

Street Photography

White balance is key for ensuring you get the best colour reproduction in any given light situationist. The following pre-sets are a guide as to when and where to use them for better colours

Gear needed

Small camera: Street photography relies on you being portable, agile and discreet. The Leica is the gold standard

Prime lenses: If you do use detachable lenses, primes, which tend to be smaller are your best bet. Use your feet as a zoom

Hand strap: Helps you pivot, move and twist about quicker and easier. It's more secure and less obvious than a neck strap

Small kit bag: Most photographers need backpacks or large kit bags. For the street, keep it small, light and less conspicu-

Techniques to learn

Shooting from the hip: bringing your camera all the way up to your eye takes time. Learn to shoot fast from any height

A fast eye: The streets are always moving and can be chaotic at times, you must adapt your eye to rapidly changing situations

Patter: You can't be shy or quiet when out & about, learn to ask for photos, opportunities and whatever it takes to get the shot

Framing: Buildings, signs & doorways are everywhere, framing is a bedrock of the street so learn to spot natural frames

Photojournalism: The art of street photography can easily turn in to photojournalism. The two skills are interchangeable

Fishing & hunting: Two diametrically opposing skills. Try both then learn to refine the one you feel best about.

Laws, rights & ethics: You need to know what the law is, what your rights are/aren't and where you want to draw your own lines. Find what makes you comfortable

Geometry: Buildings and streets are full of geometric shapes, don't just look at people, look up and around

Embrace failure: Street photography is 99% failure. You must go out continually, get little to nothing and not get knocked back

Stick with it: No one takes great street photos without a few thousand hours under their belt. Giving up is the enemy.

Process

Research the area: study maps, look a hot spots, unique areas, the history and demographic of an area. Ask the locals as well.

Check weather: Weather apps and golden hour apps are ideal for planning when to go out.

Plan your route: Know where you're going. Don't drift around an area unknowingly.

Shoot until you are tired: Keep going as long as you can, the more you shoot the more you'll get. Don't be limited by time.

Store your shots: You should be taking a lot of shots. So learn effective storage, processing and retrieval.

Process in bulk: Get good at chunking through lots of shots, rating and processing them. Learn the short cuts too.

Show your work: Whether it's on socials, a website folio or in print, learn how to show your results.

Street Photographers

Joel Meyerowitz is often regarded as the greatest living street photographer alive today. His work is a benchmark for modern colour street photography.

Helen Levitt was particularly noted for her surreal street photography of New York City. She was described as "the most celebrated and least known photographer of her time"

Vivian Maier was almost entirely unknown, earning her way as a nanny and shooting over 150,000 photos that remained undeveloped until after her death. She is now a highly regarded, well exhibited and world renowned photographer.

Saul Leiter early work in the 1940s and 1950s was an important contribution to what came to be recognized as the New York school of photography.

Fan Ho documented the Hong Kong street scene in the 1950s and 1960s. His photos are masterpieces of light and shadows and are both surprisingly sharp, crisp and timeless

Quotes from the greats

The only way to make good pictures is to push yourself out of your comfort zone. **Bruce Gilden**

You are probably going to fail may not be the advice you want to hear, but it's an important pill to swallow. **Martin Parr**

Be yourself. I much prefer seeing something, even it is clumsy, that doesn't look like somebody else's work.' **William Klein**

All the technique in the world doesn't compensate for the inability to notice.' **Elliott Erwitt**