

## Abstract

Texture is an important source of information for assessing environmental and material properties. Indeed—and presumably for this reason—the human visual system has regions dedicated to processing textures. Texture has been a topic of study in visual perception, emotions, and art study. However, given their abundance and apparent relevance with aesthetic, texture in photography is understudied. With the aim to contribute to the development of psychology in photography, the current study investigates the effect of graininess on aesthetic appeal of photographs. An online survey was conducted through the Qualtrics system. A sample of 138 participants were recruited. Participants viewed two themes of photographs — vintage theme and modern theme, with six levels of graininess. We proposed that increasing graininess would increase the aesthetic appeal towards photographs of vintage theme until a threshold sets in. However, the results do not match with our predictions. We found that increasing graininess does not have an effect on aesthetic appeal towards photographs of vintage theme, instead, it reduces esthetic appeal towards photographs of modern theme. Despite of the unexpected outcome, the current study still provides valuable insights in examining the effect of graininess in photographs on aesthetic appeal.

*Keywords: photograph, visual perception, aesthetics, graininess, texture*