

LIGHTBOX ON OUR RADAR

Discover the Unsung American Female Photographers of the Past Century

Caroline Smith | Rachel Lowry @rachellowry | March 22, 2016

Updated: March 23, 2016 3:01 PM ET

TIME honors a selection of women trailblazers in photography

Sharon Core—Courtesy of the Artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery

Sharon Core (1965–)

Sharon's Theibaud series (2003–04) attracted major attention for her photographic likenesses of the iconic paintings by Wayne Theibaud of cakes, hotdogs, and sandwiches created in the 1960s. She used her training as a painter and pastry chef to recreate the scenes in minute detail. She has an exhibition opening... [MORE](#)

25 of 28



This International Women's Month, TIME honors, with this non-exhaustive list, some American female trailblazers who challenged the accepted conventions of the time and paved the way for today's image makers.

The world has not always included women in its narrative. Many female

photographers of the past decade remain in the footnotes of history’s conversations, their contributions fizzling into relative obscurity while their male counterparts were the stars. They were some of the world’s greatest visionaries and strongest image makers, from Alice Austen to Ebet Roberts, Eve Fowler to Deborah Turbeville. Each demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to move the race forward—documenting everything from the Civil Rights Movement to the effects of drought in the African Sahel, 90s male hustlers to Native American issues—sometimes unpaid and off the books.

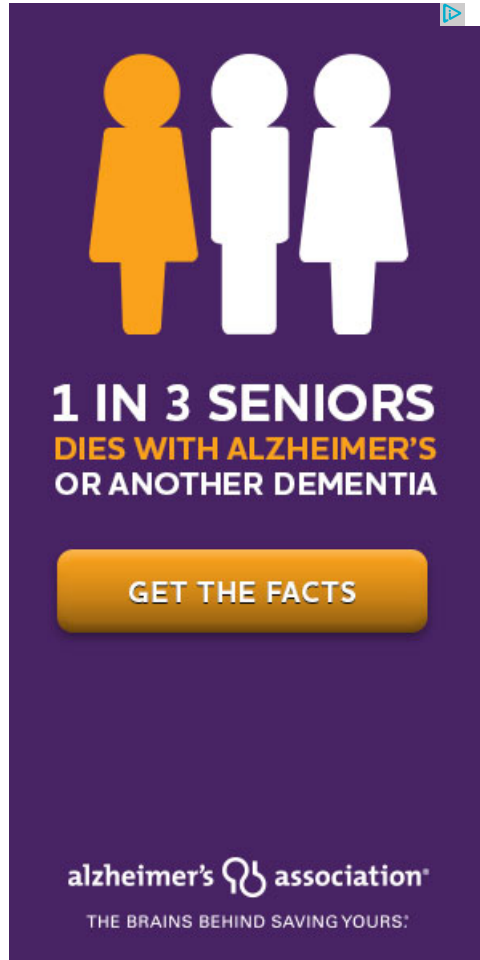
Now as the movement for women’s equality gains momentum, the women’s landscape looks increasingly different. Beyond the unpalatable acerbity that defined second and third-wave feminism came the charge to “lean in,” secure the right to “have it all” and fly through the glass ceiling. Hillary Clinton’s viability as a presidential candidate is [a given](#); A U.S. women’s soccer team [won](#) the World Cup; Academy Awards are received with [equality speeches](#); and next year, women will be [allowed](#) to the front lines of combat in the U.S. military.

But the struggle for gender equality across the world is far from being fully realized, as the gender gap in the industry remains, as World Press Photo found when less than 20% women [entered](#) this year’s contest.

Correction: The original version of this story misstated Tammy Rae Carland’s position. She is the Provost at the California College of the Arts.

Caroline Smith, who curated this photo essay, is a special projects editor at TIME.

Rachel Lowry is a writer and contributor for TIME LightBox. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @rachellowry.



**1 IN 3 SENIORS
DIES WITH ALZHEIMER'S
OR ANOTHER DEMENTIA**

GET THE FACTS

alzheimer's  association
THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



What Kelly Ripa's Situation Says About TV and Women Stars



Promoted
Find out why celebrities and stylists love this dryer.

Recommended by

© 2016 Time Inc. All rights reserved.

Powered by **WordPress.com** VIP