Reading Group Questions
Week 11

**Chris Marker, *La Jetée*, 1962**

1. What role does memory play in the film?
2. Discuss the 3 examples that you feel capture how the film represents and/or problematizes memory.
3. How might the negotiation of memory in La Jetée suggest a particular perspective on time? (For example, how does the film correspond to a linear sense of time?)
4. What relationship does photography have to time – both in the film and in your general understanding of photography?

**Thierry de Duve, “Time Exposure and Snapshot: The Photograph as Paradox,” 1978**

De Duve identifies two over-arching approaches to photography, namely the snapshot and the time exposure (for example a portrait photograph). According to de Duve, these two approaches articulate different relationships between photography and time. In an effort to unpack and explain this, he claims that the different photographic approaches can be categorized as either a part of a “superficial series” or a “referential series.” Superficial series photographs abstract and simplify reality, transforming it into a flattened image. This image represents reality, but also reveals how much is lost through the act of capturing a photograph. Referential series photographs visualize or materialize something that wouldn’t be apparent otherwise. While these categories are not defined by their treatment of time, they can be used to help make sense of the complex and shifting relationship between time and photography.

In your groups, have a general discussion about how you perceive the difference between a snapshot and a ‘time exposure’/portrait. Do these different types of photographs capture and represent time and memories different? If so, how?

Building on this general discussion, try to make sense of the following relationships that De Duve lays out:

- Snapshot as “superficial series”
- Time Exposure as “referential series”
- Time Exposure as “superficial series”
- Snapshot as “referential series”

In each of these cases, how does the connection between approach and category identify a particular kind of relationship between photograph and time?