

What is Street Photography? by Vincent Morban, IACC Treasurer

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Discussion of street photography brings to mind images of people in public places. Good street photography goes beyond that—it features the human condition within public places. It does not necessitate the presence of a street or even the urban environment. It often focuses on emotions displayed or documents people's behaviour in public places.

Street photography includes fine art photography, social documentary photography and photojournalism. Photojournalism is held to higher ethical standards imposed by the need for timeliness, objectivity, accuracy and narrative.

Command over photographic equipment and technique is important, as street photographers face the challenges of shooting on the move (so less equipment is better). Serendipity often plays a role in choice of subject matter. Terrain can be unfamiliar and people can be unpredictable.

Successful street photographers can pick good locations (where people interact), find ways to get close to their subjects, find juxtaposition, anticipate human behaviour, and find interesting perspectives. Street photographers are always ready to take a photograph, smile often, are respectful, know how to tell a story, know how to blend in, and learn to disregard what other people think.

Some tips:

- Black and white is often where it's at with street photography.
- What's going on behind your subject can sometimes 'make' the shot.
- Street photography is not a formal medium. Look out for 'surprising' subject matter and composition, perspective and colour.
- Breaking the 'rules of photography' can lead to great shots.
- The street is a place of movement – capture it.



"Guys" © Vincent Morban



"Just Can't Wait" © Vincent Morban



"Occupy Wall Street" © Vincent Morban



"Undercover Police" © Vincent Morban