



# Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma

By Ulrich Baer

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

**Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma** By Ulrich Baer

In this remarkable contribution to photographic criticism and psychoanalytic literature, Ulrich Baer traces the hitherto overlooked connection between the experience of trauma and the photographic image. Instead of treating trauma as a photographic "theme," Baer examines the striking parallel between those moments arrested mechanically by photography and those arrested experientially by the traumatized psyche -- moments that bypass normal cognition and memory. Taking as points of departure Charcot's images of hysteria and Freud's suggestion that the unconscious is structured like a camera, Baer shows how the invention of photography and the emergence of the modern category of "trauma" intersect. Drawing on recent work in the field of trauma studies, he shows how experiences that are inherently split between their occurrence and their remembrance might register in and as photographic images. In light of contemporary discussions of recovered memories and the limits of representing such catastrophes as the Holocaust, Baer examines photographs of artistic, medical, and historical subjects from the perspective of witnessing rather than merely viewing. He shows how historicist approaches to photography paradoxically overlook precisely those cataclysmic experiences that define our age. The photograph's apparent immunity to time is seen as a call for a future response--a response that is prompted by the ghostly afterlife of every photograph's subject. In a moving discussion of a rare collection of color slides taken by a Nazi official in the Lodz ghetto, Baer makes us aware that it is the viewer's responsibility to account for the spectral evidence embedded in every image.

 [Download Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma ...pdf](#)

# **Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma**

*By Ulrich Baer*

## **Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer**

In this remarkable contribution to photographic criticism and psychoanalytic literature, Ulrich Baer traces the hitherto overlooked connection between the experience of trauma and the photographic image. Instead of treating trauma as a photographic "theme," Baer examines the striking parallel between those moments arrested mechanically by photography and those arrested experientially by the traumatized psyche -- moments that bypass normal cognition and memory. Taking as points of departure Charcot's images of hysteria and Freud's suggestion that the unconscious is structured like a camera, Baer shows how the invention of photography and the emergence of the modern category of "trauma" intersect. Drawing on recent work in the field of trauma studies, he shows how experiences that are inherently split between their occurrence and their remembrance might register in and as photographic images. In light of contemporary discussions of recovered memories and the limits of representing such catastrophes as the Holocaust, Baer examines photographs of artistic, medical, and historical subjects from the perspective of witnessing rather than merely viewing. He shows how historicist approaches to photography paradoxically overlook precisely those cataclysmic experiences that define our age. The photograph's apparent immunity to time is seen as a call for a future response--a response that is prompted by the ghostly afterlife of every photograph's subject. In a moving discussion of a rare collection of color slides taken by a Nazi official in the Lodz ghetto, Baer makes us aware that it is the viewer's responsibility to account for the spectral evidence embedded in every image.

## **Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2906023 in Books
- Published on: 2002-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 7.00" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 216 pages



[Download Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer

---

### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Applying psychoanalytical theory to photo criticism, Baer (German, NYU) makes comparisons between the notion of the photograph's "arrested moment" and how the human psyche processes trauma. He draws from Freud, Barthes, Benjamin, and Charcot, as well as recent studies in trauma, to prove that images representing a traumatic history lack the concept of "future" and forward movement that characterizes conventional documentary photographs. Traumatic memory, like the camera, freezes the moment and removes it from the forward motion of linear time. Instead of sensational images, as the title might suggest, Baer uses seemingly commonplace photographs to illustrate his ideas, thus placing the viewer in the role of witness instead of innocent onlooker. Ultimately, Baer is able to support his premise by establishing the connection between the concept of trauma and the development of the photograph, making this research original as well as timely.

Baer is the editor of *No One Bears Witness for the Witness: The Culture of Memory and Historical Responsibility* after the Shoah and the forthcoming *110 Stories: New York Writes After September 11*. The current volume contains an extensive bibliography and notes and is recommended for graduate and research collections. Shauna Frischkorn, Millersville Univ. Lib., PA

Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

### Review

"Whether he's discussing the relationship between AIDS-activist video and Charles Ludlam's aesthetic of the ridiculous, applying Walter Benjamin's concept of messianic time to the experience of living with AIDS, or exploring the ethical position of film as witness, Gregg Bordowitz is at once passionately committed to socially engaged, theoretically informed art and searchingly honest about its difficulties. Representing a unique voice that refuses to separate the personal and the political, this is an indispensable collection for anyone interested in contemporary debates about cultural politics."--Rosalyn Deutsche, Barnard College, author of *\*Evictions: Art and Spatial Politics\** Please note: "Ludlam" was misspelled in previous version.

"Baer seeks to usurp our common understanding of the photograph with a richly informed and persuasive discourse." Robert Pepperell Leonardo

"Genuinely interesting, original, and well-written. The book's arguments will be especially relevant to scholars of the still-developing field of photo-history and criticism."--Geoffrey Batchen, Professor of Art History, City University of New York Graduate Center

"This book introduces photography into the rapidly expanding arena of interdisciplinary debates about collective trauma, memory, and representation. Arguing that photography and traumatic events have a common structure, Baer pleads with great sensitivity for an ethical way of seeing--witnessing--that both respects and responds to the unknowable reality of trauma. A welcome contribution to an urgent

discussion."--Rosalyn Deutsche, Barnard College, author of *\*Evictions: Art and Spatial Politics\**

"Georges Didi-Huberman's *\*Invention of Hysteria\** is an almost legendary text, so influential has it been on cultural criticism, and this even before its very welcome translation into English. Written in a style that is at once literary and philosophical, Didi-Huberman brilliantly demonstrates how a study of hysteria in the nineteenth century continues to have profound relevance for anyone interested in questions of culture and its embodiment -- that is, questions concerning the workings of power. The author's erudite combination of visual and textual research and provocative analysis has produced a book that will be equally crucial to scholars of medicine, feminism, psychoanalysis, literature, photography, art history, the body, or postmodern theory, to name only a few of the fields it touches on. But it's also simply a great read, an artful rendition of history that reminds us of the extent to which the 'weird science' of the nineteenth century still haunts our thinking to this day."--Geoffrey Batchen, Professor of Art History, City University of New York Graduate CenterPlease note: Endorser gives permission to excerpt from quote.

#### **About the Author**

Ulrich Baer is Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature at New York University.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Clara Reece:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book entitled *Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma*? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

##### **Jose Lloyd:**

This *Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma* tend to be reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The explanation of this *Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma* can be one of many great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed a person with information that probably will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this *Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma* giving you an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

**Julie Berkey:**

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma this publication consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. Here is why this book suited all of you.

**Ronald Tanaka:**

As a pupil exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's internal or real their interest. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma can make you feel more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer #DQU862NOB0X**

# **Read Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer for online ebook**

Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer books to read online.

## **Online Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer ebook PDF download**

**Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer Doc**

**Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer MobiPocket**

**Spectral Evidence: The Photography of Trauma By Ulrich Baer EPub**