

The colours of streetphotography in the 21th century

Practical hints between fineart und paparazzi with
explanations for digital cameras and smartphones



street62

Do you think this is street photography?

Probably not!



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Important hint

fineart-streetphotography and paparazzi-streetphotography are ideas from michael mahlke remscheid. I have learned Oxford Standard English at school. I hope you understand what I write. But today English is a collection of words with different cultural backgrounds. That means nobody can understand exactly what the other means, because normally English is not the mother language. I say sorry for my mistakes and I hope you give me a hint if something is wrong.

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What is streetphotography?

Street photography is the most spontaneous and most beautiful form of photography, because anytime and anywhere it can be practiced.

Today street photography can be made with cameras and mobile phones.

Therefore, street photography is today the most spontaneous and simplest form of photography.



Classic street photography

Street Photography does what the name implies, namely tell about life on or near the street.

The classic street photography took place in public context.

Issue was what was to be seen and what happens.

It was more sidewalk photography, today's notion of urban space only fits limited because there is also non-urban street photography.

People at the Centre

People were and are the center of attention.



Personal rights

There is an important issue for street photography: the rights of individuals. Just today, this question becomes increasingly important.

The German lawyer Wolfgang Rau has this in his book "Law for Photographers" once described thus:

"Recordings without consent are illegal in doubt"

I think this statement can be used all over the world.

It is difficult to eliminate all risk when taking pictures.

But you can minimize it!



Moments and stories

I do not believe that the "best" street photos can be taken only in violation of individual rights.

I think more to the fact that this is the justification for a lack of photographic skill, otherwise the many good photos that accept the individual rights, never emerged.

Street Photography in the best sense tells stories with a photo or captures a moment.



Which photographic techniques are useful?

Street photography was in earlier times almost only monochrome = blackandwhite.

Today almost everything is photographed in color.

Always raw and jpg

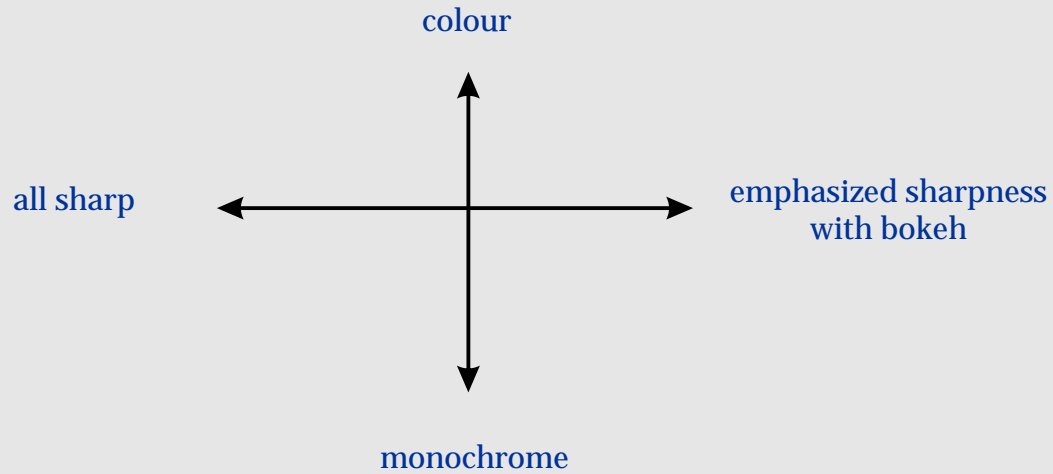
If you shot in jpg and raw it is better for the long run because you do not know what you need in future.

And it is the solution for the question colour or monochrome because you can always change later.

Last but not least photos start in mind and end in the web or will be printed.

There are various stylistic devices to represent the action / the story from my perspective.

What stylistic devices are useful



The styles of street photography you can apply before or after.

The best street photographers select the emphasis and structure of a photo before shooting.

They do it before.

