

The myth and science of Kirlian photography

DR JASHVANT SHAH

Kirlian photography, although the study of which can be traced back to the late 1700s, was officially invented in 1939 by Semyon Davidovitch Kirlian. The Kirlian photographic process reveals visible “auras” around the objects photographed. These photographs have been the subject of much controversies over the years. Interestingly, much of this was initially put forth by the inventor himself, along with his wife to explain the Kirlian photography phenomena.

Kirlian photography is also known as Aura Photography. To understand Aura Photography one should know what is aura. We have two bodies: one is physical visible body and another invisible auric body. For example people doing meditation have a glow on their face. This is aura.

The aura or energy field reflects the powerful connection our brain and nervous system create between the body, mind and spirit. A person’s thoughts, emotions and beliefs are mirrored in the aura, which is why the aura and chakras can be used to determine underlying issues related to physical symptoms.

In the year 2000, another Russian scientist Dr. Konstantin Korotkov updated this camera to directly record, process and interpret aura images with a computer. This camera is known as GDV Camera.

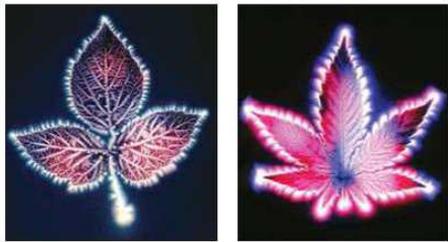
Therapeutic use

The most common therapeutic use of Kirlian photography is as a diagnostic tool. Variations in the shapes, colours and intensity of images produced are said to provide clues to the patients overall health and energy level. It indicates presence or absence of diseases, specific emotional states and other physiological or psychological conditions.

Scientific Research

Results of scientific experiments published in 1976 involving Kirlian photography of living tissue (human finger tips) showed that most of the variations in corona discharge streamer length, density, curvature and color can be accounted for by the moisture content on the surface of and within the living tissue.

Konstantin Korotkov developed a technique similar to Kirlian photography called Gas Discharge Visualization (GDV). Korotkov's GDV camera system consists of hardware and software to directly record, process and interpret GDV images with a computer.



How Kirlian photography helps healers

Many common eastern medicine traditions including Reiki and acupuncture are based on energy fields in the body. Kirlian photography, because it gives a practitioner the ability to visualize these energy fields is a useful diagnostic and evaluative tool.

Acupuncturists can, for example take aura photography of a person during an initial evaluation and see especially where the energy is out of balance. It is not a replacement for acupuncturist's traditional diagnostics skills but rather a supplement and a way for them to demonstrate their assessment to a patient visually.

Scientists and practitioners also theorize that Kirlian photography has a role in detecting cancer and other devastating diseases. For example, plants with cancer shows up with a very vivid corona or electrical field than healthy plants. This is due to the high metabolic rate of cancerous cells.

Kirlian Photography may also be able to treat patients under psychiatric care. The images has the ability to exhibit the emotional state of the person being photographed.



Bio-well camera



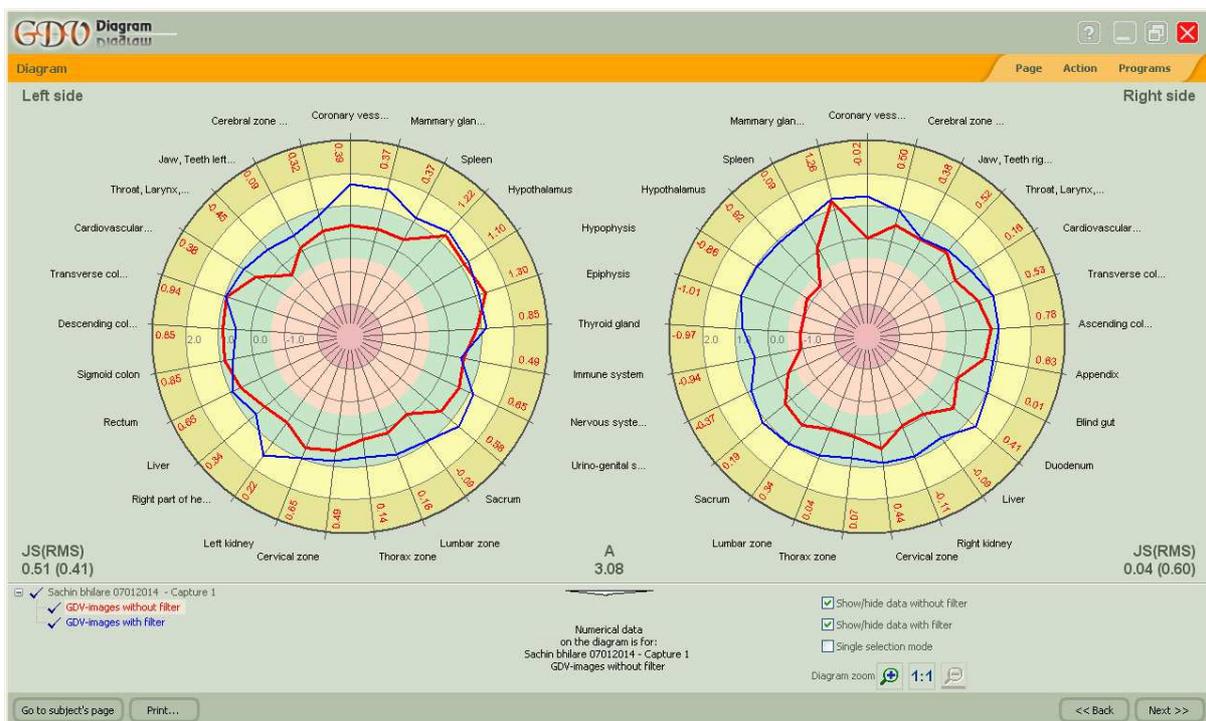
Accessory pack of Biowell camera

A case study

Given below is the Aura Photograph of Sachin Bhilare who is suffering from Asthma and indigestion and is prone to heart problems.

