Photography Origins

When Joseph Niépce invented photography, he called it “heliography” (Helios was a name used for the Sun god, so this word effectively means drawn with the Sun).

Another early photography innovator, Louis Daguerre, is quoted as having said, “The sun himself in [the] future shall draw my pictures.”
Utilizing Light

There are many ways to artificially introduce sources of light to capture or create an image.

One category is simply setting up lighting (either with continuous light sources or strobe/flashes).

If you have limited lighting sources, multiple exposures or long exposures can be used to create artificial effects.

Long Exposure and Gels Over Flash
Light Painting

Another way to make use of artificially added light, is light painting. The light sources can be things like flashlights, laser pointers, glow sticks, sparklers, projectors, etc.

This category is possibly best defined as when you set up a long exposure and somehow move the added source of light around to create some effect, but there are disagreements…

Eric Staller, David Lebe, Susan Sims-Hillbrand
Gjon Mili Examples – Light Painting?

Light Painting?
The long exposure photo of Pablo Picasso painting with light mid-air is unarguably an example of light painting, but what about the photo of Gene Krupa playing the drum?

- It could have been taken as a long exposure with a strobe light or as multiple exposures (stacked or done in-camera).
- Does the technique of creating it alter the category in which we place it?
Terminology

There are effects that may or may not be light painting, depending upon whom you ask…

What can we explore ourselves?
External Image Sources

http://lightpaintingphotography.com/light-painting-photography/eric-staller-interview/attachment/lightdomes/

https://03ecb8757bc5b6bde0a8-dca8f6125c4f47400c328fe9a745bef4.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/Boat-House-Row-1981.jpg


http://susansimshillbrand.com/transfiguration/