

# Modernizing Old Photos Using Multiple References via Photorealistic Style Transfer

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# Old Photos Characteristics

Structured degradation



Scratch, hole, ...

Unstructured degradation



Blur, noise, ...

Unique artifact



Sepia color, color fading, ...

# Previous Work's Solution



Old photo

OPR, Wan *et al*, CVPR 2020

Restoration



Mixed degradation  
restoration

Modernization



Implicit enhancement e.g.,  
color

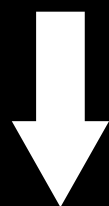
learned from prior of  
modern photos data



Output

# Our Motivation

Old photos



OPR, Wan et al,  
CVPR 2020



implicit  
enhancement

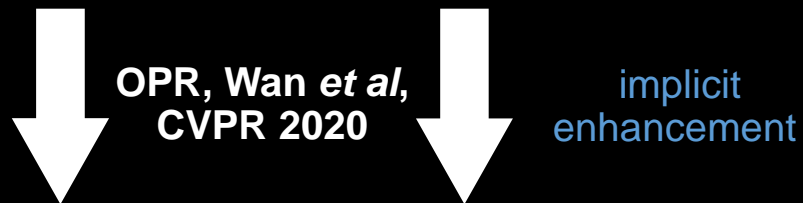
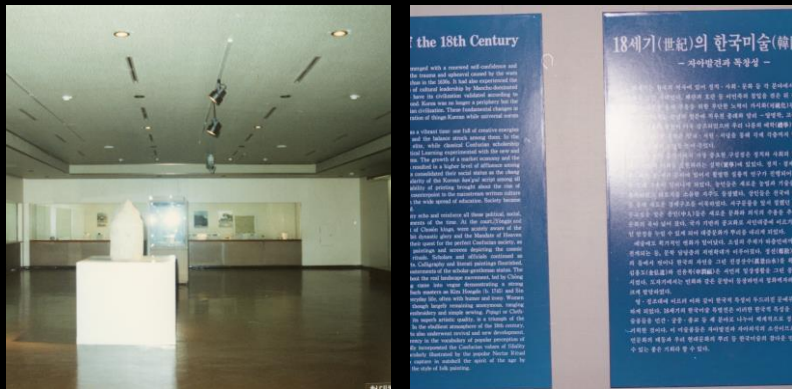


Outputs

Overall look and style remain like old photos input or even worse

# Our Motivation

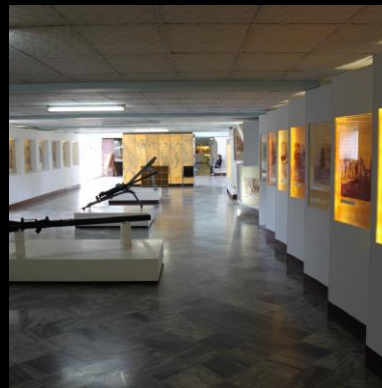
Old photos



OPR, Wan et al,  
CVPR 2020

implicit  
enhancement

Reference 1



Old photo



Reference 2



Ours



style transfer +  
enhancement



Outputs

Overall look and style remain like old photos input or even worse



Output

Changing the style and enhancing the photo to look modern

# Overview of Our Solution

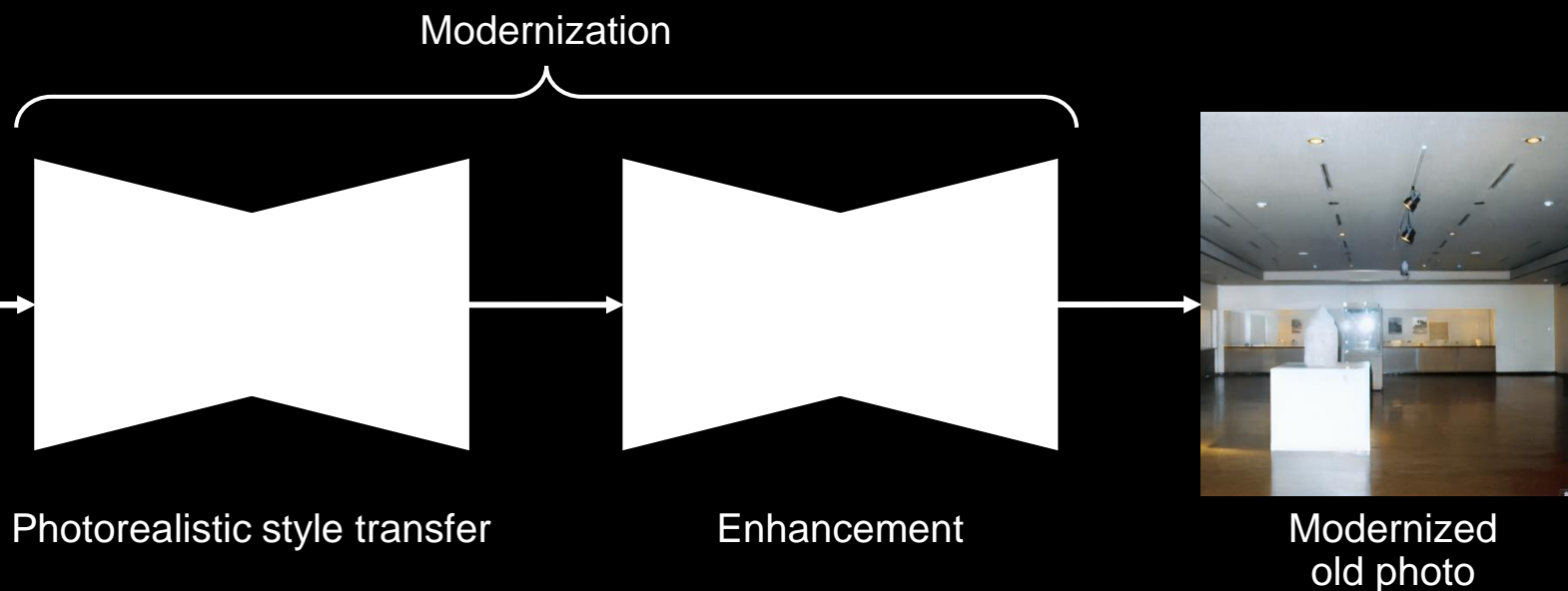
Reference 1  
(modern photo)



Old photo



Reference 2  
(modern photo)



Number of references can be >2

# Overview of The Results

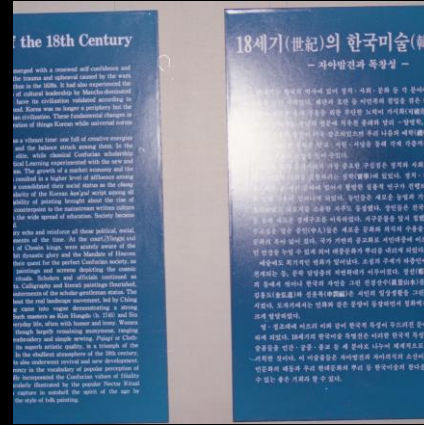
[42] Wan et al, CVPR 2020



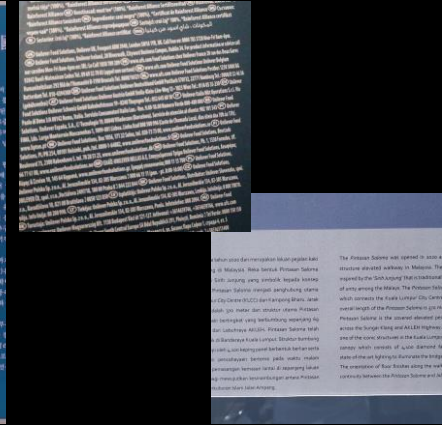
Old photo



References



Old photo



References



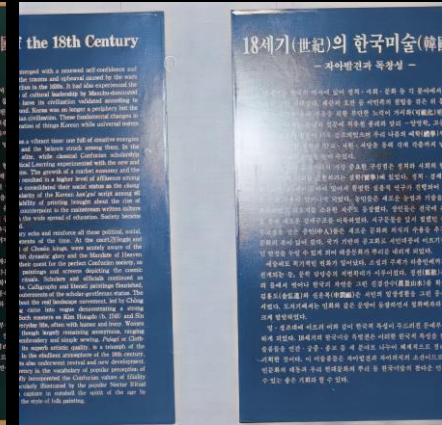
OPR [42]



Ours



OPR [42]



Ours

Better results even without using any old photos during training

# Overview of The Results

[42] Wan *et al*, CVPR 2020



Old photo



References



Old photo



References



OPR [42]



Ours



OPR [42]



Ours

Better results even without using any old photos during training



# Inspiration from Photorealistic Style Transfer (PST)

Content

Style == Reference



Content

Style == Reference



WCT2, Yoo *et al*,  
ICCV 2019



Output

WCT2, Yoo *et al*,  
ICCV 2019



Output

Universal ability to perform style transfer for any photos without retraining to predefined styles

# However, PST ...

**Problem 1** – Is only able to use a **single reference**

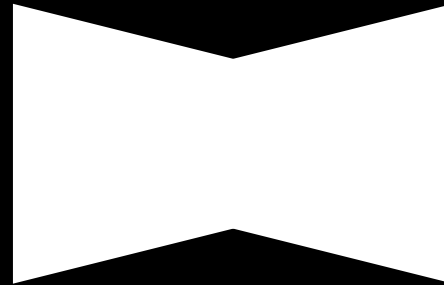
Old photo



Reference



No sky



PST  
PhotoWCT2, Chiu *et al*,  
WACV 2022

Stylized old photo

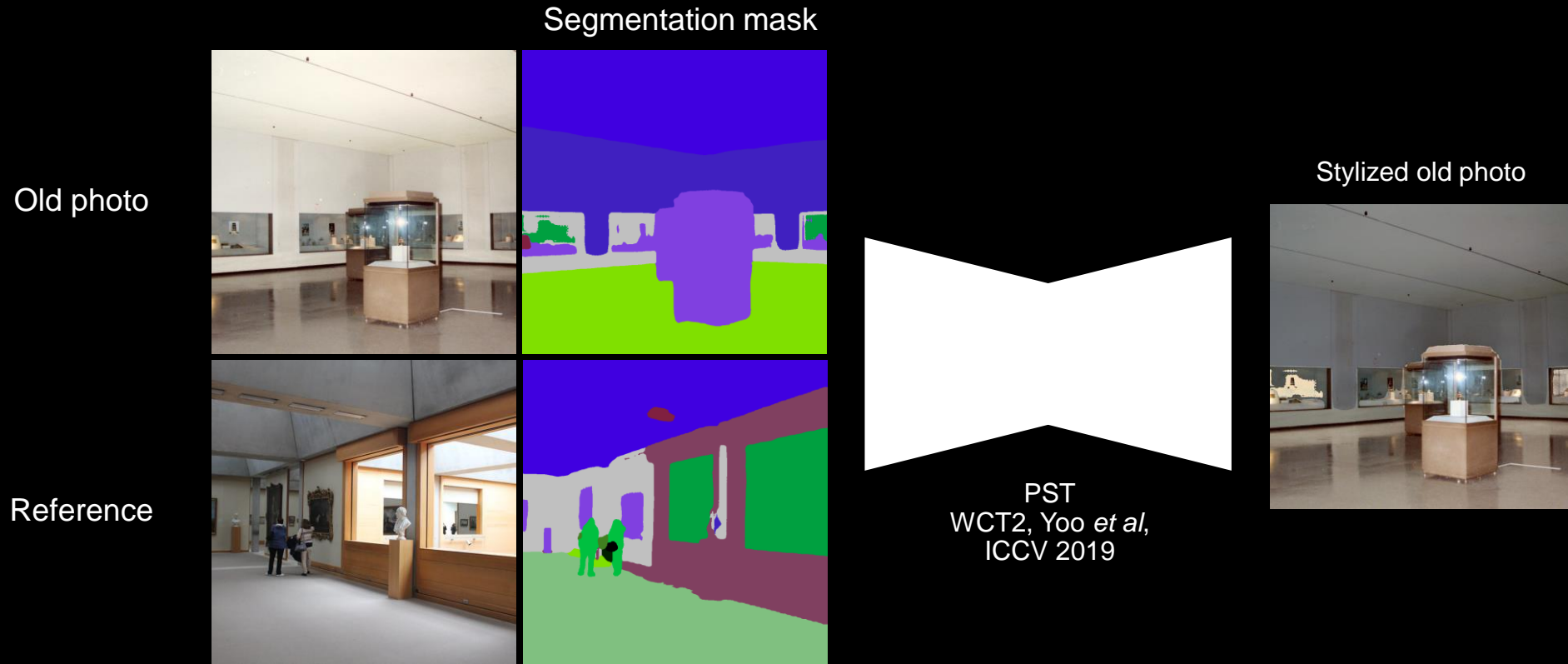


Unnatural  
result

- ✓ A single reference cannot match the whole semantics of a natural old photo e.g., no sky
- ✓ No corresponding region cause incorrect style transfer e.g., green sky

# However, PST ...

**Problem 2 – Require accurate segmentation mask for local style transfer**



- ✓ Segmentation mask is obtained by using ViT-Adapter [Chen *et al*, ICLR 2023]
- ✓ Unnatural PST results due to unreliable segmentation mask for old photo

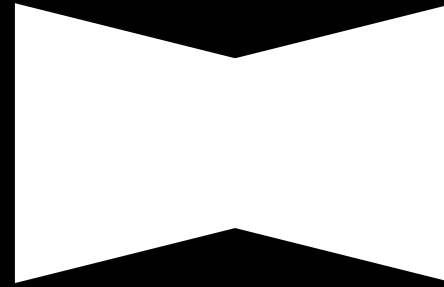
# However, PST ...

