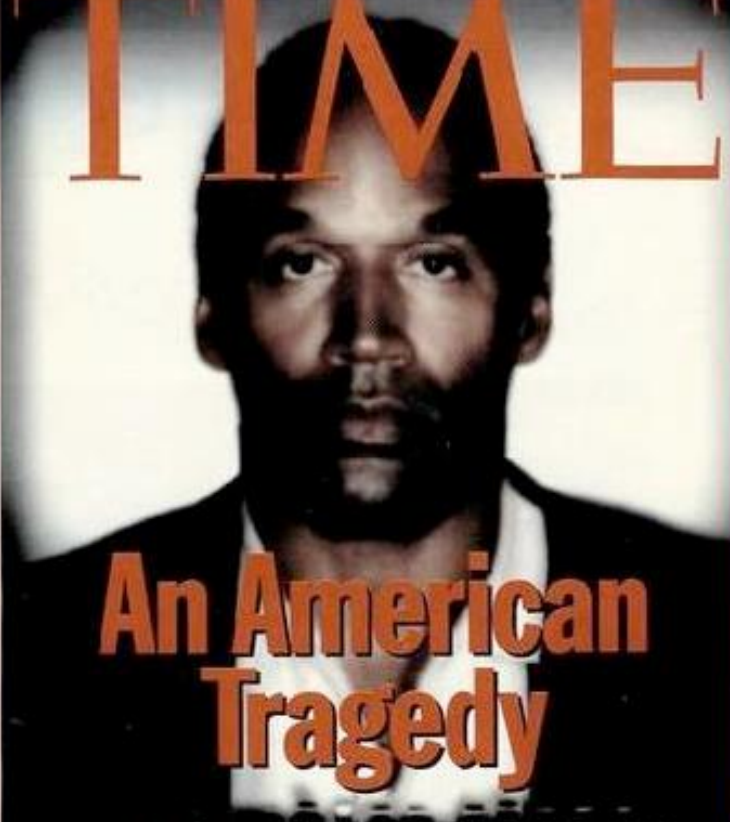
Be ready with your worksheet and a pen.

Analyze your photo and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. Who does the photo show?
2. Is the photo a news photo?
3. Why is the photo of interest?
4. What evidence is there that the photo has been manipulated?
5. For what purpose was it changed?
6. Describe the impact of the photo.

