
Are You Street Photog; What's Your Credo?

Posted by Alex Shishin - 2007/07/12 09:40

I'm a street photographer. I mostly use Leicas and Bessas. Lately my favorite Bessa is the R4A, which I took to Europe and paired it with my M8 and Zeiss Ikon. I also use the R3A, R2A and the R2S and C. Plus I have couple of Ts. And a few Ls.

As a street photog I do have a few rules. The first is not to use the camera to bully the sad and helpless. I have to keep this in mind as I have basically a comic spirit. Comedy is not something that I embraced but something that has embraced me. So I have to watch it because comedy can be mean.

I generally do not try to interact with my subjects. But when I must I try to make them feel at ease. There is something about an RF camera that is less intimidating than and SLR I think.

I'll soon be posting some of my shots made with Voigtlander cameras and lenses.

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Re: Are You Street Photog; What's Your Credo?

Posted by Brian - 2007/07/12 21:22

I shoot mostly street stuff as well and also have a few "dos & don'ts" that I adhere to, like "don't hide that you are taking photos" (i.e. don't be sneaky about it, just take the photos) & "no means no". I'm out to explore people and culture, not to piss anyone off. I know a few photogs who intentionally act obnoxious in order to get an angry reaction...

...I don't get it...

they're reacting to you, and street photography is about documenting the subject interacting within their environment, right?

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Please do. I need some new stuff to feature on the main page and, although my works is awesome (:P) I'd rather feature others.

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Re: Are You Street Photog; What's Your Credo?

Posted by tyrone.s - 2007/07/15 19:53

It's a tricky one. I only tend to photo people on the street if i feel that they form an interactive or even passive part of a larger composition - perhaps the back of someone looking onto a scene or a person face on but 'lost' in a scene - if that makes any sense at all.

When it comes to the 'person is the photograph' opportunities I tend to only photograph people that I have permission to photograph; such permission might be explicit but it might also be tacit (for example taking photographs of my students at school - when I take those photos I'm doing so as a part of my job). To be honest if I feel that I'm stealing something then I don't take the photo. Of course if I see someone holding a camera I dog them until the roll is finished ;)

I'm still working it out.

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Re: Are You Street Photog; What's Your Credo?

Posted by kxI - 2008/04/22 13:30

Yes, I do consider myself a street photographer, and as such, I try to remain as unobstrusive as possible when shooting. My credo is the POLAR OPPOSITE of the "veni, vidi, vici" philosophy. I don't barge into a scene and I try not to rush my shots. Rather, I first try to soak in the street's "aura" and will often stand or sit at one location for a while before I even take one picture. By the time that I do, most people on the street would have already accepted me as part of the street

scene. That's when I go to work.

http://klix.smugmug.com/photos/259008545_wamVX-M.jpg

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Re: Are You Street Photog; What's Your Credo?

Posted by Brian - 2008/04/22 20:41

kxl wrote:

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A few years ago I was walking down Nathan Rd. in H.K. and there was a guy setting up a huge 8x10 camera on the sidewalk. Obviously, he was the center of attention. I walked into a shop to catch one of the great pre-CNY sales going on and when I walked out maybe 30min later he was still there but people were no longer looking at him. The interest had passed and the camera sitting there had become a "fixture".

BTW, love the pic. ;)

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