

Street photography tips



**BASED ON ARTICLES FROM:
RACHEL SEGAL HAMILTON
MATT STUART
NICK TURPIN
DAVID SOLOMONS
ERIC KIM
JOHN CARVILL
WIKIPEDIA**

EDITED DIC BICKERTON



Wanderlust - Robert Doisneau (1912-1994)

Street Photography



Street photography is photography that features the human condition within public places and does not necessitate the presence of a street or even the urban environment.

The subject of the photograph might be absent of people and can be an object or environment where the image projects a decidedly human character in facsimile or aesthetic.



Kiss in your rear view mirror (1955) Elliot Erwitt



East Village, New York City, 1998 by Eddie Wexler



Framing and timing are key aspects of the craft, with the aim of creating images at a decisive or poignant moment.

Much of what is now widely regarded, stylistically and subjectively, as definitive street photography was made in the era spanning the end of the 19th Century through to the late 1970s; a period which saw the emergence of portable cameras.

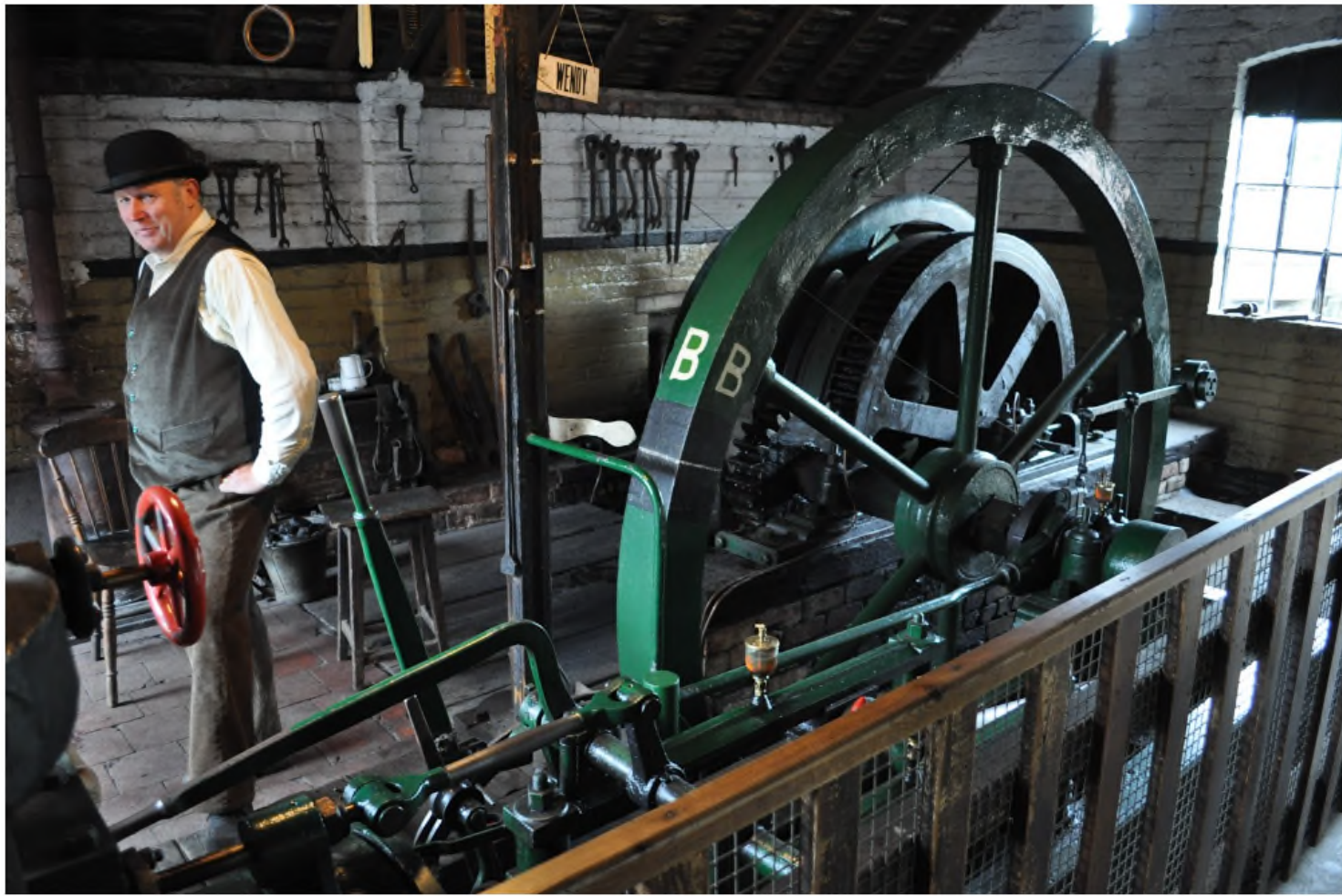
The portable camera enabled candid photography in public places, becoming known as Street Photography.



