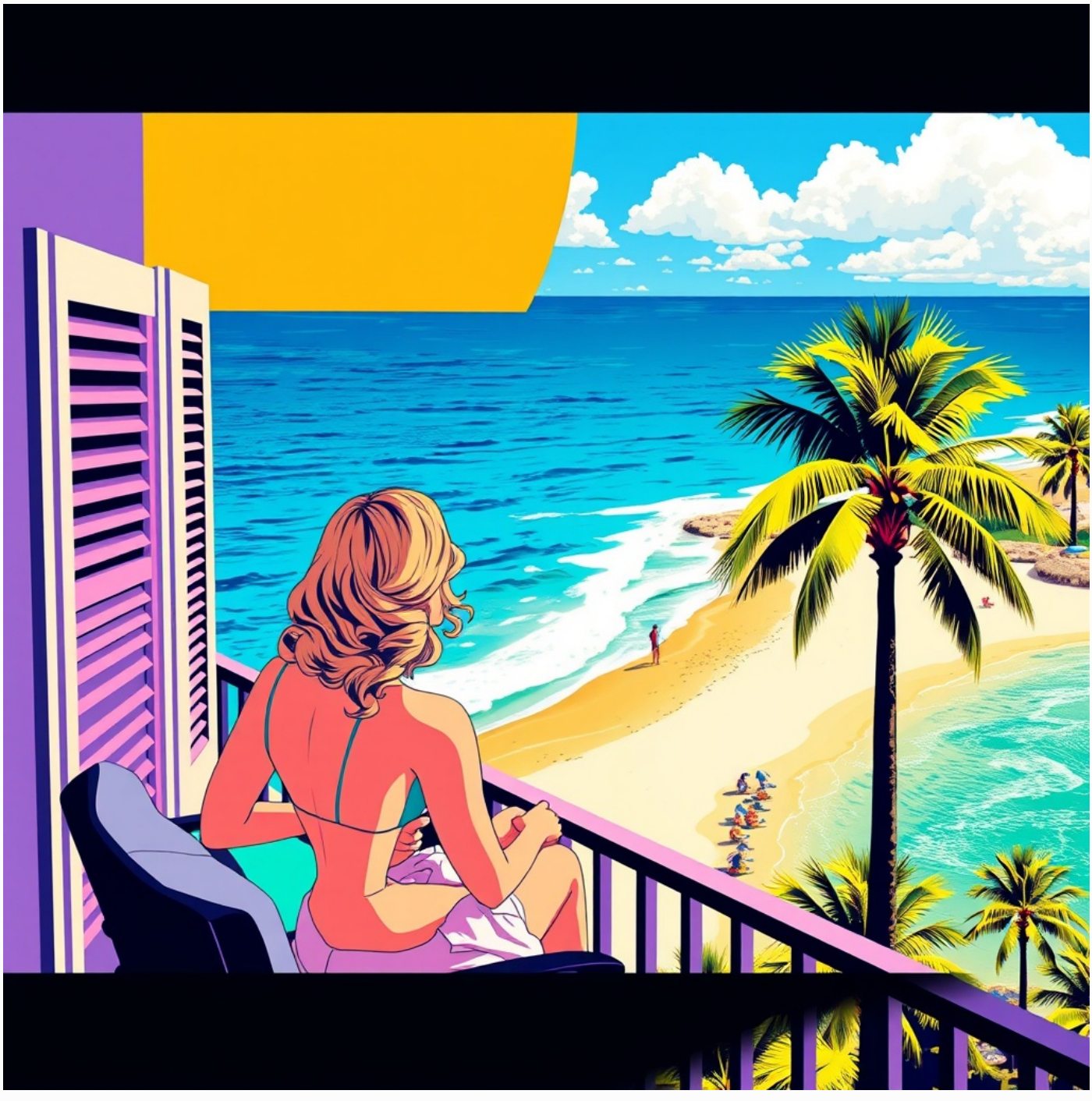
Digital Photography and the Growth of Photos
Photography has changed dramatically since the invention of the digital camera in the 1970s and its widespread adoption during the 1990s. Unlike film cameras, digital cameras store images electronically, allowing photographs to be viewed instantly, edited, and shared without the need for developing film. This revolution made photography more affordable, convenient, and accessible to millions of people around the world.



Digital photographs can be saved in a variety of file formats. The most common is JPEG (.jpg), which offers good image quality with small file sizes. PNG (.png) is often used for graphics and images requiring transparency, while TIFF (.tif) provides high-quality, uncompressed images

suitable for professional printing. Camera manufacturers also use RAW formats, such as CR3, NEF, ARW, and DNG, which preserve maximum image detail for editing. Other formats include GIF, BMP, HEIF, and WebP, each designed for specific purposes.

The introduction of smartphones with built-in cameras transformed photography even further. The first camera phones appeared in the early 2000s, but the launch of modern smartphones after 2007 led to explosive growth. Today,

smartphones account for more than 90% of all photographs taken worldwide because they combine high-quality cameras with instant internet connectivity and social media sharing. It is estimated that around 2.1 trillion photographs are taken globally each year, or approximately 5.3 billion every day. Researchers

also estimate that more than 14 trillion photographs now exist worldwide. While it is impossible to know the exact number of photos stored on the internet, billions are uploaded daily to websites, cloud storage services, and social media platforms, making the internet home to many trillions of digital images. Photography has become one of the most important forms of communication, preserving memories and sharing experiences across the globe.