But today this is no longer necessary, because almost everything you can do with photo software after the shot:

- Bokeh
- selective focus,
- sharpness course,
- coloring
- and much more



Example - Monochrome and sharp



This photo tells at least one story.

Style is here

- all sharp
- monochrome
- linear composition

It is a story about war and peace, life, fortune and much more.

Example - colour and depth of field



This photo tells a story. The man seems to be happy and he has a special charisma (thanks to Bernd Schiele).

The photo is made in Düsseldorf, Königsallee, one of the most important streets in Germany in the middle of a lot of people. But with aperture wide open and the right depth of field you make good photos without the risk of trouble.

Everything is recorded with a fine running bokeh.

In this form and so exactly it can only be made in the moment of shooting. With software after the shoot it would be more difficult.

And it is a good exercise for the personal photographic development if you do things before shooting instead of after shooting.

Street photos are today hardly selling photos. They are more photos for viewing and uploading.

And it is good if you shot peacefully and without the risk of anger because normally it is no paparazzi-photography.

Vice versa. Here not the person is sharp, the christmas tree is sharp. But you see in the background with bokeh three people walk on the ice with skates.



Only the interaction between foreground and background gives the photo a special character.

This is a good observation for the idea that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

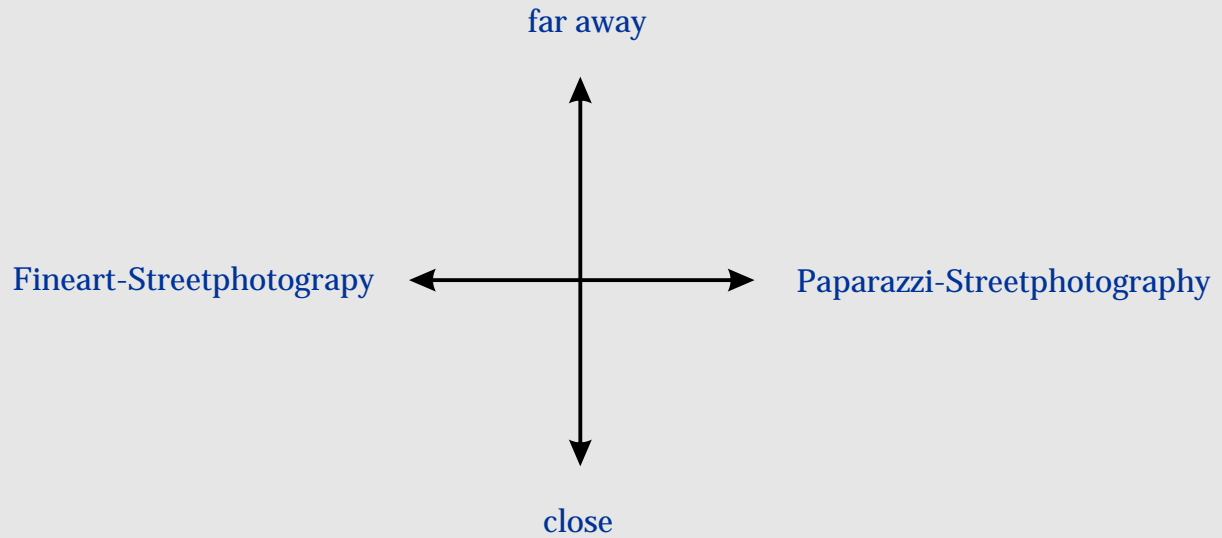
Here the bokeh is mixed with a reflection.

This reflects a very different picture expression.

All photos that are shown here so far have one thing in common. The photographer was getting close to your subject.

But this is not the only way for street photography.

Which streetphotography you like?



What do you like more?

- a small camera or a big camera
- with or without rangefinder
- close to the scene or far away
- details or the whole

Street Photography is associated with many names and with many possibilities of photography.