JUNE 27, 2004 \$2.50

TIME

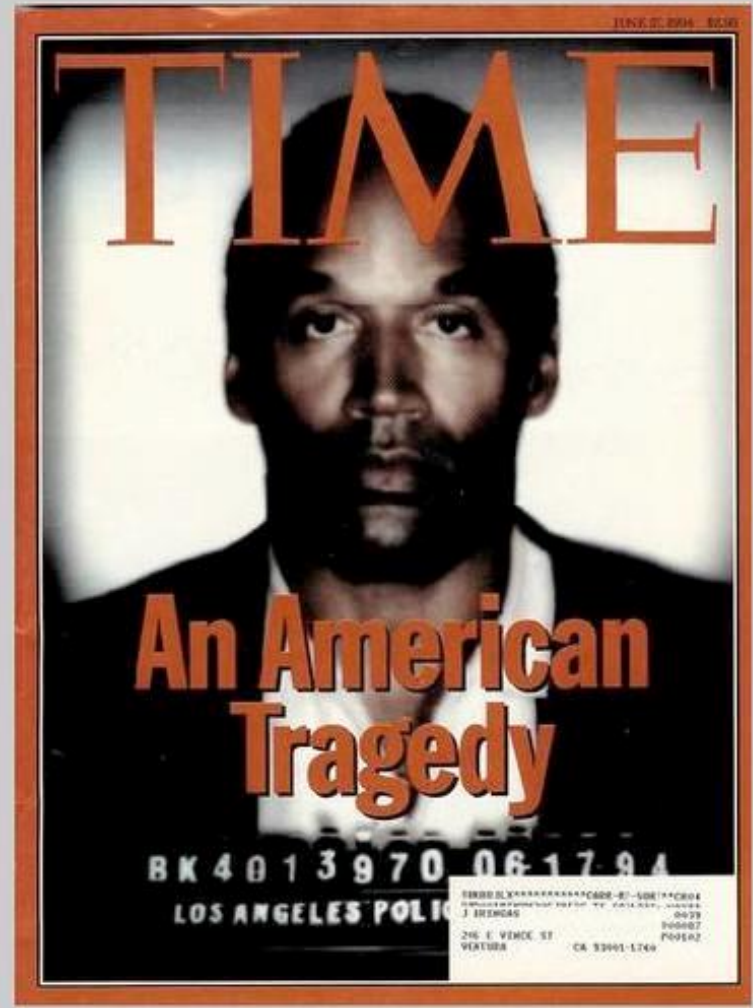
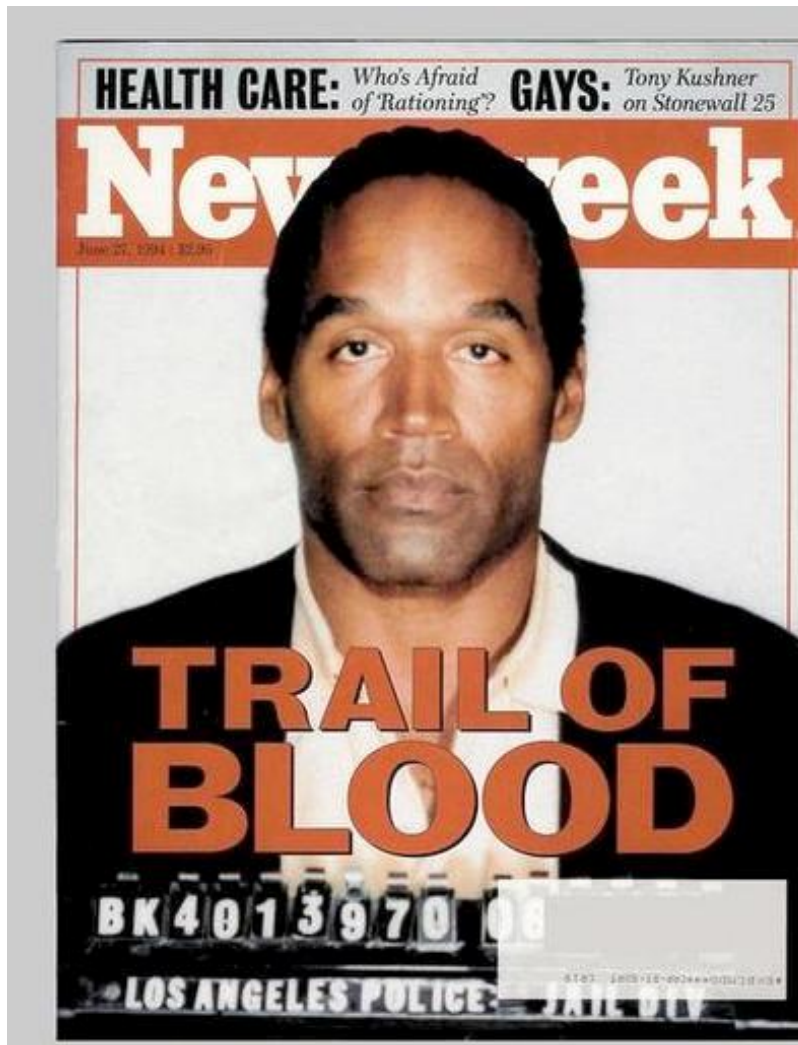


An American Tragedy

BK 4013970 06-17-94

LOS ANGELES POLICE

000001*****0000-01-0000000000
J. MARTIN
200 E. VINE ST
VIETNAM CA 90001-1749
0029
000007
P00102



June 1994: This digitally altered photograph of OJ Simpson appeared on the cover of Time magazine shortly after Simpson's arrest for murder. This photograph was manipulated from the original mug-shot that appeared, unaltered, on the cover of Newsweek. Time magazine was subsequently accused of manipulating the photograph to make Simpson appear "darker" and "menacing".

IRAQI WOMEN NOW • STEROIDS & TEXAS FOOTBALL

New **week**

A photograph of Martha Stewart on a magazine cover. She is smiling broadly, wearing a white button-down shirt and a pink vest, and is pulling apart a pair of yellow curtains. The background is dark.

Martha's Last Laugh

After Prison, She's Thinner,
Wealthier & Ready for Prime Time



March 2005: This digital composite of Martha Stewart's head on a model's body appeared on the cover of Newsweek as Stewart was emerging from prison "thinner, wealthier and ready for prime time", as the headline reads. Newsweek disclosed the source of the cover image on Page 3 with the lines: "Cover: Photo illustration by Michael Elins ... head shot by Marc Bryan-Brown."

