

Dataw Island Photography Club

*STREET
PHOTOGRAPHY*



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“Street photography is candid photography of life and human nature. It is a way for us to show our surroundings, and how we as photographers relate to them. We are filtering what we see, to find the moments that intrigue us, and to then share them with others. It’s like daydreaming with a camera.”

James Maher, DPS

Ultimate Guide to Street Photography

Characteristics: in a city, fleeting opportunities, shooting strangers, lots of motion, the light is what it is, minimal gear

*Daydreaming
with a Camera*

Inspiration - Pioneer

Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908 – 2004)

- Pioneered the genre of street photography
- Described it as capturing a “decisive moment”
- “Decisive moment” occurs when the visual and psychological elements of people in a real-life scene spontaneously and briefly come together in perfect resonance
- *Behind the Gare St Lazare, 1932, MoMA*



Inspiration - Pioneer

Saul Leiter (1923 – 2013)

- American photographer and painter - New York City
- Unique composition, subject matter, use of color
- His early work (1940s and 50s) directly led to the foundation of the New York School of Photography
- *Sign Painter, 1954*



Inspiration - Enigma

Vivian Maier (1926 – 2009)

- Nanny in Chicago's North Shore area
- Avid photographer who never showed anyone her photos – about 200,000
- Posthumous fame is intriguing – 6 years - *Finding Vivian Maier* (2013)
- *Kirk Douglas at the premiere of the movie Spartacus in Chicago, IL. October 13, 1960*





Inspiration - Today

Valérie Jardin

- Born & raised in France – lives in Minnesota
- Official *X Photographer* for *Fujifilm USA*
- *Temptation - Rome*

Provisos

Being obvious avoids confrontation

- There's a whole world of hiding which I won't address (i.e., shooting from the hip, using long telephoto lens, private spaces)

As a beginner, I'm probably

- Not going to use a flash
- Not ask for a model release
- Not argue with a security guard

Use the tool you know

- I'm not going to discuss different cameras or post-processing software

Overlapping genres

- Photojournalism, Architectural photography, Social Documentary Photography

Attitude & Approach

Positive attitude

- Open minded
- Look for beauty in everything
- Capture context
- Look all around, up and down

Be present & respectful – if rejected just move on

- “Sometimes, being obvious and taking photos in a direct way can be the least confrontational strategy.” John Maher
- “Consider starting somewhere busy, such as at a fair or a market.” John Maher
- “I make a point of never photographing people in a vulnerable or embarrassing situation. Respecting your subject is the number one rule in street photography.” Valérie Jardin



William A. Riski

Different Styles

Be an Observer

- Walking around shooting
- Trigger subject / event
- Anticipate

Different Styles

Find a stage

- Scan for opportunities
- Envision a potential shot
- Gives you time to compose
- People come to you, rather than you approaching them

William A. Riski



Different Styles

Human element in the urban landscape

- Minimalist
- Look for interesting architectural element/scene
- Wait for person to appear



Tired museum-goer ~ Le Louvre, Paris

Valérie Jardin

Different Styles

Abstract

Valérie Jardin



Different Styles

Street portraits

- Street performers
 - People with dogs
 - People on a break from work
-



William A. Riski

Tips - Gear

- Shoot with what you have, but...
 - 50mm prime lens is recommended – its what your eyes see – one less factor to manage (i.e., no zoom)
- Wrist strap can be useful for keeping camera 'on the ready'

Tips - Settings

Start with Auto

- So you can concentrate on composition
- Try to fill the frame

Move on to Aperture Priority or Shutter priority mode

- f5.6 – f11, whole scene in focus
- If you want shallow depth of field, use f2

Shutter speed

- In shade 1/250, direct sunlight 1/400
- Blurred person in 'still context' can be nice

ISO

- In street shooting, more depth of field is better, so raise ISO to 400 in sunlight, 3200 at dusk, etc.
- Allows use of smaller aperture to maximize depth of field & faster shutter speed to freeze motion
- Noise is much more acceptable in street photography

Auto focus

- Because likely to have subject (s) moving
- Or just too much activity to manually focus one moment to the next

*SOME ELEMENTS
OF A STRONG
STREET
PHOTOGRAPH*

- *Expression & Gesture*
- *Appearance*
- *Perspective*
- *Tension*
- *Sense of time & place*
- *Juxtapositions /
Interconnections*



Hand gestures often reflect a culture. ~ Rome.