**Problem 3** – Can produce **unnatural global style transfer** and **cannot perform enhancement** e.g., sharpening

Old photo



Reference



PST  
WCT2, Yoo *et al*,  
ICCV 2019

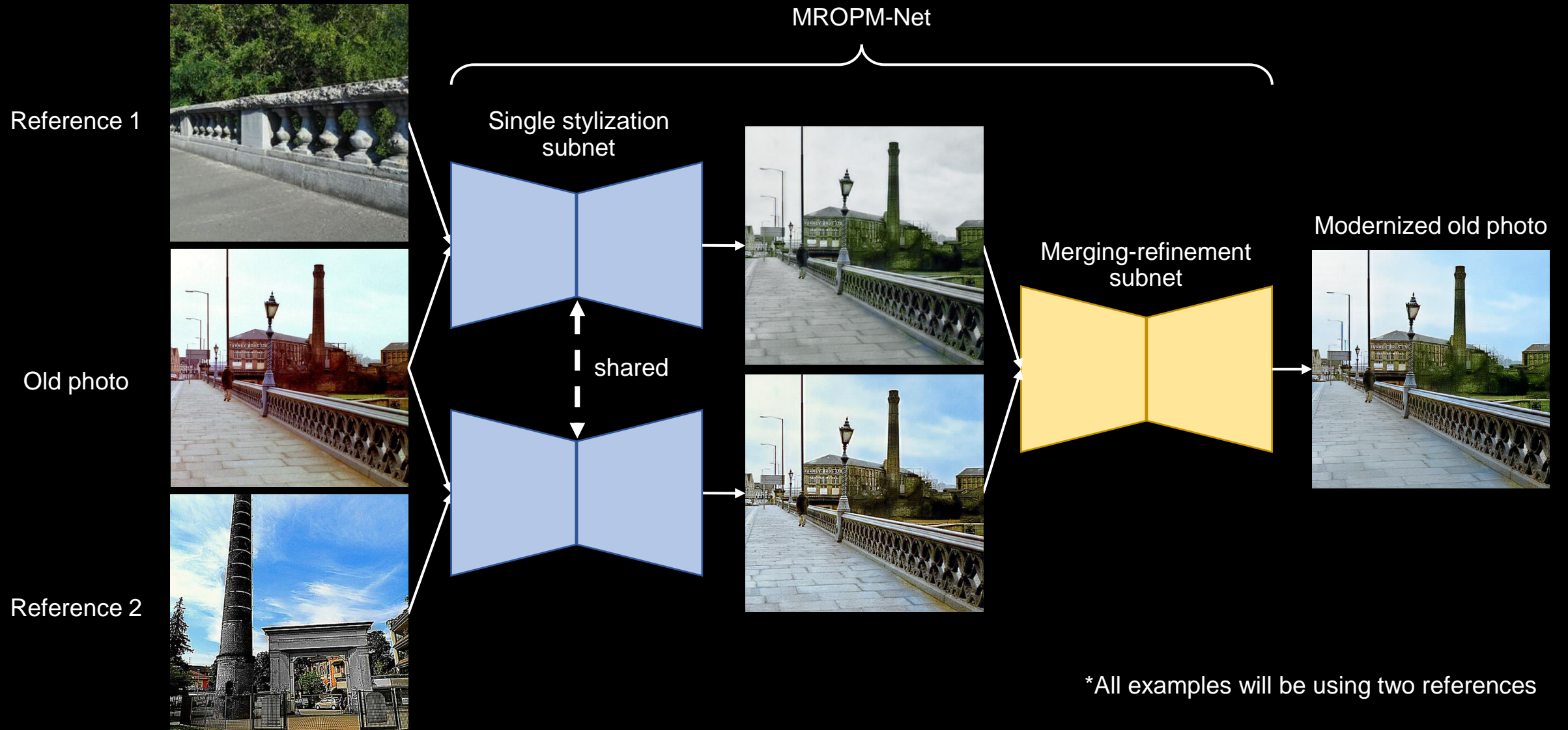
Stylized old photo



- ✓ PST produces an unnatural global style transfer result even though the reference is related
- ✓ PST cannot perform enhancement as can be seen by blurry and noisy stylization result

# Proposed Method – MROPM

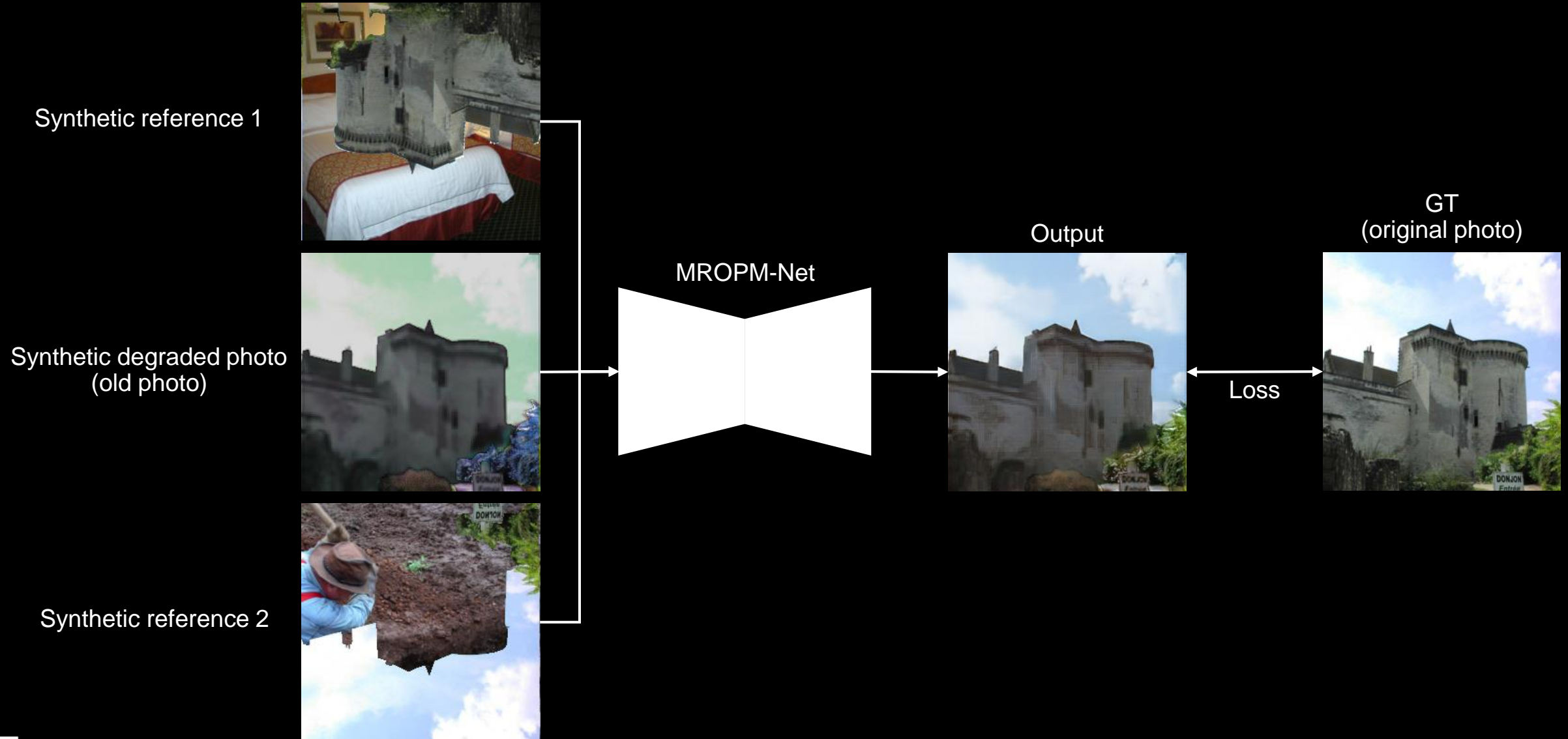
## Part 1 – MROPM-Net



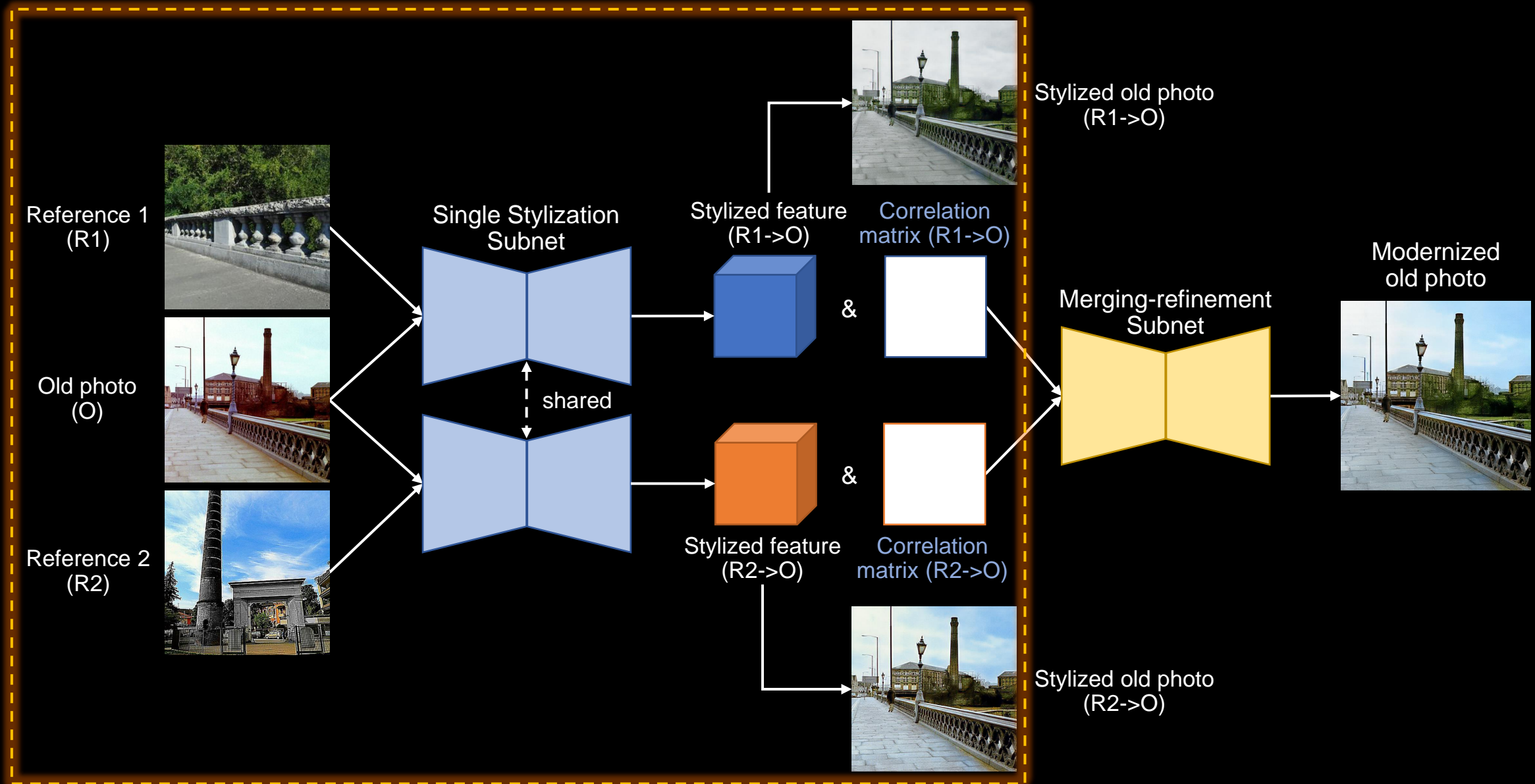
\*All examples will be using two references

