

Time

Unless you think about it and put it to work, time is an invisible element in a photograph. Automatic cameras do their best to keep you from paying attention to time. Hand held cameras provide you with a limited window through which you may explore it. But put the camera on a tripod and you're free to experiment.

At the other end of the time scale, high speed light sources allow you to see events that are normally not observable.

While time's role in taking pictures is invisible, its role in making pictures is up to your imagination. Here are a few other thoughts about time's role in photography.

1. Time and light work together to expose film. The less light you have the more time is needed.
2. The less control you have over your subject, the more important the control of time is. In photography, you need light to control time.
3. Time does not need to be short, and it doesn't need to be continuous. It may be broken into small segments, it may be cut in half and put together a different way. Its careful control may be used to add ingredients to a photograph or remove them. Over a period of time...

The subject may move, change, or disappear

The camera may move, change focus, or find another subject

The light may move, change color, become diffused, or go out