Valérie Jardin

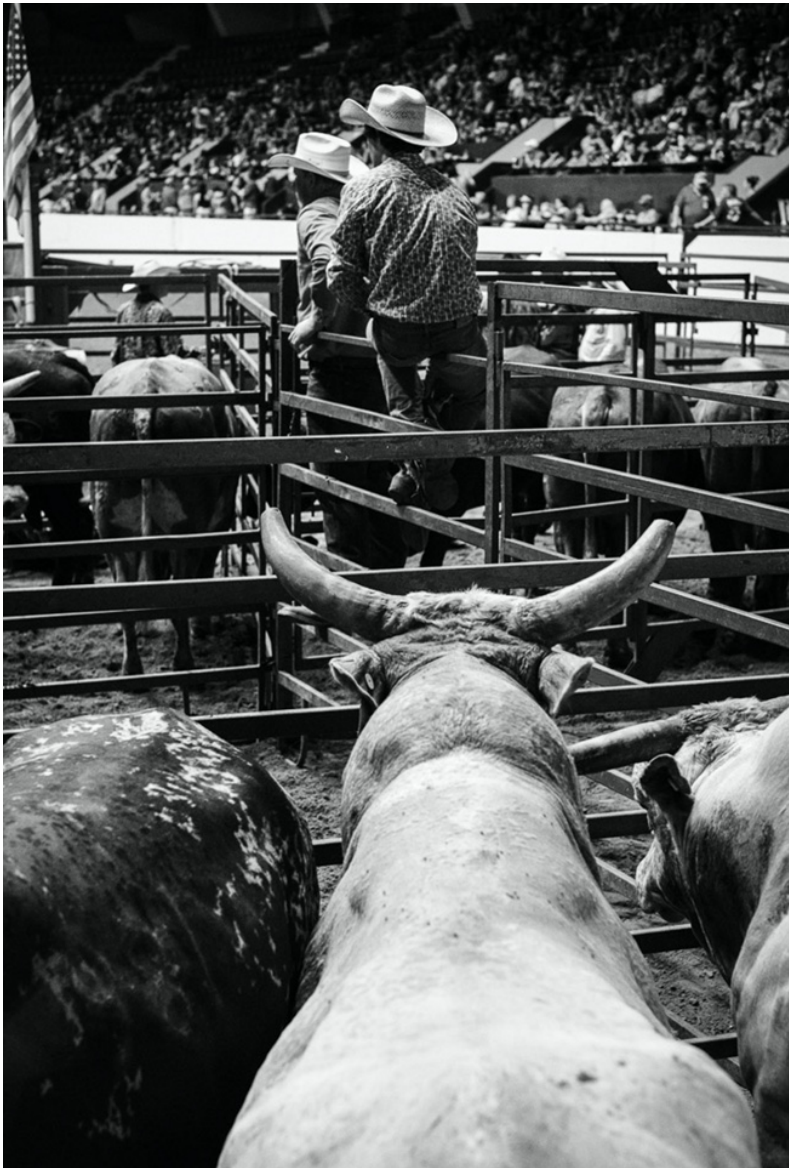
EXPRESSION & GESTURE

APPEARANCE



Faux fur and red glasses on a zebra scooter. ~ Paris

Valérie Jardin



Valérie Jardin

PERSPECTIVE



Very NewYork!

Valérie Jardin

SENSE OF PLACE

CONNECTIONS



Synchronized ~ Paris

Valérie Jardin

References

- Valerie Jardin - <http://valeriejardinphotography.com/street-photography-first-steps>
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- Expert Photography – search on 'street photography' - <https://expertphotography.com/7-street-photography-tips-every-photographer-needs-to-know/>
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