117. The Horse in Motion. Eadweard Muybridge. 1878 C.E. Albumen print.

Form

16 still photographs combined in a series

Horse and jockey are in profile (seen from a bystander's view on the side of the track)

While each individual still of the horse and jockey is beautiful, the importance of the work lies in its numbers

Together, the images tell a story

Elevate photography from still to motion by multiplying the images represented

Function

Motion study of a racing horse and jockey

To establish the impressiveness and potential of photography

Bridged the gap between still photography and moviemaking

Content

4 rows and 4 columns in a rectangle

Each box is a still shot of a racing horse with a jockey

Each still captures a different moment in the horse's stride

Collectively, the photos create a sense of movement; the viewer envisions a running horse instead of a single-moment shot of a horse.

Context:

Photography had advanced far enough to be able to capture moments that the human eye couldn't

Asked to prove that all of a horse's legs were of the ground while running

Cameras took stills at evenly-spaced points on a horseracing track to create the illusion of continuous motion.

Used a device called a "zoopraxiscope"