VOL. 161, NO. 2



FEBRUARY 1982

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

NAPOLEON 162

EGYPT'S DESERT
OF PROMISE 190

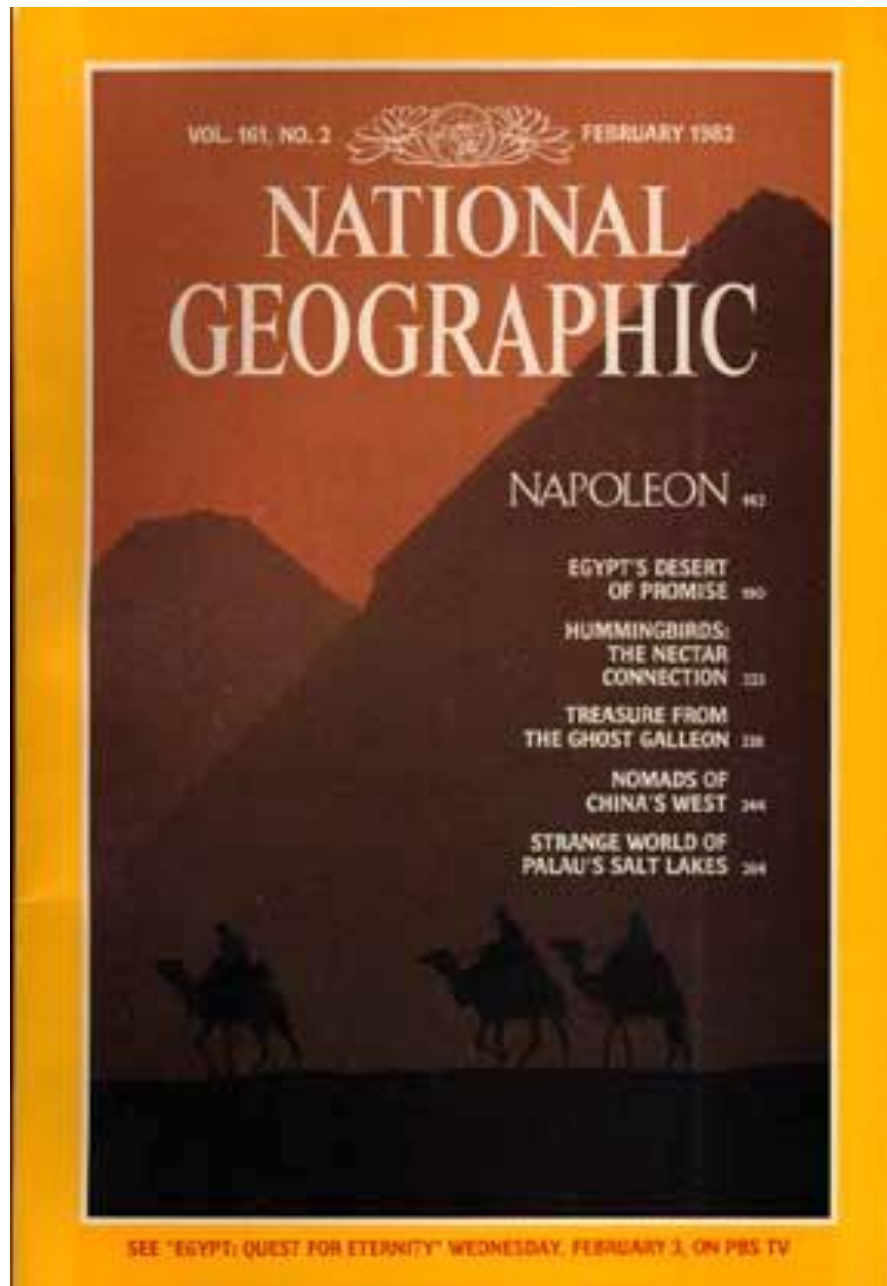
HUMMINGBIRDS:
THE NECTAR
CONNECTION 223

TREASURE FROM
THE GHOST GALLEON 238

NOMADS OF
CHINA'S WEST 244

STRANGE WORLD OF
PALAU'S SALT LAKES 264

SEE "EGYPT: QUEST FOR ETERNITY" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, ON PBS TV



February 1982: In this National Geographic magazine cover story on Egypt by Gordon Gahen, the Great Pyramid of Giza was digitally moved to fit the magazine's vertical format. Tom Kennedy, who became the director of photography at National Geographic after the cover was manipulated, stated that "We no longer use that technology to manipulate elements in a photo simply to achieve a more compelling graphic effect. We regarded that afterwards as a mistake, and we wouldn't repeat that mistake today".

