

A perspective on aura photography.

For many millennia of human history, it has been a widespread belief that all objects, especially human and animal bodies, have an Aura (or electromagnetic (EM) field), and that this Aura can be visible to the trained eye. Late 19th century metaphysical science expanded on this concept with the theory that all things possess a body of etheric substance, commonly called the Ethereal Body, which is composed of the higher frequencies of subtle energy and finer pre-matter quantum particles which are intimately bound up with the physical body, as a product of creation of matter by electrofield manifestation through the quantum particles onto the physical plane.

Considering the mechanics of subtle energy fields and energy-matter interactions developed in the late 20th century academic sciences of bioenergetics¹ and torsion field² physics, and given the advanced state of modern scientific instrumentation, it seems both reasonable and logical to conclude that the Aura can be quantified and tangibly studied in an experimental manner. Indeed, since colours of light are defined by frequency, subtle energies and the bioenergy that emanates from all living things can be quantified as electromagnetic field energy that resonates with different frequencies of light.

¹ The term bioenergetics was coined by Paulien Hogeweg and Ben Hesper in 1978 for the study of energetic processes in biotic systems.

² Torsion field...a field alleged to make faster-than-light communication and paranormal phenomena possible.

The Aura is highly characterised and affected by the emotional and physical condition of a person, the biological homeostasis or imbalance of plant life, or the molecular energies inherent in and surrounding an object. This makes the reading of Auras a very useful and powerful tool for the metaphysical and clinical analysis of humans, animals, plants and objects. Metaphysical energies consist of ambient electro-field subtle energies that carry information. Since the frequency of electromagnetic fields and subtle energy information reveals the type and function of such energies, all metaphysical energies can be identified by their frequency. Since colour is defined as frequency, and the Aura is merely an electromagnetic radiation of diverse frequencies, the Aura can be effectively analysed by identifying which colours are in what part of the Aura.

The colour frequencies of light of which the Aura consists are too high to be perceived by the naked eye in most cases. However, the trained practitioner can learn to perceive these frequencies naturally, by activating the Pineal Body and adjusting their brain waves to the higher frequencies of which the Aura consists. Most psychics and metaphysical practitioners tend to see the Aura in six basic colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple or shades thereof. Although the Aura itself consists of frequencies higher than those in the visible light spectrum, the electromagnetic energies in the Aura have lower, sub-harmonic frequencies that resonate with the frequencies of each of the colours of the visible light spectrum.

Therefore, although Auras are not visible to the naked eye, the brain may perceive the energies in resonance with certain colours, and thereby construct a quasi-visual (mental) image of seeing those colours. It is precisely in this way that humans sometimes see the Aura, and can analyse its different colours. Seeing the Aura and interpreting its colour has been the focus of popular metaphysics for centuries, and "What colour is my Aura?" is a very popular game in metaphysical and spiritual circles. However, most people "see" colours that do not match the objective frequency colour of the actual Aura. This is because they make a psychological association between the "feeling" of the Aura energy, and what the colour "feels" like intuitively. In other words, human visualisation of the Aura has an inherent risk of a substantial subjective element that may sacrifice accuracy and detail. A number of means to eliminate such subjective elements, and legitimise this phenomenon through application of undisputed laws of fundamental science have been put forward. Enter...the profitable world of aura imaging or aura photography.

Much has been learned this century about the light properties of subtle energy fields and Auras from the works of such prominent scientists as the Polish doctor Iodko-Narkovitz, who