# Proposed Method – MROPM

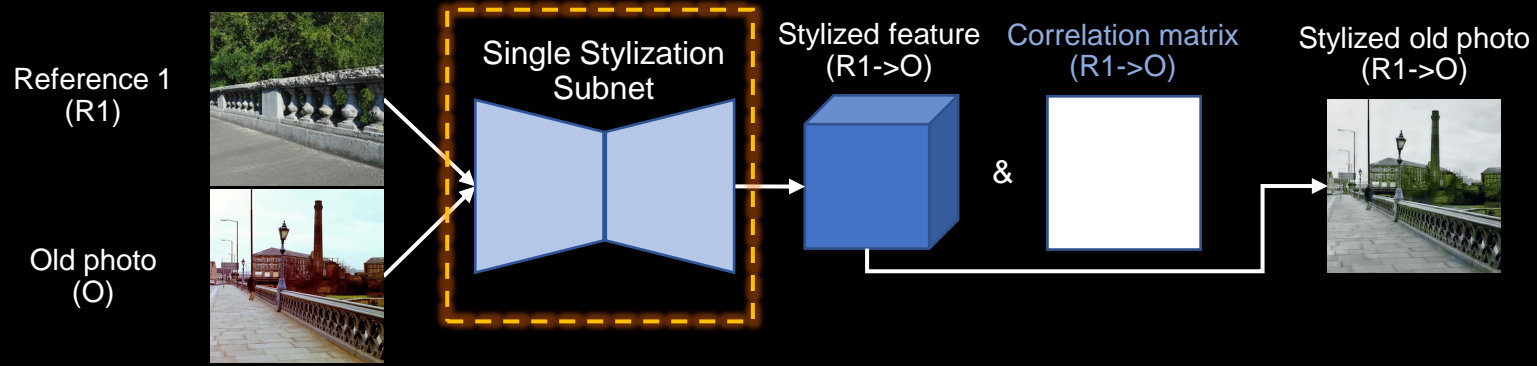
## Part 2 – Novel training strategy



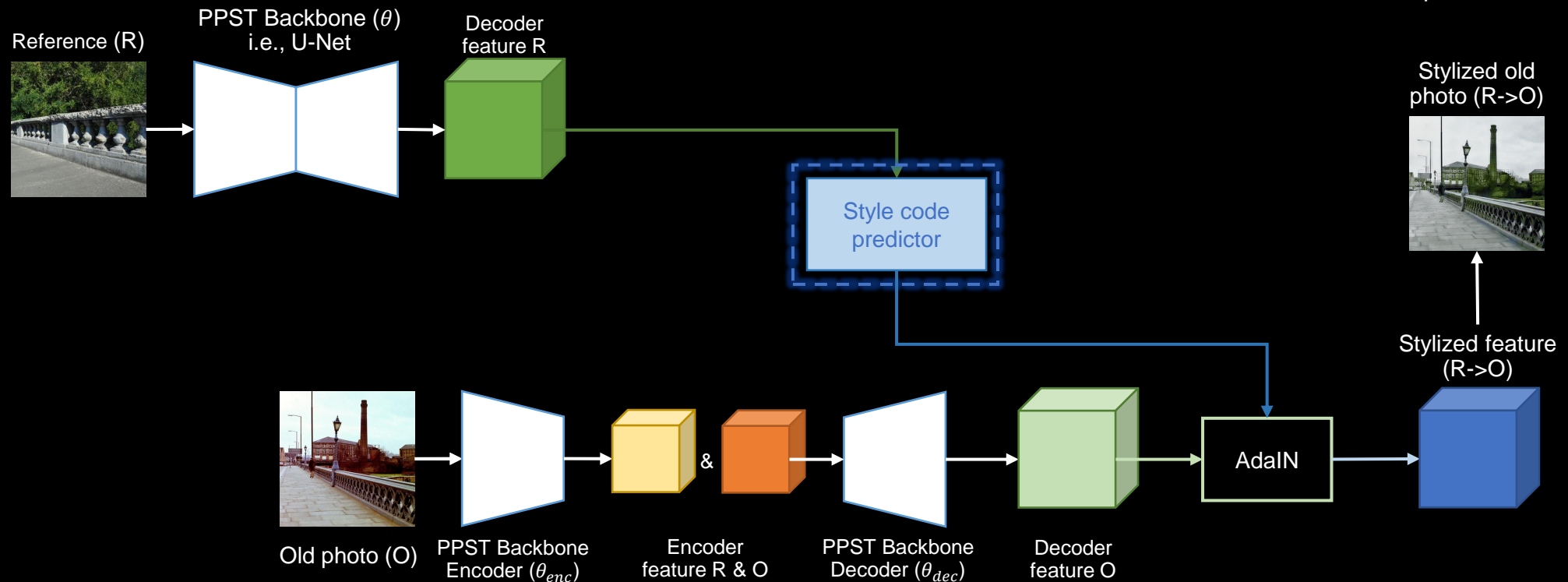
# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net



# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net

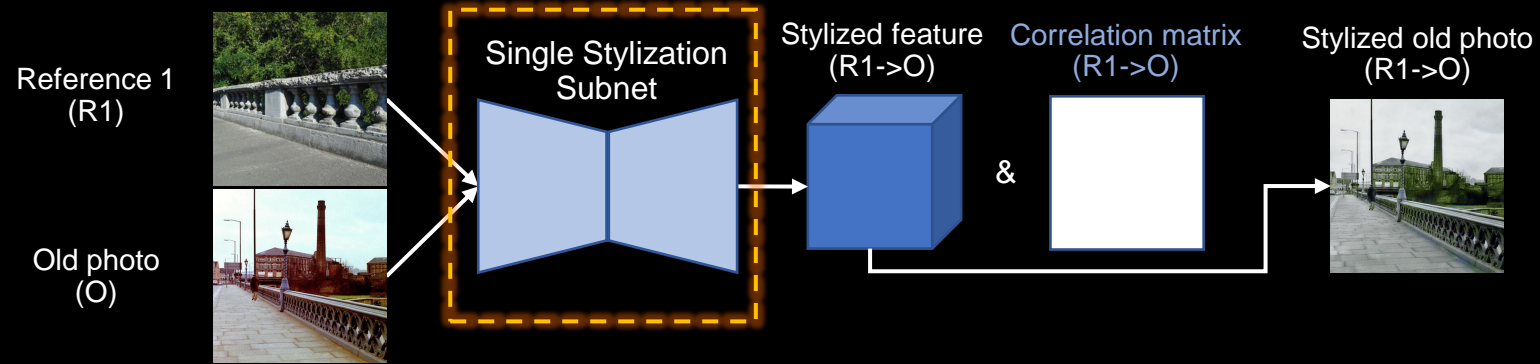


## Single stylization subnet details

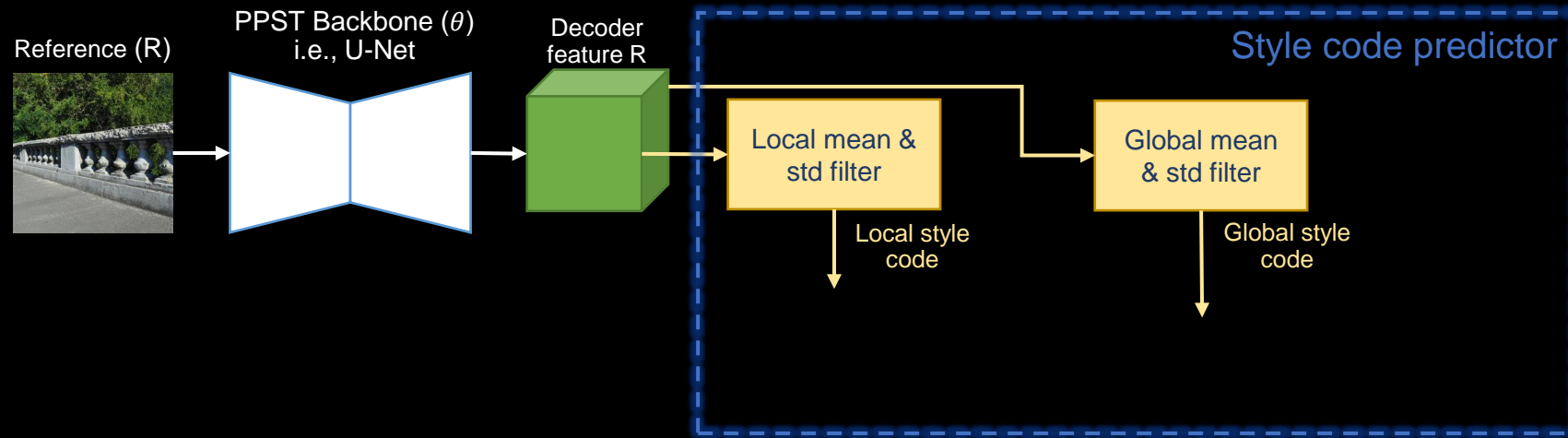




# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net

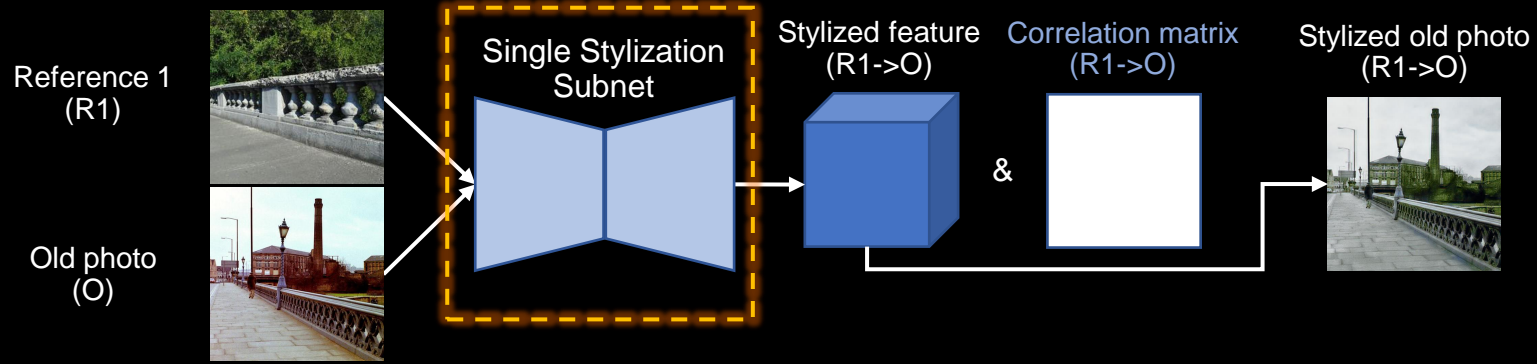


## Single stylization subnet details

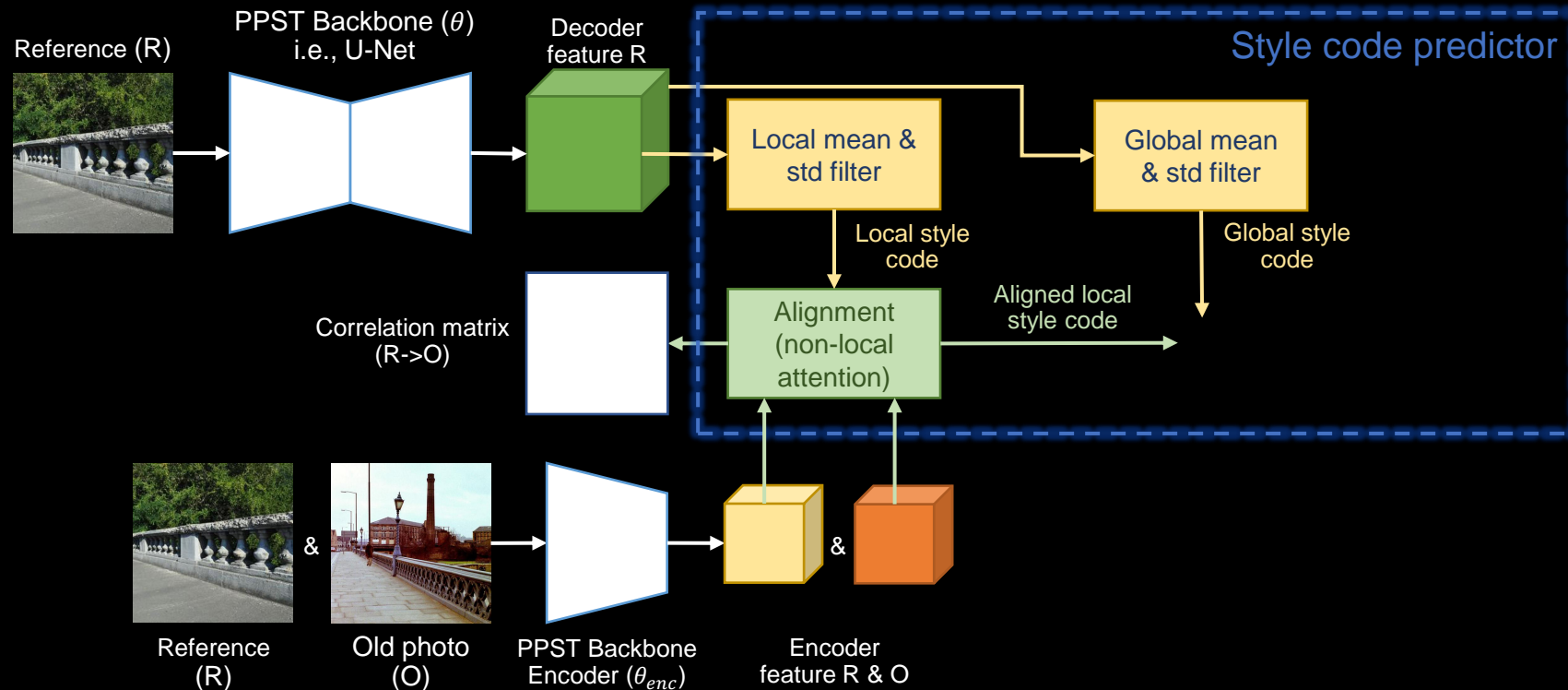


style code: feature's mean and std  
same color: same weight parameters  
PPST: pretrained PST

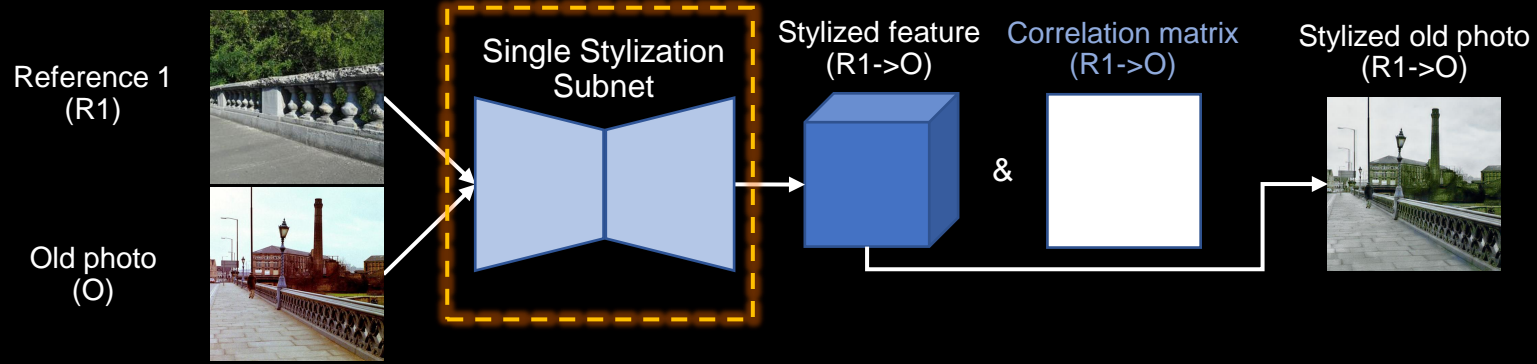
# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net



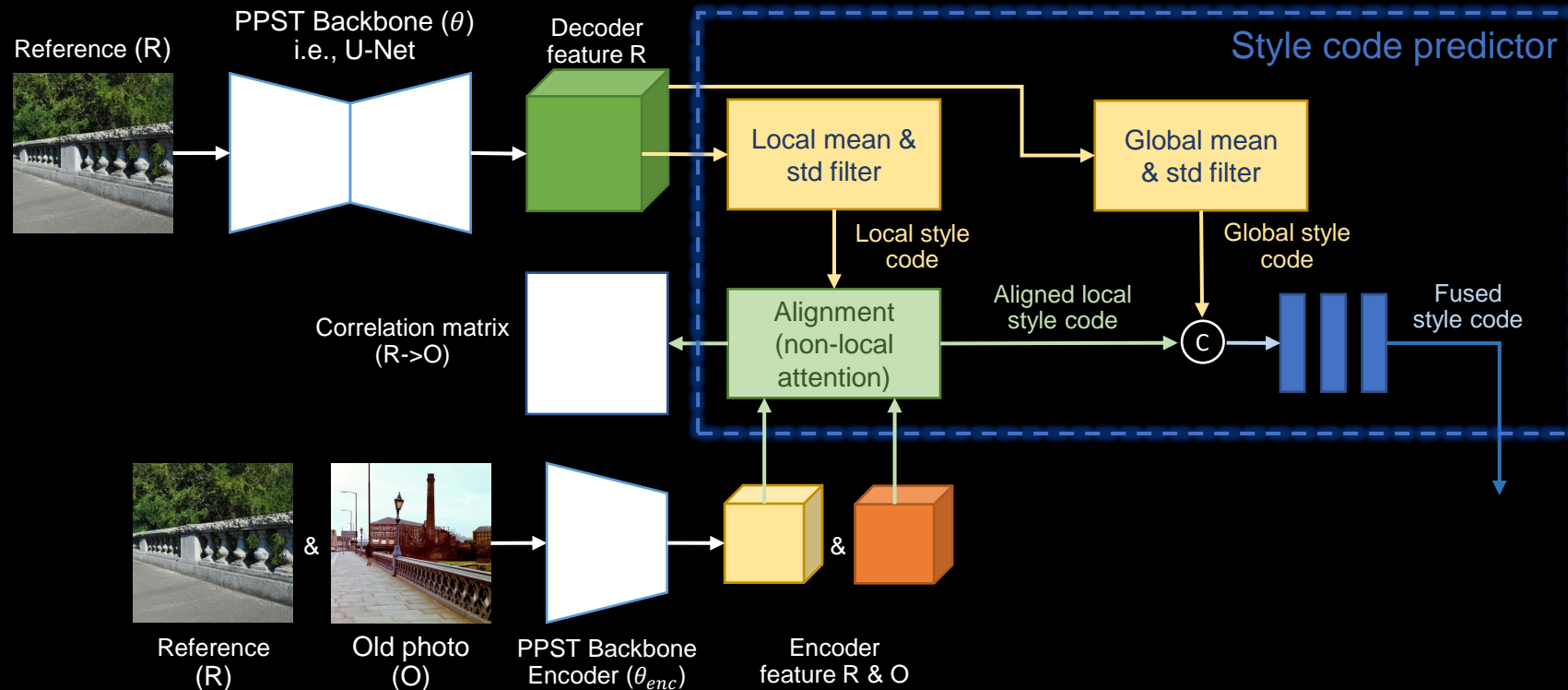
## Single stylization subnet details



# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net

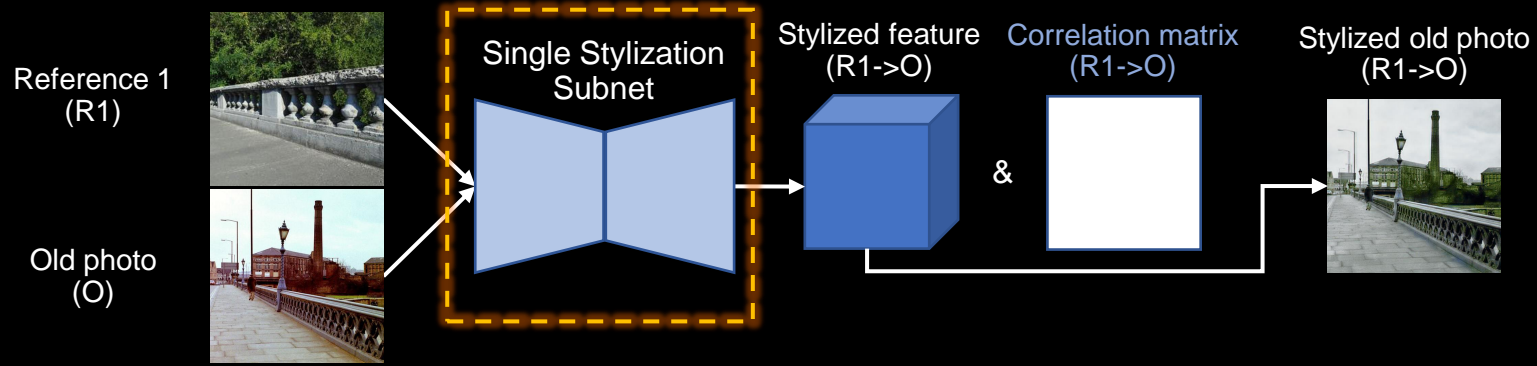


## Single stylization subnet details

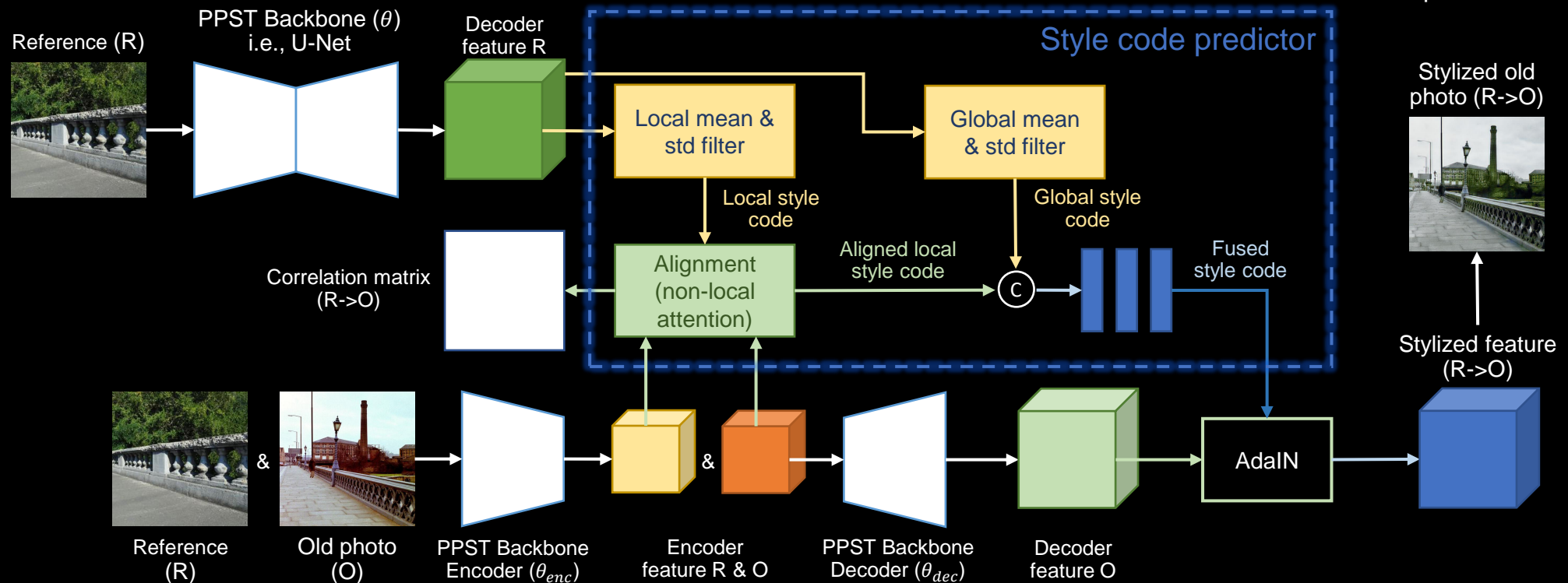


style code: feature's mean and std  
 same color: same weight parameters  
 PPST: pretrained PST