Some examples:

- Henri Cartier-Bresson and the geometrically designed unobtrusive photography
- Beat Streuli for Distance shooting with telephoto lenses
- Martin Parr for the visible flash photography
- Bruce Gilden with his sudden "Flashing"

Fineart-street photography shows photos with a skilful composition, which is based on the rules of classical geometry. In these photos form and motive must agree.

Paparazzi-streetphotography means exhibition and to expose people in a negative way.

Both terms should be understood ideally. Most of the photos are somewhere between Fineart and paparazzi.

The other question - far and near - is also the question of the type of camera.

Close means a camera with a wide angle lens.

Distance means a camera with a telephoto lens.

Near, far away, far far away is the question - and you give the answer.



With an iPhone or mobile phone it is normally better to shoot close. With a camera you have more possibilities and you can often select wide, tele or zoom.

However here you come to the limit because streetphotography is not purely detail photography.

If the focal length of the lens is larger, then the angle for shooting is smaller, so you can finally take no situation but just a detail.

I think optimal focal lengths for street photography are between 24mm and 85mm..



How do I recognize fineart-streetphotography?

Fineart-street photography is independent of a camera.

It is a type of photography that meets classic photographic criteria.

This includes a successful composition and a captured moment.

One of the best known representatives of this type of streetphotography was Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Since he had one of the leading photo agencies, he was also widely known by his motives because he photographed many celebrities and famous painters, actors, writers and artists.



Today this is no longer conceivable. It also shows the changing meaning of photography.

Henri Cartier-Bresson was able to photograph celebrities as it corresponded to the character of the person.

Today celebrities want to create images. This has to do with marketing and a changed zeitgeist.

The five stars of fineart-streetphotography:

- No violating or exposing photos
- Always with geometrical structure
- Accepting all personal rights that means with ok or without recognisability
- Situations with optical structure, bokeh or separation
- The photo tells a story or is a captured moment

These 5 criteria cannot be fulfilled immediately on each photo.

But they make a nice exercise program, because you can learn these 5 photographic "Words" - the grammatical basics of streetphotography..

And the day will come with your first photo including all 5 criteria.

This is the decisive moment, because at this moment you've made your first 5-star streetphoto.

Congratulations!

Can I work as a paparazzi-photographer?

Yes but!

The terms Fineart and paparazzi are idealized.
They should show that one can decide on every photo how and what.

Most of the photos are somewhere in between. But a photo is today not a pure reflection of reality.

For this purpose you have the following techniques:

- Cropping an image
- Emphasizing with Colors or structures
- Filter and textures
- Blurring or vignetting

Why do you do that?

It is stressless. Today photos are graphics. And thus there are more opportunities.

Therefore, you can with the techniques

- Emphasis
- Focusing
- Work out a special character
- Protect privacy rights of individuals f.e. with blur

and much more.

It is your decision if you want to work in the way of fineart or paparazzi.

From photo to Pix

These techniques are today on the agenda.

The more pixels a picture has, the more image sections can be chosen.

Leaving the existing digital cameras and photography turns the smartphone, then this kind of photography is still more on the agenda.

Instagram has been known because it allows the embellishment by filters before the photos are published.

Today filter photography before shooting is changing to filterwork after shooting.



This all has become a natural part of the photos posted on social networks and is even subject of exhibitions with worldwide attention.

How do I shot with a smartphone?

