Aaron Siskind started out as a social documentary photographer after joining the New York Photo League. He worked with the group on the Harlem Document project, photographing the people of Harlem during the Great Depression in order to produce socially engaging images meant to port urban issues. The project however was abandoned by the group shortly after WW II; Siskind left the group becoming member to the abstract expressionist movement. Abstract expressionism is often reserved to describe a style of painting that portrays emotions and attitude in a spontaneous and individualized manner. However Aaron Siskind, amongst a handful of other photographers and sculptors, possessed the artistic ability to produce photographs possessing both true to life and abstract qualities. Siskind’s photos, usually black and white, place an emphasis on lines and textures. While many photos are inanimate objects that the photographer found to be meaningful, others are real world images taken in a rather abstract fashion.

“We look at the world and see what we have learned to believe is there. We have been conditioned to expect... but, as photographers, we must learn to relax our beliefs.”

- Aaron Siskind
Abstract
By Samoia Fulani
Soft Focus
By Brianna Vasquez
Deteriorate
By Lester Zeng
Thank You!