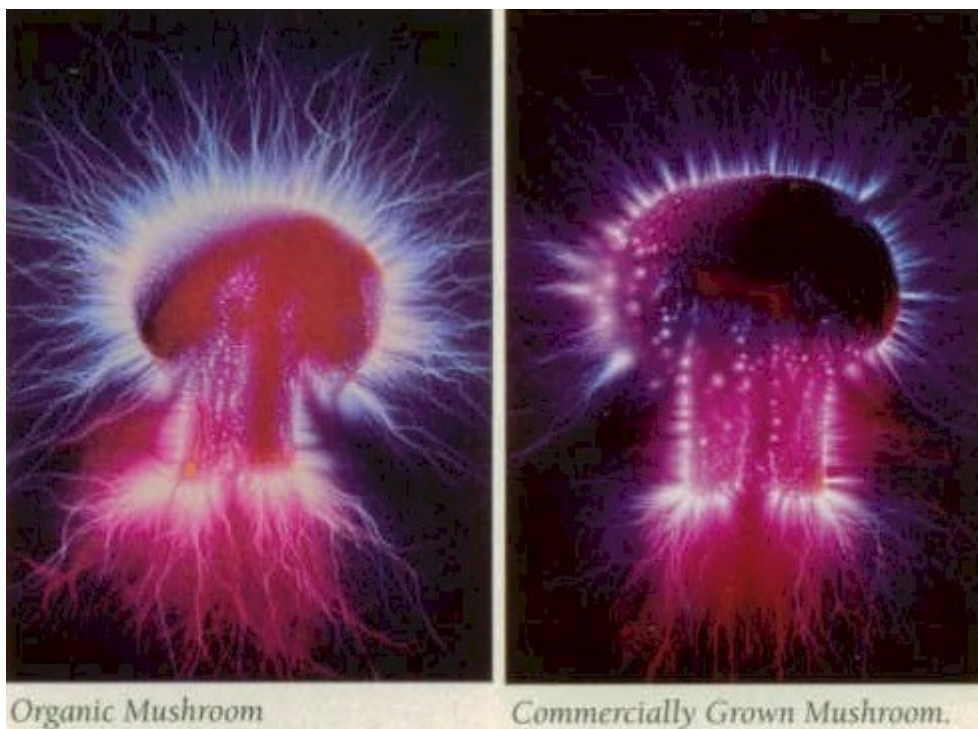
worked with photo-electricity and electrical field measurement, the Russian inventor Semyon Davidovich Kirlian, who experimented with the qualities and meanings of Auras using photography and electro-field imaging, and the British doctor Walter J. Kilner, who eventually invented a series of goggles and filters through which anyone can see Auras in detail. (See the article: As early as 1911.) Many people are also aware of Harry Oldfield's invention, Polycontrast Interference Photography (PIP), which visualises patterns of light radiating from biological organisms and inanimate objects. In fact, currently the list of inventions using subtle energies as treatments and subtle energy detectors is so long that we could not possibly discuss them all here and I do not claim to be an expert.

How it all started.

Kirlian photography refers to a form of photogram made with a high voltage. It is named after Semyon Kirlian, who in 1939 accidentally discovered that if an object on a photographic plate is connected to a source of high voltage, small corona discharges (created by the strong electric field at the edges of the object) create an image on the photographic plate. Kirlian's work, from 1939 onward, involved an independent rediscovery of a phenomenon and technique variously called "electrography," "electrophotography," and "corona discharge photography." The Kirlian technique is contact photography, in which the subject is in direct contact with a film placed upon a metal plate charged with high voltage, high frequency electricity.

Kirlian made controversial claims that the image he was studying might be compared with the human aura. An experiment advanced as evidence of energy fields generated by living entities involves taking Kirlian contact photographs of a picked leaf at set periods, its gradual withering being said to correspond with a decline in the strength of the aura. However it may simply be that the leaf loses moisture and becomes less electrically conductive, causing a gradual weakening of the electrical field at the drier edges of the leaf. However, leaves that were partially cut off would continue to display the Kirlian outlines of the missing part for sometime. The Journal of the Smithsonian Institute published a leading article with reproductions of images of this phenomenon.

Below are Kirlian images of two mushrooms; one is commercially grown and the other organically grown.



In addition to living material, inanimate objects such as coins will also produce images on the film in a Kirlian photograph set-up. In the United States, Dr. Thelma Moss of UCLA devoted much time and energy to the study of Kirlian photography when she led the parapsychology laboratory there in the 1970s. Much of her time was devoted to efforts to avoid factors proposed by sceptical peer-review.