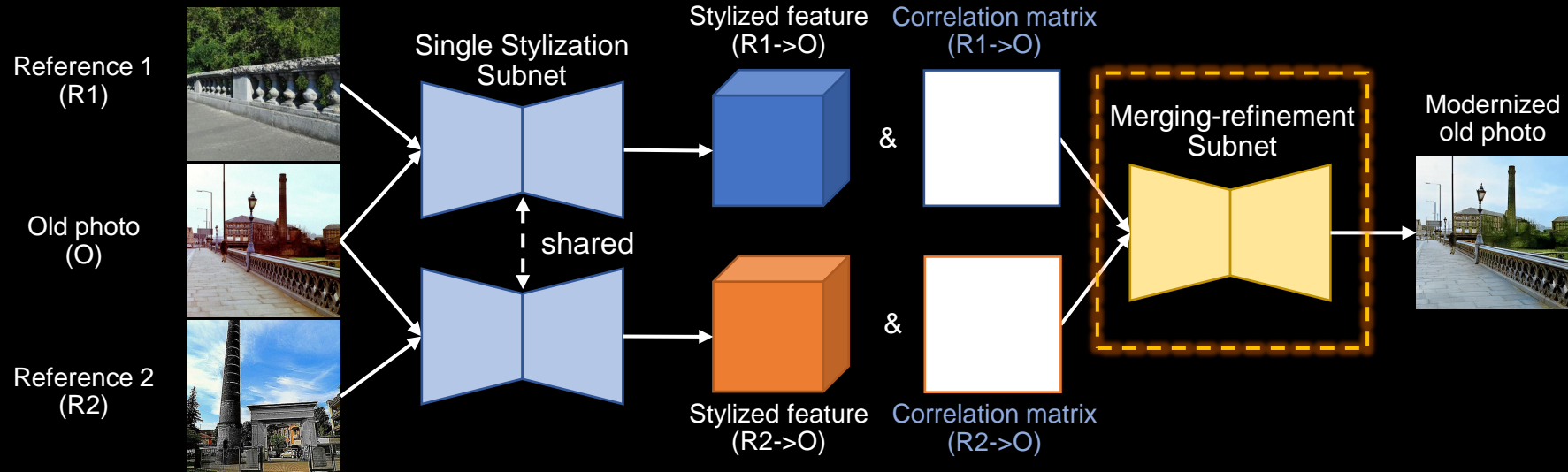
# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net



## Single stylization subnet details

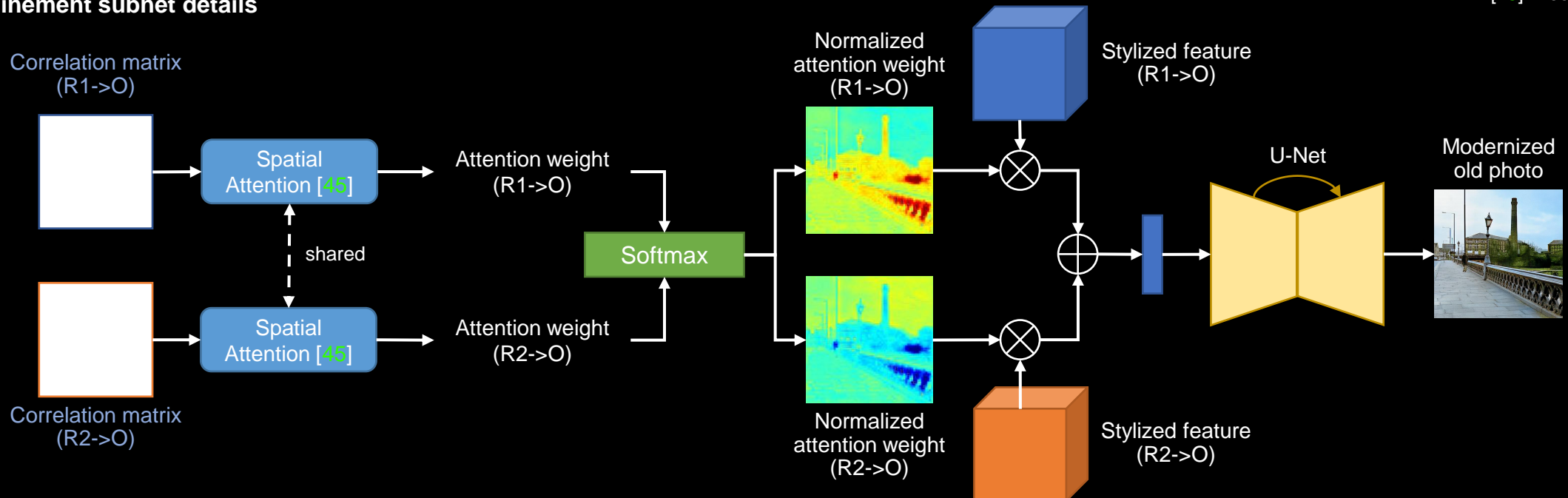


# Proposed Method – MROPM-Net

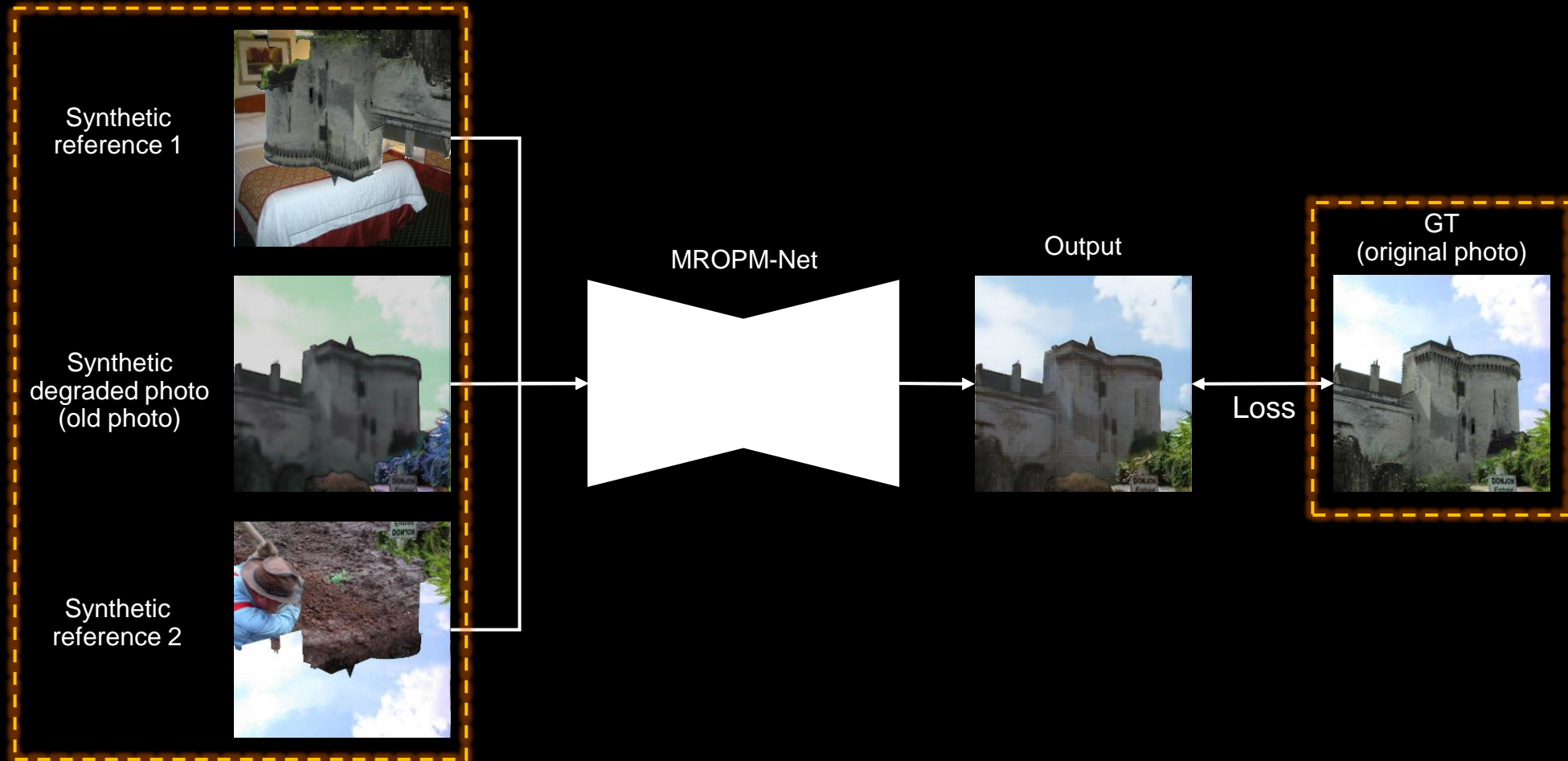


[45] Woo et al, ECCV 2018

## Merging-refinement subnet details

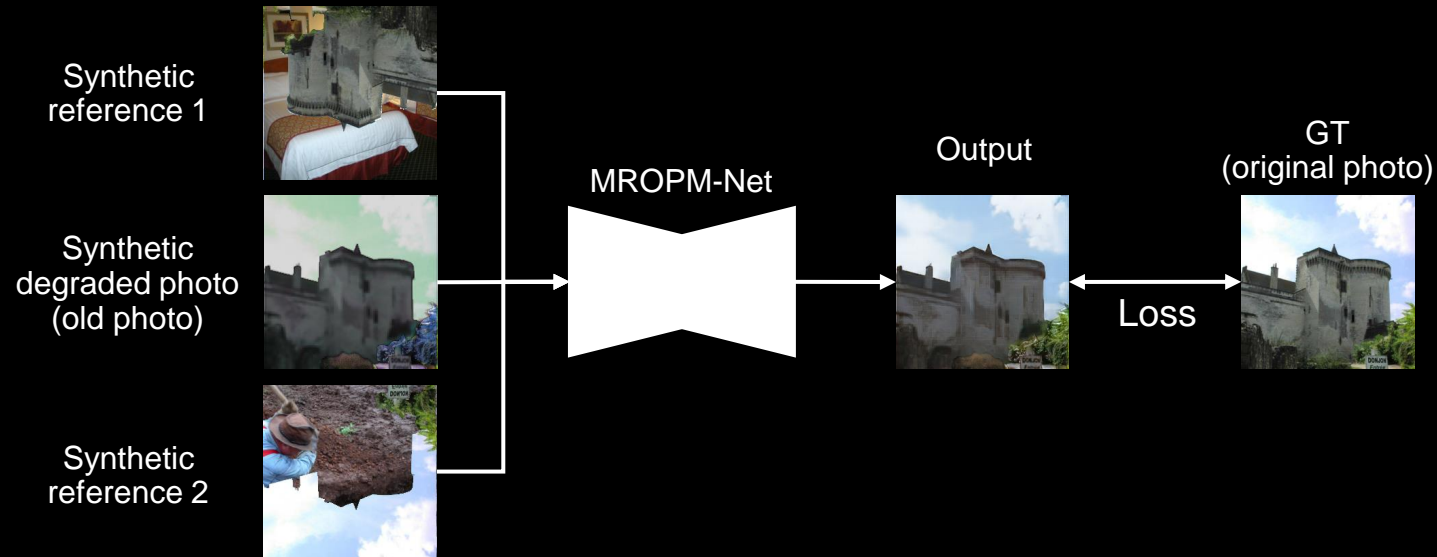


# Proposed Method – Training Strategy



# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation



## Dataset with dense segmentation

[5] Caesar et al, CVPR 2018  
[54] Zhou et al, CVPR 2017

Dataset\* i.e.,  
COCO-Stuff [5]

