What is Light Painting?
Light Painting is...

Light Painting can be defined as the manual movement of light in a three dimensional space, over time, during a long exposure photograph.
Light Painting is its own art form.

I often hear Light Painting called a “Photographic Technique”. I believe that Light Painting is it’s own art form. The camera is simply the instrument that records the Light Painting art form, just as a canvas captures the brushstrokes of a traditional painter with oils or acrylics. The movement of light, through space and over time is the Light Painting art form. The camera is simply the instrument that the Light Painter uses to record the Light Painting art form! Calling Light Painting a Photographic Technique would be similar to calling painting, a canvas technique.
Light Painting is...

Light Painting breaks down to 3 basic categories:

1. Light Drawing (Light source is seen by camera)
2. Light Painting (Illuminating the scene with handheld lights, light source not seen)
3. Kinetic Light Painting (Moving the camera during the exposure)

The common denominator in these techniques is that the artist is using the “photographic technique” of long exposure photography to record the Light Painting art form.
History

Light Drawing began as a scientific endeavour to study motion. The first known light drawing was created by Etienne-Jules Marey and Georges Demeny in 1889. Marey and Demeny created the image "Pathological walk from in Front"
Demeny and Quénu (Marey’s laboratory). Pathological walk from in front, made visible by incandescent bulbs fixed to the joints, circa 1889. Archives of the Collège de France.
Frank Gilbreth
Work Simplification Studies, 1914
Man Ray
Space Writing, 1935
Man Ray
Space Writing, 2009 Ellen Carey Discovery
Gjon Mili
Carol Lynne, 1940
Gjon Mili
Picasso, 1949 For LIFE Magazine.
Gjon Mili
Picasso, 1949 For Life Magazine

PICASSO DRAWS A CENTAUR, 1949
David Potts

Piccadilly Circus, 1953 - 1st Kinetic Light Painting
Eric Staller
Light Drawings, 1979

POSEIDON, 1979
Light Painting

Everything up to this point in time I would consider Light Drawing.

The next step in history is the birth of Light Painting.

Light Painting is using hand held light sources to illuminate and color a scene during a long exposure. The light source is not seen by the camera.
Dean Chamberlain
Light Painting, 1977 “POLYETHYLENE BAGS ON CHAISE LOUNGE”
Dean Chamberlain
Light Painting, Psychedelic Pioneers Series “Timothy Leary”
Dean Chamberlain
Light Painting, MTV Video Music Award “All She Wants Is” by Duran Duran
Vicki DaSilva
2008, Light Tartans
Vicki DaSilva
2011, MacLeod’s Beach
History

This was a very brief history if you would like to learn more please checkout:

LightPaintingPhotography.com
Techniques

The two techniques that I will be sharing with you today are both considered Light Drawing in that the Light Source will be seen by the camera.
Illuminated Beings
Light Writing
The Illusion Of Choice
THANK YOU