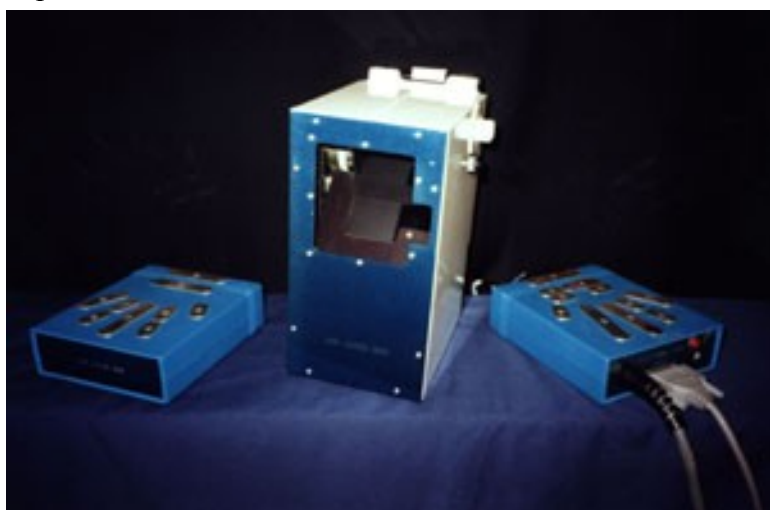
Research was further continued by Dr. Konstantin Korotkov in the Russian University, St.Petersburg State Technical University of Informational Technologies, Mechanics and Optics. Dr. Korotkov has published several books. He uses GDV (Gas Discharge Visualization) based on the Kirlian Effect. GDV instruments use glass electrodes to create a pulsed electrical field excitation (called "perturbation technique") to measure electro-photonic glow. The Korotkov methods have been used in some hospitals and athletic training programs in Russia and elsewhere as preventative measurements for detecting stress.

The aura camera.

In 1992, a man named Guy Coggins supposedly combined Kirlian photography with biofeedback and introduced Aura Imaging photography. He began selling cameras through his Redwood City company, Progen. Kirlian photography is completely different from "Aura photography," in which a colourful image is produced of a person's face and upper torso by interpreting galvanic skin responses and adding colour to the photograph using a printer. The images made with an Aura camera do not result from coronal discharge. In Aura Photography, no high voltage is involved as with the Kirlian technique, and no direct contact with the film is made.

As most of us would be aware...at nearly every New Age festival you can find commercially minded people who will ask you to pay for a "photo of your Aura". Unfortunately most of so-called "aura cameras" use a photographic trick called photo-montage to create an illusion of the Aura. These cameras have light source inside, which illuminate the film directly. Internal lights are controlled by a simple measurement of skin resistance. Although our skin resistance is related to our emotional state (lie detectors based on skin resistance measurement have been in use for at least 60 years) it has nothing to do with an image of an Aura vibration. Any camera producing overexposed face images and auras should be treated with caution. Unfortunately sellers will tell you it is based on Kirlian, despite of the fact that such photos have absolutely nothing to do with Kirlian effect.

Do you want a proof? This only applies to cameras where you sit and place your hands on the electrode plates as seen in the image below. Make a test: take "Aura Camera" electrodes in your hands and DO NOT sit in front of the camera. Make sure that the camera is facing a black screen. It will produce a FAKE "aura" without you in the picture !!! Every time !!! Now, Aura is supposed to be around YOU. At best this type of imagery should be treated as pure entertainment...albeit expensive entertainment.