$D \sim$

Image



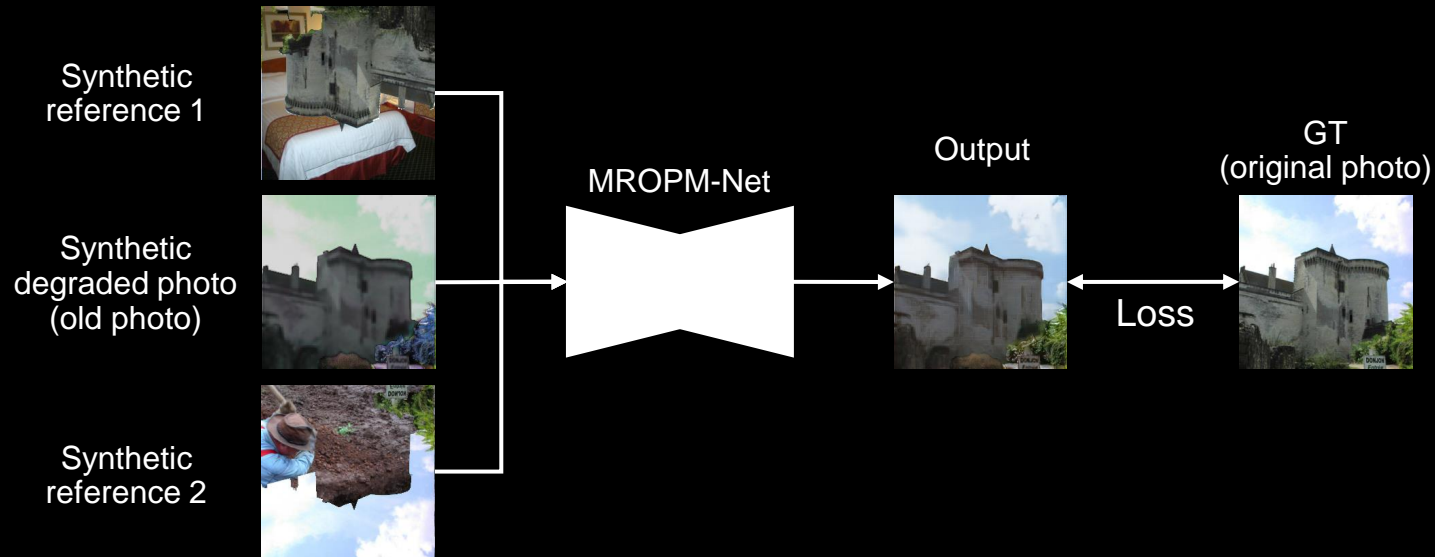
Corresponding  
segmentation mask



\*Other datasets that have dense semantic segmentation masks can also be used e.g., ADE20K [54]

# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation



## Style variant- / invariant- transformation

### Style Variant Transformation (SVT)

Random color jittering, synthetic unstructured degradation i.e., blur, noise, resizing, and compression artifact\*



Can change the statistics, i.e., mean and std, of certain regions

### Style Invariant Transformation (SIT)

Random rigid transformation, i.e., rotation, flipping, translation (only for the region that can be translated)



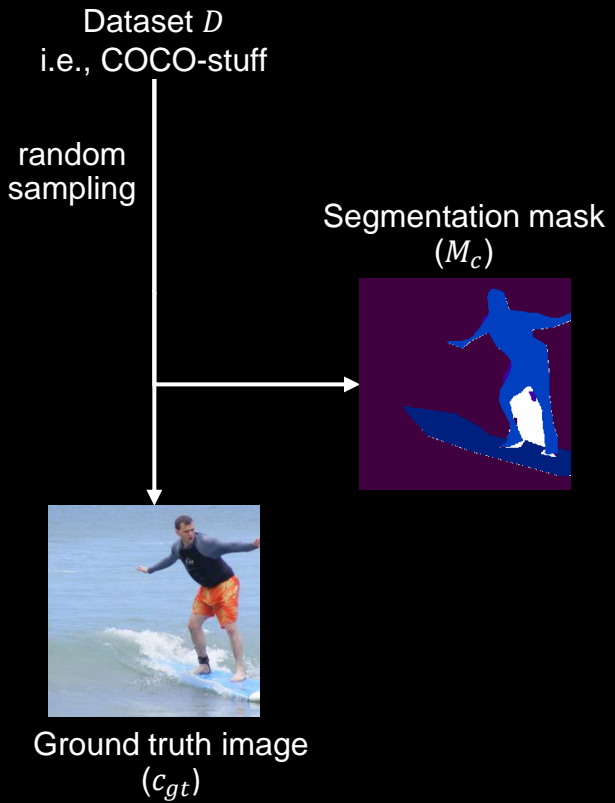
Cannot change the statistics, i.e., mean and std, of certain regions

\*Other types of degradations, e.g., scratches, can be included for better generalization to these types of degradations



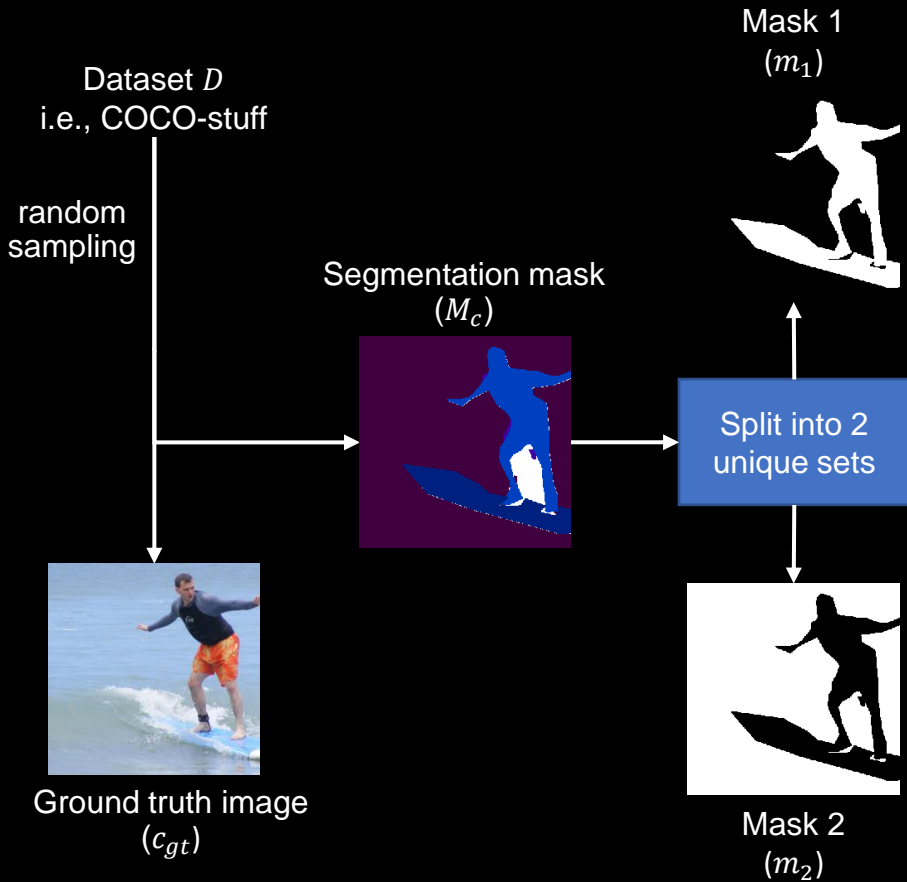
# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

Data generation examples for two references



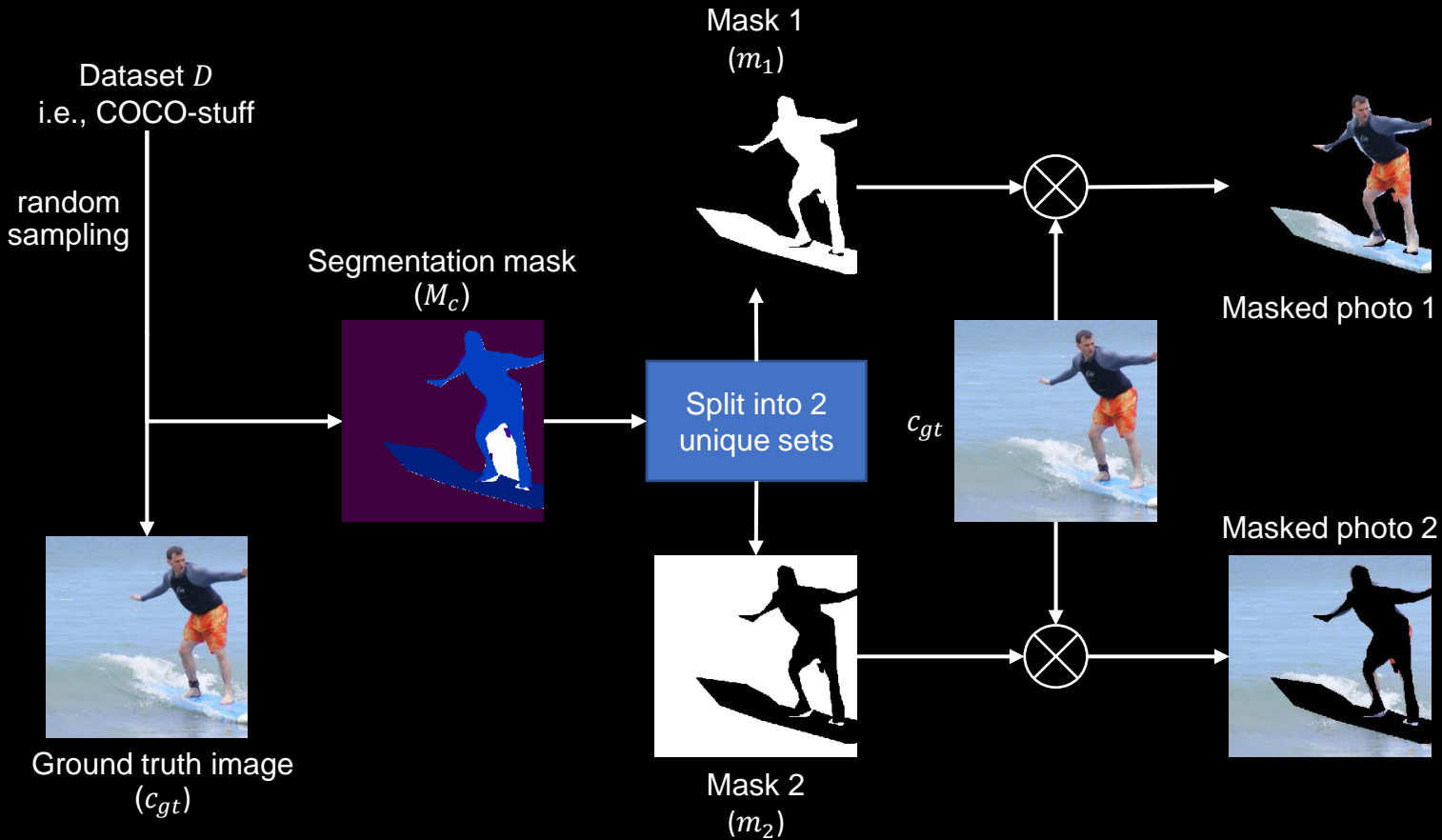
# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation examples for two references



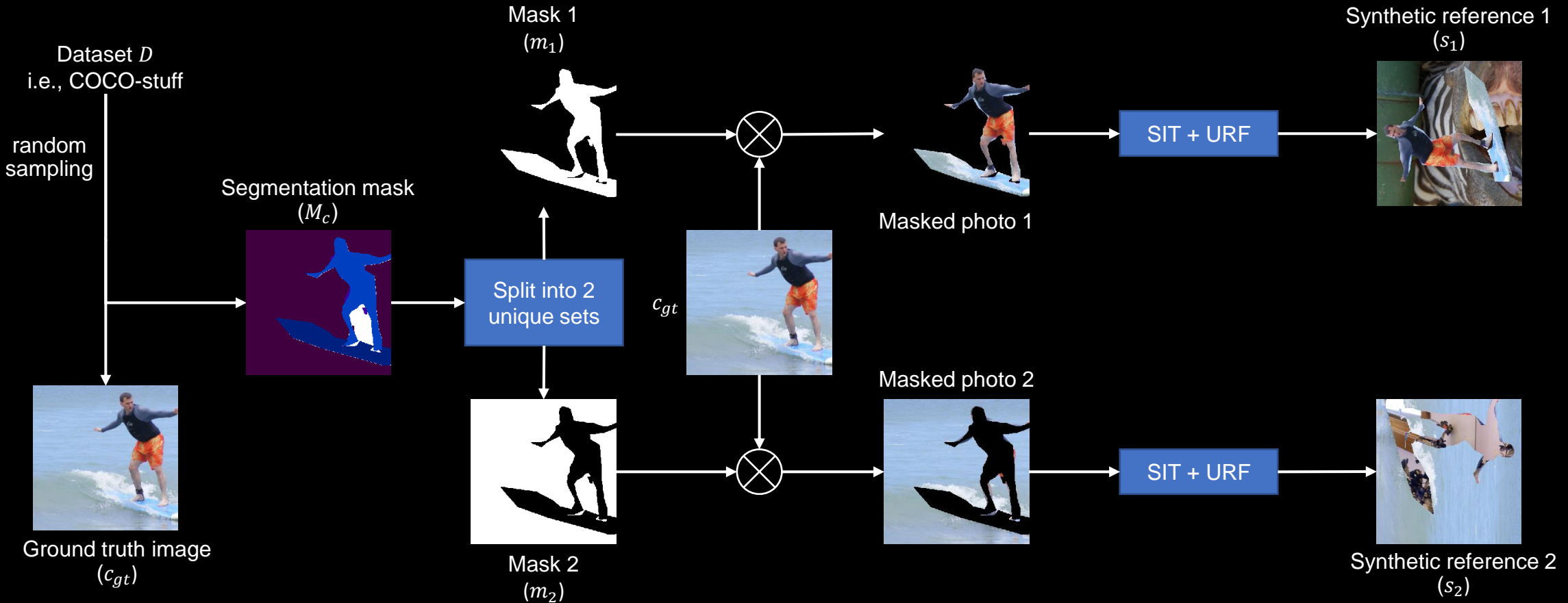
# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation examples for two references



# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation examples for two references



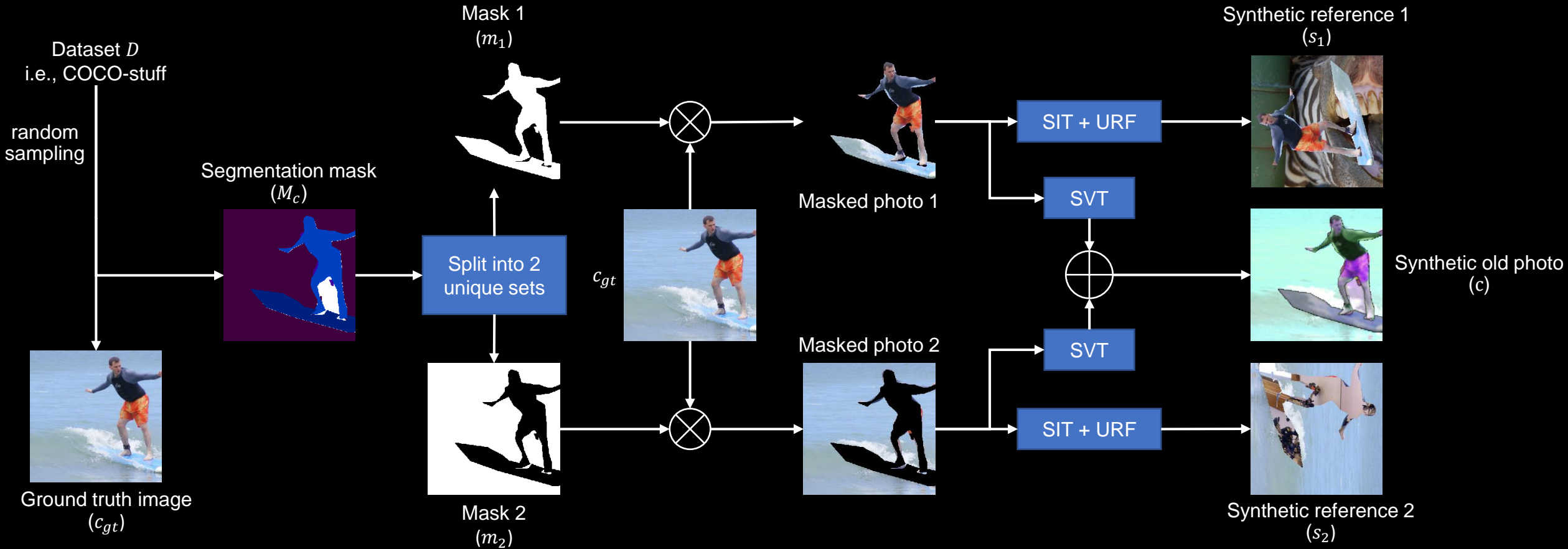
SVT: Style variant transformation

SIT: Style invariant transformation

URF: Unmasked region filling using a different random image from the same dataset

# Proposed Method – Training Strategy

## Data generation examples for two references



SVT: Style variant transformation

SIT: Style invariant transformation

URF: Unmasked region filling using a different random image from the same dataset

\* Additional details related to the network and training strategy can be found in the paper and supplementary material

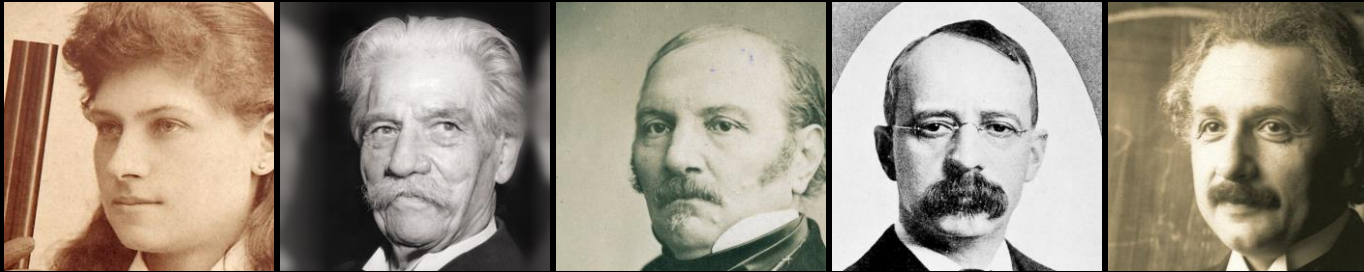
# Proposed Cultural Heritage Dataset (CHD)



- ✓ 644 old color photos from the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- ✓ Three national museums in South Korea
- ✓ Outdoor and indoor natural scenes of cultural heritage e.g., special exhibitions and excavation ruins
- ✓ Containing little structured degradations, e.g., scratches, but varying unstructured degradations and color degradations

# Proposed Dataset – Comparison

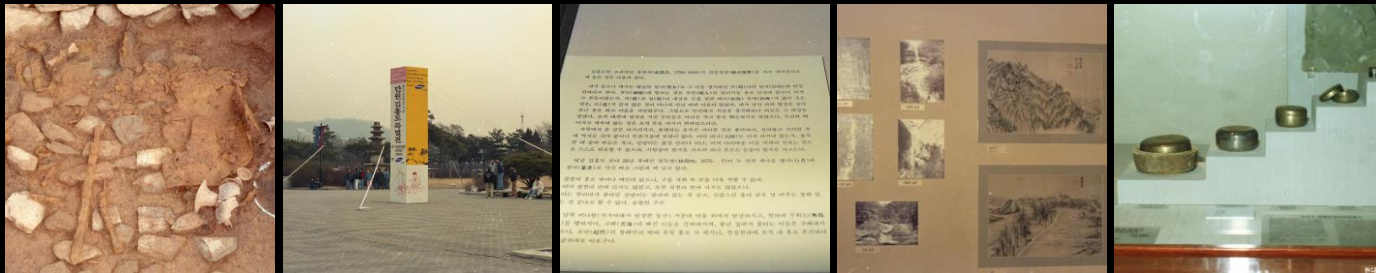
HWFD [11]



RealOld [21]



Ours



	HWFD [11]	RealOld [21]	Ours
Number of images	224	200	644
Era	19-20 <sup>th</sup> century	-	20 <sup>th</sup> century
Content type	Face	Portrait	Indoor & outdoor natural scenes
Color space	Greyscale	Greyscale	Color
Resolution	133 x 133 until 1024 x 1024	-	1024 x 1024
Expert ground-truth	×	✓	×

[11] Time-travel rephotography, Luo *et al*, TOG 2021

[21] Pik-fix, Xu *et al*, WACV 2023

- ✓ Our dataset has the **greatest number of images**
- ✓ Our dataset contains **indoor & outdoor natural scenes** which are more complex than face and portrait photos
- ✓ 130 old photos (~20% of the data) are augmented with references crawled from the internet for the evaluation

# Experiments – Quantitative Evaluation

Synthetic data evaluation – ADE20K (different from training data)

Method	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$
ExColTran [50] + OPR-R	19.5796	0.7885	0.2563
ReHistoGAN [1] + OPR-R	<u>20.0458</u>	<b>0.7987</b>	<u>0.2109</u>
MAST [15] + OPR-R	19.0148	0.7853	0.2270
PCAPST [6] + OPR-R	19.1731	0.7908	0.2197
Ours	<b>21.2212</b>	<u>0.7919</u>	<b>0.2027</b>

Best PSNR and LPIPS, and comparable SSIM score

The method can **effectively utilize the reference** to jointly **stylize** and **enhance** the synthetically degraded images while preserving the structure



# Experiments – Quantitative Evaluation

## Real old photo evaluation

Method	NIQE ↓	BRISQUE ↓
OPR [42]	4.8705	21.4588
ExCoITran [50] + OPR	4.9415	18.8971
ReHistoGAN [1] + OPR	4.8051	26.2557
MAST [15] + OPR	4.8111	18.9555
PCAPST [6] + OPR	4.7094	18.9860
Ours – Single Reference	<u>3.4737</u>	<u>15.5152</u>
Ours – Multiple References	<b>3.4487</b>	<b>15.4180</b>

- ✓ Best NIQE and BRISQUE compared to other baselines in **single-reference setting**
- ✓ Further improves the performance by using **multiple references**

# Experiments – Quantitative Evaluation

## User study

Method	Top 1 (%)	Top 2 (%)	Top 3 (%)	Top 4 (%)	Top 5 (%)
OPR [42]	<u>17.44</u>	<u>39.83</u>	57.05	70.90	87.22
ExColTran [50] + OPR	1.62	5.13	10.77	24.87	47.27
ReHistoGAN [1] + OPR	7.91	32.27	<u>61.84</u>	<u>83.80</u>	<u>96.92</u>
MAST [15] + OPR	5.68	21.62	41.92	66.33	86.20
PCAPST [6] + OPR	10.98	28.50	44.87	61.97	84.66
Ours	<b>56.37</b>	<b>72.69</b>	<b>83.55</b>	<b>92.14</b>	<b>97.74</b>

Our method outperforms other baselines with a 56.37% chance selected as the best method

# Experiments – Ablation Study

## Ablation study for single stylization subnet



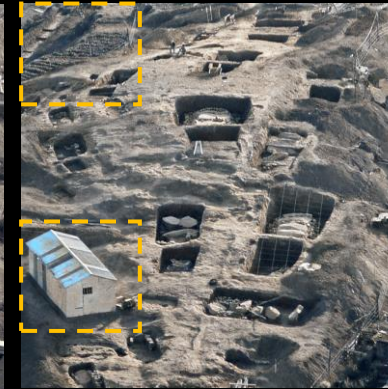
Old photo



Reference



w/o alignment



w/o fusion



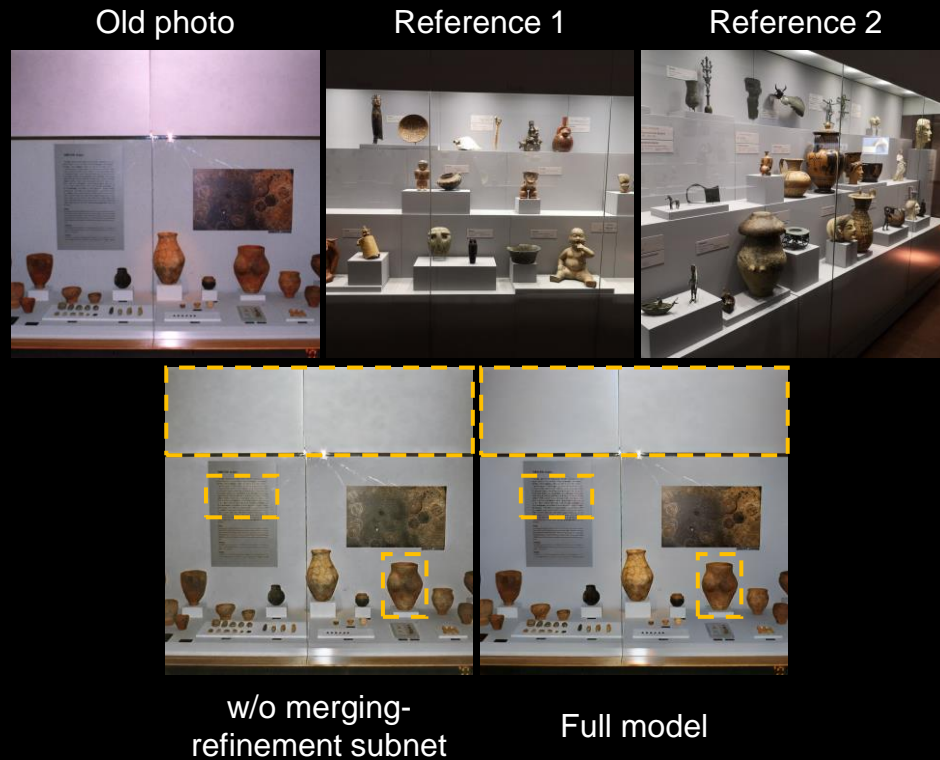
Full model

- ✓ w/o alignment: fails to accurately transfer the local styles of objects
- ✓ w/o fusion: coarse local and global stylization