WEEKLY WORLD

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

WORLDWIDE PUBLICATION

**Space visitor tells Democrats
how to rebuild U.S. economy!**



ALIEN BACKS CLINTON!



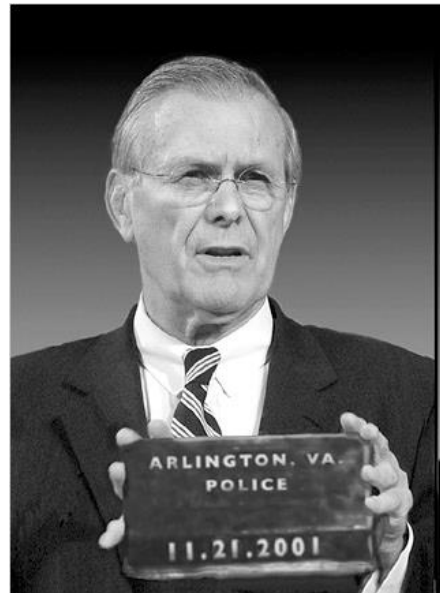
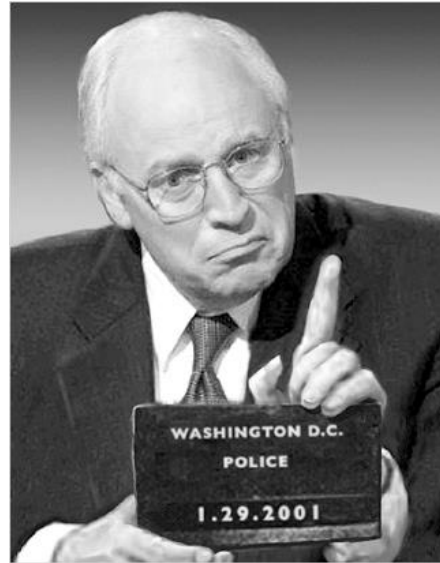
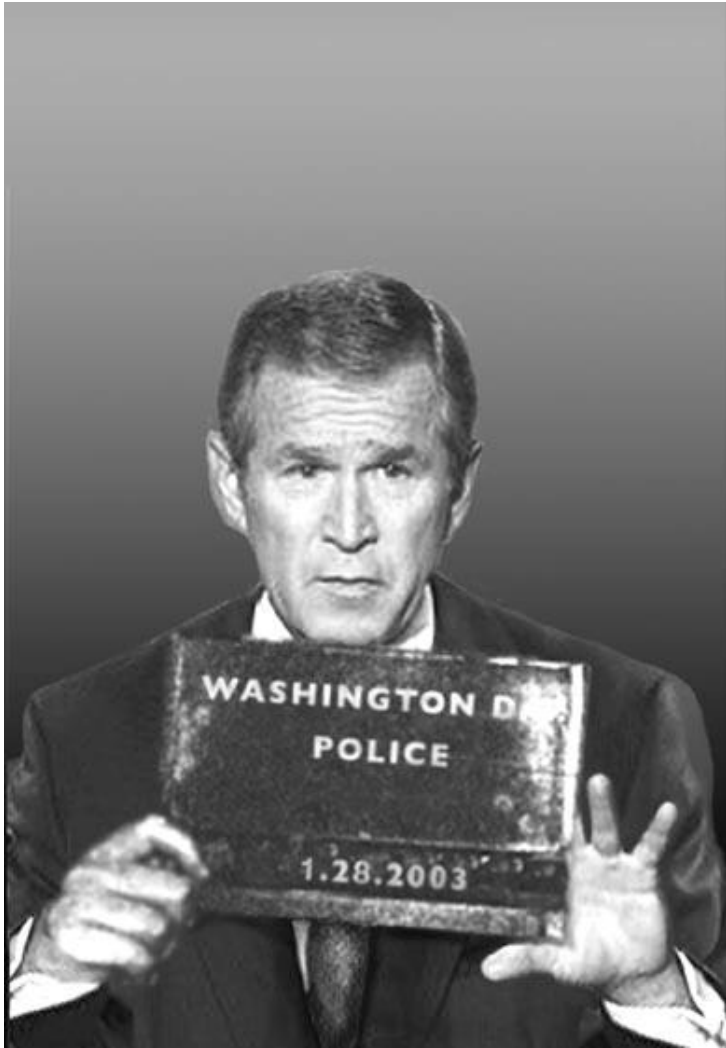
**'I'm happy he
saw through
Bush and
Ross Perot'**

