



# Insisting on the Impossible : The Life of Edwin Land, Inventor of Instant Photography

By Victor K. McElheny



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The major innovations that Land was able to achieve in photography & optics carry priceless lessons for readers today. Second only to Edison in the number of patents he received (535), Land built a modest enterprise into a gigantic "invention factory," turning out not only polarizers & the first instant cameras, but also high-speed & X-ray film, ID systems, 3-D & instant movies, & military devices for night vision & aerial reconnaissance. As a scientist, Land developed a new theory of color vision; as a science advisor to Eisenhower during the Cold War he spearheaded the development of the U-2 spy plane & helped design NASA. "A heroic biography."

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