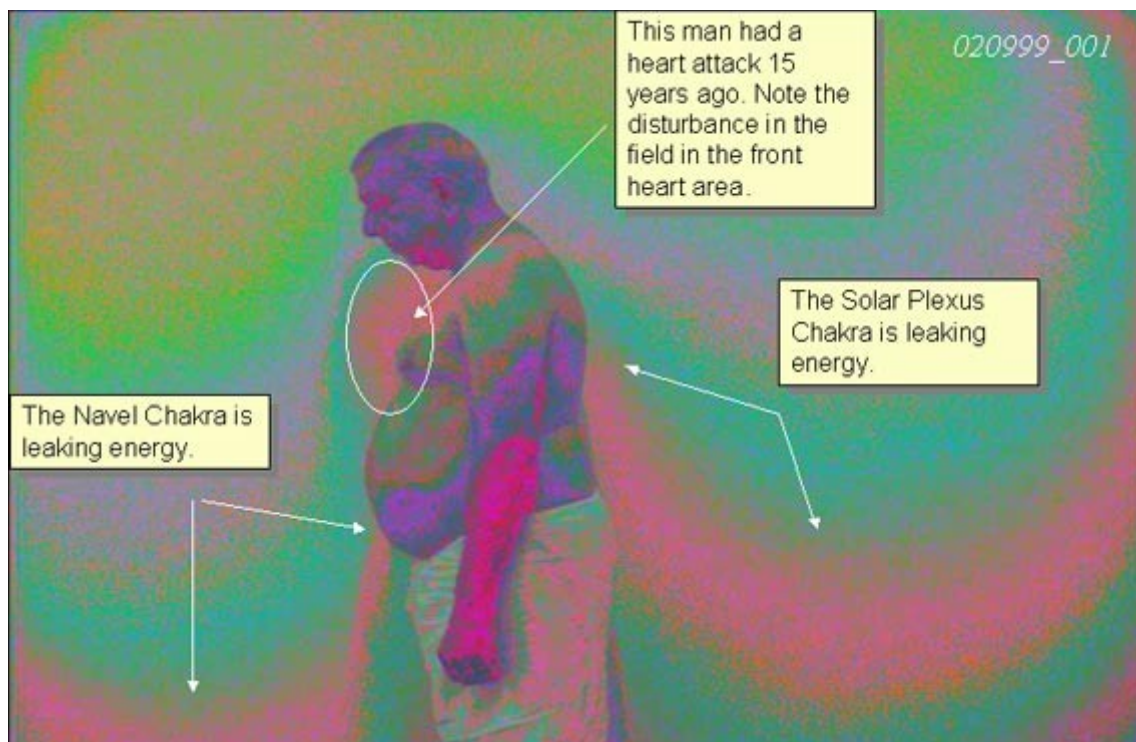


Once again I do not claim to have expert knowledge on every piece of equipment in the market place. Are there any aura imaging cameras that are legitimate?

I don't know...there might be. The type pictured here certainly is not.

There certainly are scanning devices and programs that can interpret the human energy field.

One such technique is the PIP system as previously mentioned. In the late 1980s, using microchip technology, Dr Harry Oldfield developed a scanner which could provide a real time, moving image of the energy field. He believed that the future of analysis lay in finding an effective scanner which can 'see' imbalances in the energy field rather than disease in the physical body. This system became known as Polycontrast Interference Photography or PIP. Harry thought that the human energy field might possibly interfere with photons ('energy packets' of light) or even what might be called 'subtle energy photons' in some way. He decided that ambient (surrounding) light would be interfered with by the field both when the incident ray travelled towards the object and when the reflected ray bounced off the object. In the main, the 'object' of his interest was human beings. The image below is a good representation of a PIP image. Again the image is subject to interpretation.



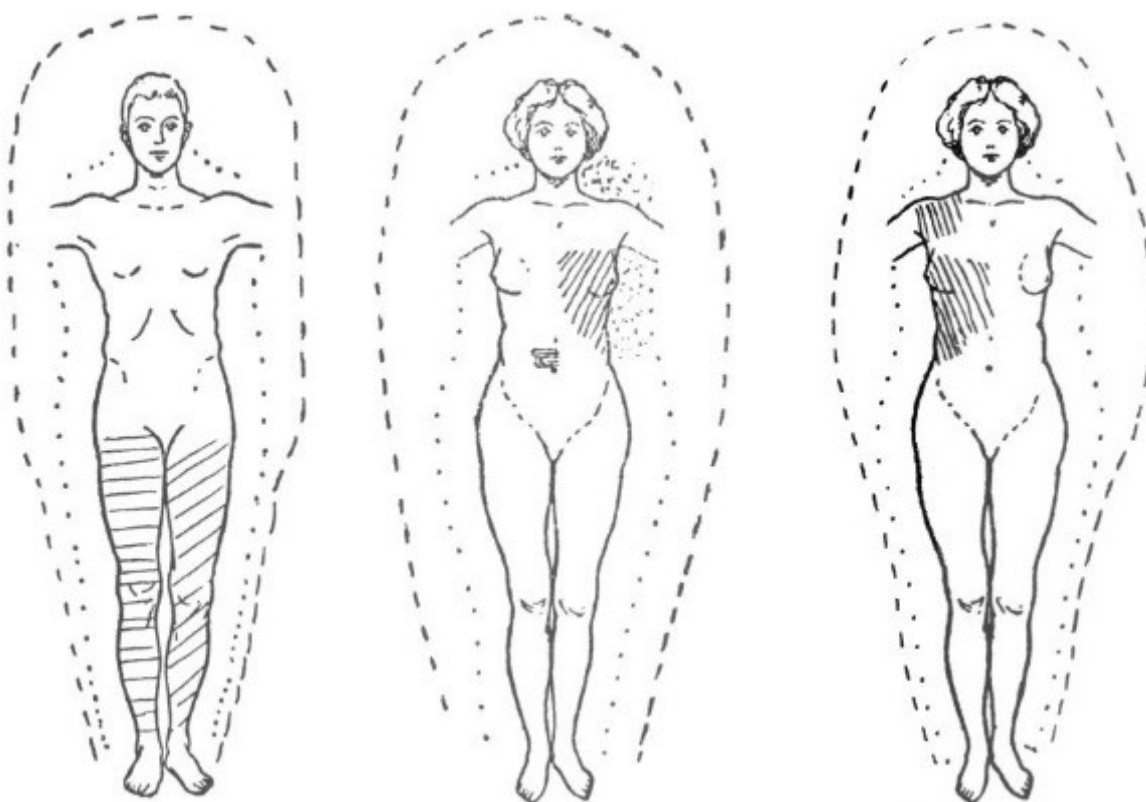
The Centre for Human Energy Field Research in India has published some very interesting research on Energy Field Imaging with Polycontrast Interference Photography. Harry says: "We believe that we are showing up an energy interaction with light, which is giving us an insight into the energy counter-part, the etheric template on which our physical molecules are strung. On average, every atom in the human body is replaced every seven to nine years. Think of your body not as a physical structure but as a moving fountain of molecules that are constantly being replaced. So what keeps them a coherent recognisable form? We believe it to be an organising template of energy.