The right side diagram shows problem with respiratory system & problem with duodenum indicated by peaks of blue line & red line.

Left side diagram shows problem with right part of heart, coronary vessels, respiratory system & transverse colon.



Procedure

The process of taking a Kirlian photo is a fairly simple one and does not even require the use of a camera. First, a sheet of photographic film is placed on top of a metal plate. Then, the object that is to be photographed is placed on top of the film. To create the initial exposure, high voltage current is applied to the metal plate. The electrical coronal discharge between the object and the metal plate is captured on the film. The Kirlian photograph, which shows a light, glowing silhouette around the photographed object, becomes visible as a result of developing the film.

Although the Kirlians invented this photographic process in 1939, they didn't publicly release information about their experiments until 1958, and Kirlian photography wasn't a

well-known phenomenon to the general public until 1970.

In GDV Camera, we have to place fingers of both right hand left hand on camera lens. Auric energy of these fingers are registered in the computer and software develops aura photograph of the person.

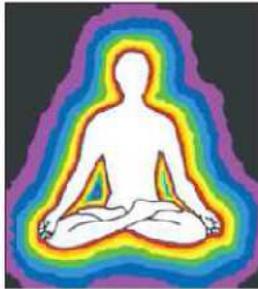
Myths about Kirlian Photography

The first mythical explanations put forth about Kirlian photography were suggested by the Kirlians themselves. They believed that these photographs were depicting the actual life-force or “aura” that many people believe surrounds all living things. New Age spiritualists believe that specially trained aura-readers can provide important insights into a person’s spiritual, emotional and physical state. The Kirlians were convinced that these photos could accurately predict emotional and physical states and could be used to diagnose illnesses.

The assertion that Kirlian photographs could depict emotional and physical states was quickly adopted by energy practitioners. While the use of Kirlian photography has largely fallen by the wayside as a diagnostic tool these days, there are still alternative practitioners who believe in it as an accurate way to help those who seek their services for healing all kinds of conditions both emotional and physical.

Kirlian photography has been a staple of paranormal research for some time as well. In the 1960s and 1970s paranormal researchers connected it to many types of unexplained phenomena, one of which was telepathy. Researchers proposed that telepathy was the result of people’s auras communicating together.

Telepathy, result of auras communicating together



The science of Kirlian Photography

It can be hard to separate the fact versus the fiction when it comes to Kirlian photography, since these photos are very real and do clearly show some phenomenon at work. However, the fact that these glowing auras are seen around non-living objects as well as living objects in Kirlian photos is often simply ignored by those who want to believe in the supernatural explanation.

So if the glowing auras seen in Kirlian photography aren't really caused by something spiritual, paranormal or our "life-energy" then what are they caused by?

The answer is water.

The high-voltage frequency applied to the metal plate rips the electrons off of atoms. The air around the photographed object becomes ionized. If that air contains any water, the resulting image will show the glowing silhouette around the object, which scientists actually call a "corona plasma discharge".

When a person is sweating more due to being overheated, or excited in some way, Kirlian photographs taken of their hands at that time will show a larger more intense glow due to the increased moisture. Conversely, cold dry hands will produce an image which shows a weaker glow. Despite the ready availability of this accurate scientific explanation, New Age proponents of Kirlian photography will still argue that the person whose hands showed a larger, brighter glow is a natural healer when they are really just sweaty.

Factors other than humidity which can influence the final image include the pressure and angle of your hand touching the metal plate as well as the amount of voltage. Kirlian photographs taken of the exact same person can be very different taken only minutes apart due to these variables.

A very well-known Kirlian photography experiment documents a leaf as it slowly dies. The initial photograph was taken when the leaf was freshly cut and shows a prominent glow. As the leaf gets older more photos are taken, which show that the glow is starting to

weaken. This was once explained away with the life-force theory. However, we now know that the weakening of the glow is simply a result of the leaf losing water and drying up over time.

In another experiment involving a leaf, an initial photo is taken which shows the usual strong glow or aura. Then, part of the leaf is torn away. Surprisingly, a ghostly glowing trace of the missing part of the leaf showed up on the film. For years this result was considered more proof of some sort of "life-force". In reality though, it was simply a result of some moisture residue left on the glass. If the residue is completely removed prior to photographing the leaf again, the phantom glow does not appear.

One final scientific observation to point out is that the Kirlian effect simply doesn't happen in a vacuum since there is no water vapour, which prevents ionization.

(The author is a practising alternative therapist and the founder of Kirlian Photography Centre)