



Dr. Ren Ng

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Dr. Ng is the founder and Executive Chairman of Lytro, the first company to produce and market a light field camera for

consumer use. By characterizing not only the color and intensity of light rays from a subject but also their direction, Ng's camera allows a photographer to focus digital images after they have been taken.

Ng's doctoral dissertation *Digital Light Field Photography* dramatically advanced the concept of a "plenoptic camera," proposed by Adelson and Wang in 1992, which could fully characterize the light field incident on a focal plane. Building on the work of Mark Levoy, who designed a synthetic aperture system with 100 cameras, Ng conceived a single camera that made use of a microlens array in front of a photosensor to capture the entire light field associated with the subject of an image. Ng's work earned him the 2006 Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Association for Computing Machinery.

After receiving his doctorate from Stanford, Ng founded Lytro to take the light field camera out of the laboratory and into the consumer market. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Forbes Magazine called it "a major leap in photography – maybe the biggest since the shift from film to digital." In 2012, the company won the Silicon Valley Business Journal's Idea and Innovation Award in the consumer technology category.

In 2013, Ng received the Selwyn Award from the Royal Photographic Society, which is awarded annually to a person under the age of 35 who has conducted successful science-based research connected with imaging.