The PIP system shows up many patterns and colours which a trained eye can relate to a person's energy balance and well being and although some of these things might be connected to health we emphasise that the system does not take the place of medical examination or diagnosis. Again it is really a computerised interpretation of what the camera is recording but for me it is one the closest representations of what I perceive. It is truly remarkable.

Of course the human energy field is a very complex area of study and to expect a mechanical device to record and interpret it accurately is wishful thinking. Stepping into someone's energy field is like stepping into another universe. If you are interested in knowing what is sometimes revealed within the human energy field from my perspective, download Seeing Energy file at <http://www.red-spirit-energy-healing.com/support-files/human-energy-field.pdf>

As early as 1911.

In 1911, British doctor Walter J. Kilner published one of the first western medical studies of the "Human Atmosphere" or Aura, proposing its existence, nature and possible use in medical diagnosis and prognosis. These diagrams are from his book "The Human Atmosphere", by Walter J. Kilner, [1920].



In its conviction that the human energy field is an indicator of health and mood, Kilner's study resembles the later work of Harold Saxton Burr. However, while Burr relied upon voltmeter readings, Kilner, working before the advent of semiconductor technology, attempted to invent devices by which the naked eye might be trained to observe auric activity which, he hypothesised, was probably ultraviolet radiation, stating that the phenomena he saw were not affected by electromagnets. Glass slides or "Kilner Screens" containing alcoholic solutions of variously coloured dyes, including a blue dye called dicyanin (probably Dicyanine A), were used as filters in "Kilner Goggles" which, together with lights, were held to train the eyes to perceive electromagnetic radiation outside the normal spectrum of visible light. After being so trained, one could dispense with the apparatus. Kilner did not recommend merely viewing the subject through these lenses.

According to his study, Kilner and his associates were able, on many occasions, to perceive auric formations, which he called the Etheric Double, the Inner Aura and the Outer Aura, extending several inches from patients' naked bodies, and his book gave instructions by which the reader might construct and use similar goggles. The only drawbacks to Kilner's method are the scarcity and toxicity of the chemicals he recommended. Later, Oscar Bagnall recommended substituting the dye pinacyanol (dissolved in triethanolamine) but this dye is also not easy to obtain. Lindgren states that cobalt blue and purple glass may be substituted for the dyes used by Kilner and Bagnall.

Kilner's book was greeted with scepticism as well as enthusiasm but attracted the interest of Sir Oliver Lodge. In 1920 a revised edition of his book was published and sympathetically reviewed. Kilner's work was well-timed for the heyday of Theosophy and his findings were incorporated into Arthur E. Powell's book "The Etheric Double". Powell rightly made clear that Kilner had expressly differentiated between his own work and the clairvoyance and eastern systems of spiritualism.

Below is an image of Kilner's Lenses.

