

## Spot the Difference

### The Steerage by Alfred Stieglitz 1907

Can you spot the 12 differences in the photograph? The top is the original

One of the most famous photographs of the early 20th Century, Stieglitz's 'The Steerage' is considered as a valid art form. His pioneering work helped to change the way many viewed photography. His NYC galleries featured many of the best photographers of the day.

While sailing to Europe on vacation in 1907, Alfred Stieglitz took what many consider to be the first modernist photograph. Stieglitz had wandered down from the first-class deck to survey the jumbled scene of the steerage (economy class) section, which contrasted sharply with the first-class deck. These passengers were returning to Europe, many after being unable to immigrate to other countries. Stieglitz's composition emphasized the closeness of space and bustling conditions in the steerage's lower-level accommodations.

His iconic image not only encapsulates what he called straight photography – offering a truthful take on the world. It also gives us a more complex and multi-layered viewpoint that tells a story through the shapes in the image and how those shapes relate to one another.

"A round straw hat leaning against the stairway railing made of chain; white suspenders crossed on the back of a man below; iron machinery; completing a triangle. I stood spellbound for a while. I saw shapes related to one another – a picture of shapes, and underlying it, a new vision that held me..." — ALFRED STIEGLITZ

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"A round straw hat; the funnel leaning left, the stairway leaning right; the white drawbridge, its railings made of chain; white suspenders crossed on the back of a man below; circular iron machinery; a mast that cut into the sky, completing a triangle. I stood spellbound for a while. I saw shapes related to one another – a picture of shapes, and underlying it, a new vision that held me..." — ALFRED STIEGLITZ







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