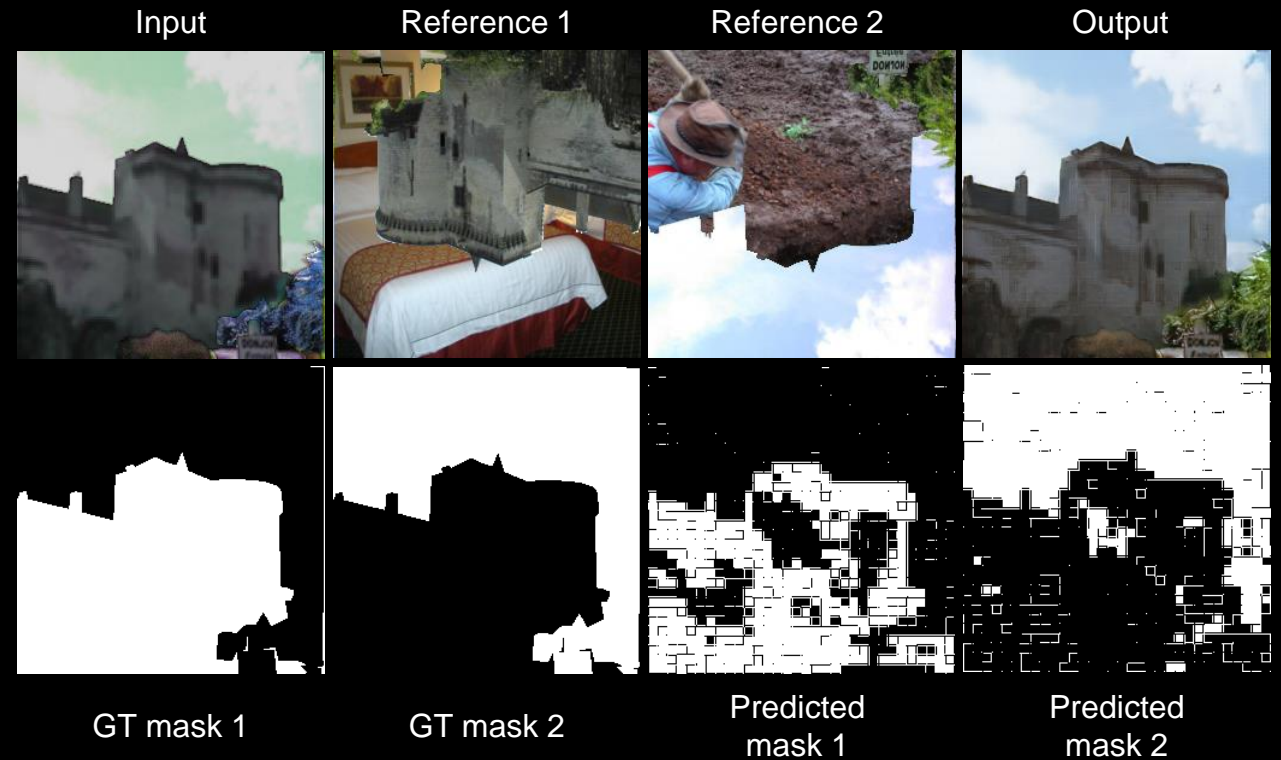
# Experiments – Ablation Study

## Ablation study for merging-refinement subnet

### Real old photo evaluation



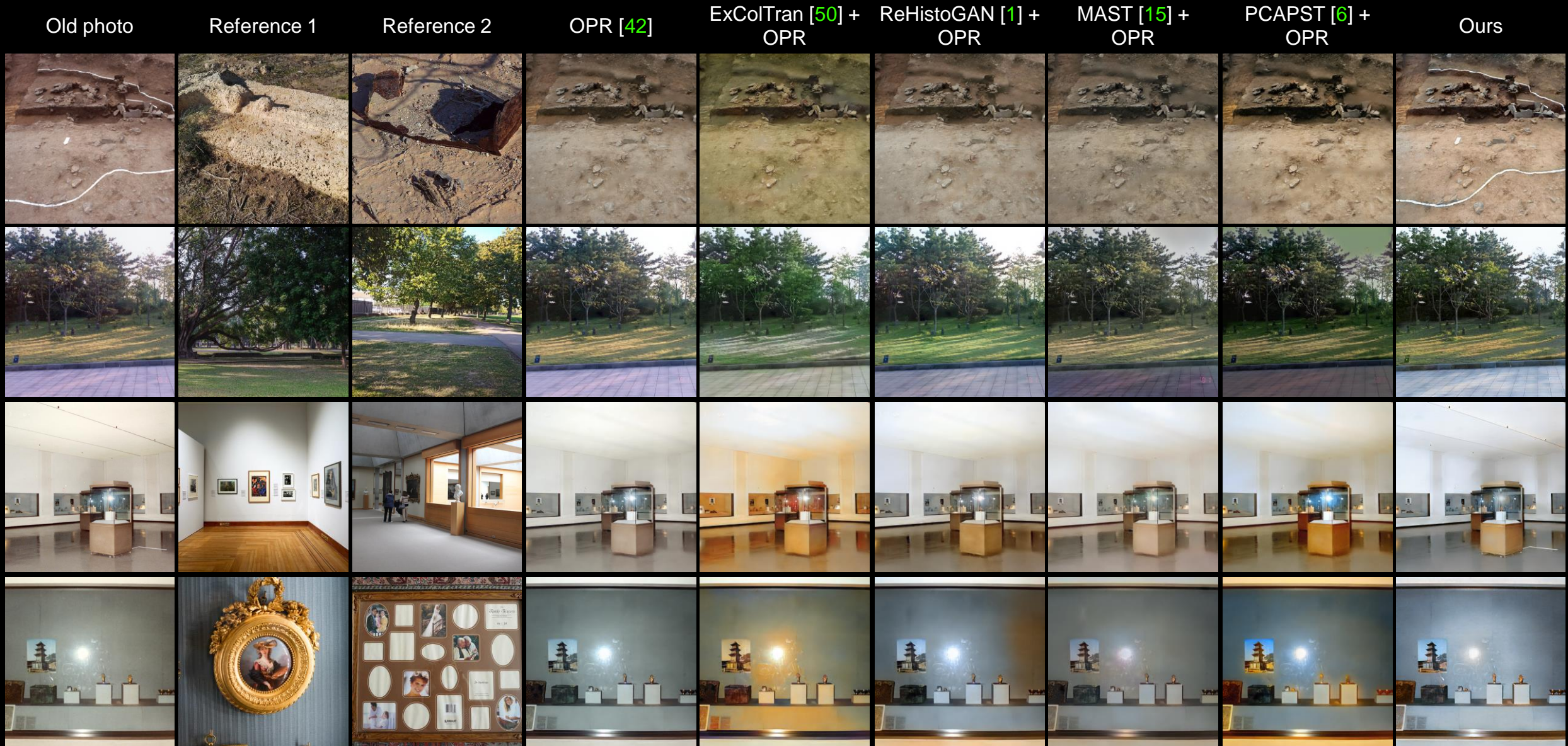
### Effectivity of merging-refinement subnet in synthetic data



Predicted masks are generated by thresholding spatial attention output

The subnet can select relevant regions from multiple references to transfer their styles to the corresponding region in the old photo input

# Experiments – Qualitative Evaluation



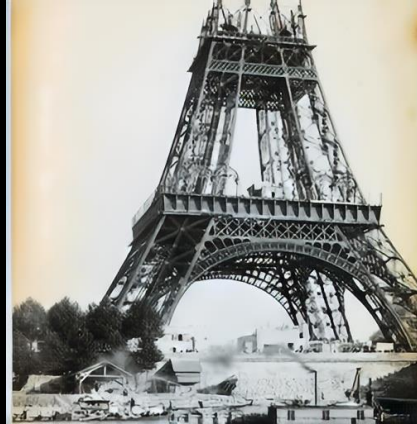
Better qualitative results compared to the baselines (baselines use reference 1)

# Additional Results – Old Photos in The Wild

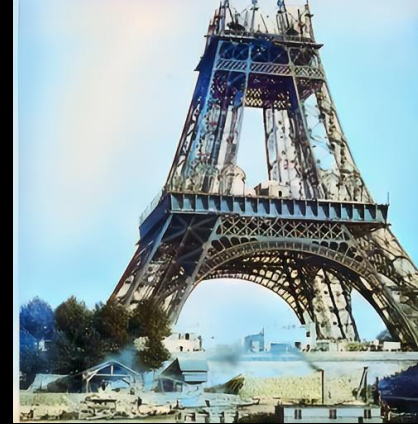
Old photo



OPR



ExColTran +  
OPR



ReHistoGAN +  
OPR



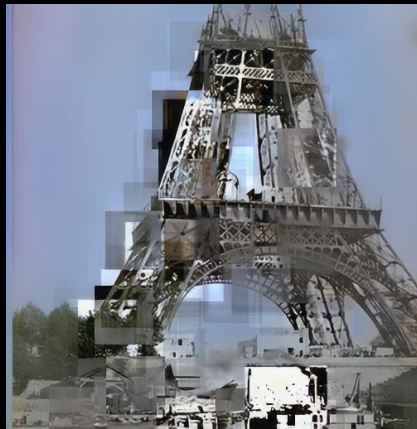
Reference 1



Reference 2



MAST +  
OPR



PCAPST +  
OPR



Ours



Our method can better match the corresponding semantic regions between the old photo and multiple references even when the **viewpoint and scale are different**

# Additional Results – Semantic Photorealistic Style Transfer

Content

Style

ExCoITran

ReHistoGAN

MAST

PCAPST

Ours – Only PST

Ours – Full



Our method can be used for semantic photorealistic style transfer (PST)

# Additional Results – User Study

Old photo



OPR (11.11%)



ExColTran +  
OPR (0.00%)



ReHistoGAN +  
OPR (5.55%)



Reference 1



Reference 2



MAST +  
OPR (0.00%)



PCAPST +  
OPR (0.00%)



**Ours (83.34%)**



Baselines use reference 1 as their reference



# Additional Results – User Study

Old photo



OPR (16.67%)



ExColTran +  
OPR (0.00%)



ReHistoGAN +  
OPR (5.55%)



Reference 1



Reference 2



MAST +  
OPR (0.00%)



PCAPST +  
OPR (5.55%)



Ours (72.23%)



Baselines use reference 1 as their reference

# Additional Results – User Study

Old photo



OPR (11.11%)



ExCoITran +  
OPR (0.00%)



ReHistoGAN +  
OPR (5.55%)



Reference 1



Reference 2



MAST +  
OPR (0.00%)



PCAPST +  
OPR (16.67%)



Ours (66.67%)



Baselines use reference 1 as their reference

# Additional Results – User Study

Old photo



OPR (44.44%)



ExColTran +  
OPR (0.00%)



ReHistoGAN +  
OPR (16.67%)



Reference 1



Reference 2



MAST +  
OPR (11.11%)



PCAPST +  
OPR (11.11%)



Ours (16.67%)



Baselines use reference 1 as their reference

\*Additional results and ablation studies can be found in the paper and supplementary material

SCAN ME



Thank you! For more details, please visit:  
[kaist-viclab.github.io/old-photo-modernization](https://kaist-viclab.github.io/old-photo-modernization)

# Modernizing Old Photos Using Multiple References via Photorealistic Style Transfer

JUNE 18-22, 2023  
**CVPR**  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

The logo for CVPR Vancouver, Canada, featuring a stylized blue skyline of the city with various buildings and the Georgia Strait Bridge.

June 21, 2023 – PM – Number 11  
WED-PM-011