Planning



- **Location, Location, Location** – really this is what it is all about. **Choose places where people interact** with one another and times when they are present.
- **Revise and Revisit** – street photography is not all about spontaneity – if you see a scene with potential don't be afraid to **keep coming back** to it until you get the shot.
- **Off the Beaten Track** – don't just go to all the touristy shots – try **'behind the scenes'** and **'real life'** shots.
- **Off the Streets** – other **places where people gather** in number can lead to great shots in this genre – zoos, fairs, shows, parks, sporting events etc all can be worth trying.
- **What a Performance** – **street performers**, parades and other street entertainment can be great subject matter on the street.



Technology



- **Less is More** - Don't take too much equipment and **travel light**. It'll make you less obtrusive and you will be able to move around for the best shot quickly.
- **Life Through a Lens** – ‘exaggerating perspective will help set your subject in context and provide a more forgiving depth of field’ – **use a wide angle lens (or fisheye)**.
- **Frozen Motion** – The street is a place of movement – to capture it and still get sharp shots use a shutter speed is fast enough - **1/125 or more with an ISO of 400** as a base. It can however be fun to experiment with slower shutter speeds on the street to capture the movement as blur.
- **True Colours** – **black and white** is often where it's at with street photography but at times **colourful situations arise** and can really make a shot – be on the look out for these.

Technology (cont ...)



- **New Angle** – find ways to get **up high or down low** – these new perspectives on subjects that are familiar can lead to eye catching shots.
- **Dare to Go Diagonal** – don't just hold your camera horizontally – **experiment with angles**. Street photography is a less formal medium – make the most of it.
- **Fun in the Sun** – often we try to avoid shooting into the sun and the shadows that direct sunlight can produce – in street photography **breaking these 'rules' can work**.
- **Practice makes Perfect** – with **time and practice** you will improve. You'll not only get better at technique but also spotting the things to focus upon on the street.



Philosophy



- **Expect the Expected** – people can be suspicious of street photographers so shoot in places where people expect to see people doing photography. **Smile**, be polite and be willing to delete images if people protest.
- **Ready to Pounce** – have your camera out and **be ready to shoot** at all times. Things can move quickly on the street so if you're not ready you'll miss lots of opportunities
- **In the Background** – what's going on **behind your subject** can actually 'make' the shot. Billboards, signs, graffiti and other visual elements can really make a statement in a shot.
- **Opposites Attract** – shots which **challenge the 'norm'** in terms of composition and story/subject matter can be powerful. Look out for 'surprising' subject matter and composition.
- **Stolen Moments** – **anticipate moments** between people before they happen.



Psychology



- **Street Wallpaper** – **blend in** with the scene – shoot unobtrusively and unnoticed.
- **Fortune Favours the Brave** – sometimes the best thing you can do is to **get close** to your subject – this can be a little confronting but will produce powerful images.