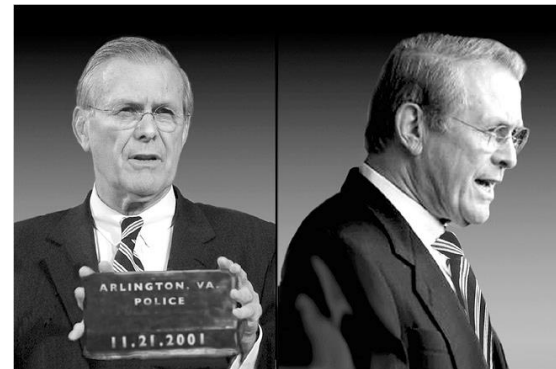
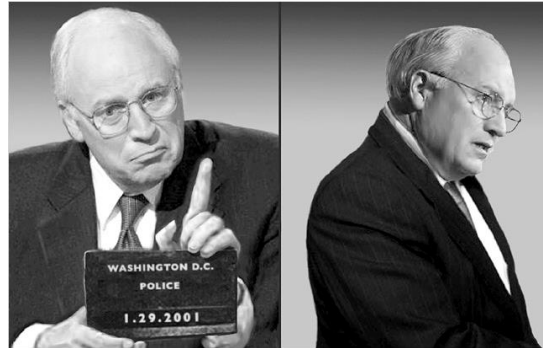
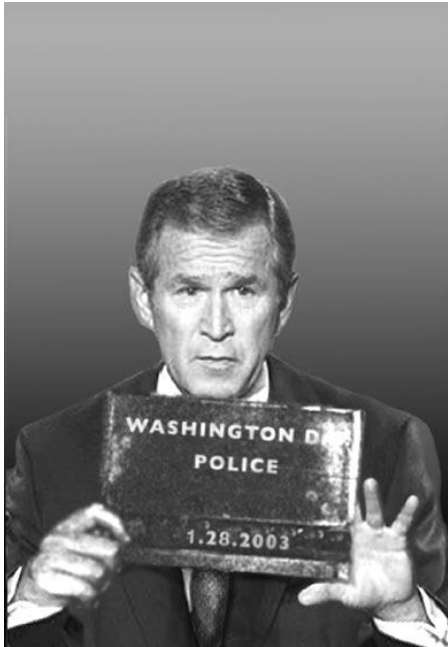
— GOV. BILL CLINTON





John Long, NPPA Ethics Co-Chair and Past President, September 1999: "We can laugh at this photo and I have no real problem with the Weekly World News running such digitally created photos because of the context of where this photo is running. This is the second of the vocabulary words I want to give you: CONTEXT. Where the photo runs makes all the difference in the world. If this same photo ran on the front page of the New York Times, it would damage the credibility of the Times. In the context of the Weekly World News, it cannot damage their credibility because that newspaper does not have any credibility to begin with (it seems we need to create a new set of terms when we can refer to the weekly World News and the New York Times both as newspapers)."





November 2007: Artists Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese created the exhibit "Line Up" depicting doctored photographs of George W. Bush and members of his administration. The exhibit, being shown at the New York City Public Library, is critical of the war in Iraq. "It is simply inappropriate to have political attack art, in the form of egregious doctored photographs of the President and other high-ranking officials who have dedicated their lives to public service, in a taxpayer-funded building frequented by schoolchildren and the general public," said Matthew Walter, director of communications for the state GOP. In response, Roberta Waddell, curator of the library's print collection, said the exhibit was in keeping with a historical tradition, calling the exhibit a relevant example of political commentary.

Essential Ideas:

- Great Power = Great Responsibility.
- *Photograph versus illustration.*
- Know the **purpose** of the images you make.
- *Ethical versus unethical* manipulation.

Check out the following links to see great examples of studios that specialize in digital retouching for advertising and graphic arts.

<http://www.sugardigital.com/>

<http://www.rocketart.com/portfolio/general.php>