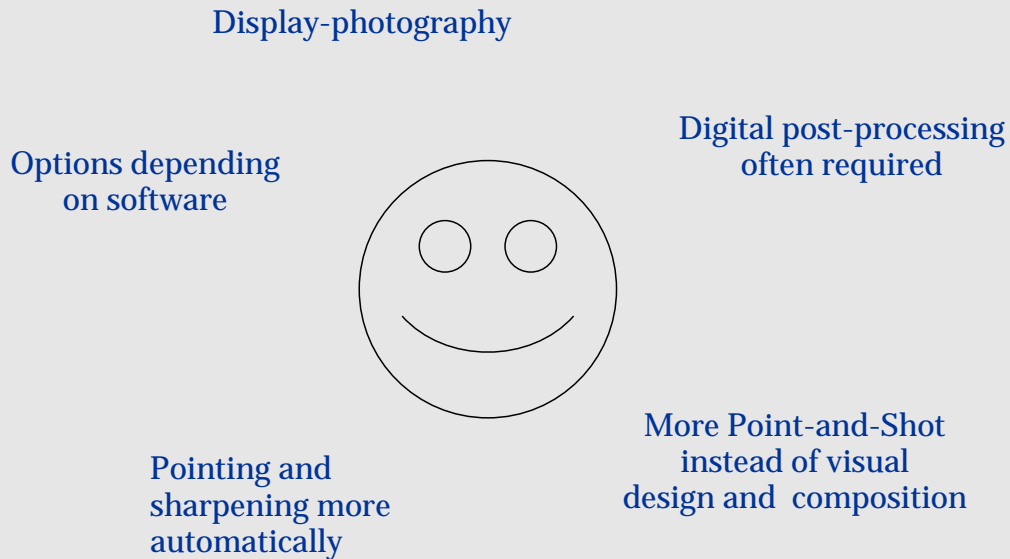
Point and Shot!

- Unobtrusive!
- Smartphones are small computers with phone and digital camera.
- They have a great display.
- Many people live with their smartphones day and night.
- So the camera is always ready.
- You can use your smartphone for streetphotography.
- But in contrast to a pure digital camera smartphone-streetphotography means designing after shooting the photos.
- The most important point in smartphone-streetphotography is to have anything sharp in the box.



Turn the camera on, flash off and photograph the subject. Then begins the world of software, which makes from recordings crafted photographs.

Streetphotography with a smartphone



Depending on the operating system, the apps vary. But for every operating system you get similar apps. And then you select the character from given possibilities.

From photos to filtermix - apps for streetphotography

My selection:

Nofinder

„Nofinder is a toy camera like app, from developer Toshihiko Tambo.

Inspired by Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama, Nofinder is Toshihiko's take on Daido Moriyama's "no finder" [shoot from the hip] snapshot style of photography, that the photographer developed as he wandered the streets of Tokyo in the late 1960s and early '70s.“

It is simple and very unobtrusive!



Biglens

„Big Lens allows you to load or take a photo and fake an aperture by blurring areas of it out.

You can choose to replicate f1.8 up to f3.8, which keeps your subject in focus and blurs out the background. You can dictate what area is kept in focus and which parts you'd like the app to blur.

It's a simple process that in Basic mode requires that you move a circle or horizontal line with your fingers to the area to be kept in focus, then pinch to zoom and rotate this focal point. In Advanced mode you can lasso areas or paint sections with your finger, and use an eraser for more accurate results.“



Fastcamera

„Fast Camera for iOS gives you another way to take the perfect picture, by snapping tons of shots quickly and letting you pick the best one. But you can also turn your photos into a stop-motion video, or tinker with the settings to take burst shots or timed group photos.“
When you use Fast Camera, all of your resulting photos are gathered in a folder and you can view every shot the app took to pick the best of the lot -- great for trying to get a perfect picture in just about any setting.“



This is my selection. You find much more apps in the stores. For social networks exist other apps like Instagram, Hipstamatic or Snapseed.

Try it for yourself!

Which cameras are better for streetphotography?



S means Shutter Speed.

With S I can say how quick shutter speed must be in a photo.

If you want to make real streetphotography you must control shutter speed.

It is a „must have“ for streetphotography. A camera for streetphotography must always have an S on the dial.

Denn die Vorwahl der Belichtungszeit durch den/die Fotografen/Fotografin ist eines der wichtigsten Elemente für pure Strassenfotografie.

Automatic mode is normally not senseful. Often select cameras in automatic mode lower ISO and that means longer exposure.

Shutter speed is good for street!

Meine Erfahrungen mit 1/250 bis 1/500 Sekunde bei Tageslicht decken sich mit denen, die in der englischen Wikipedia angegeben werden.

Not without S on the dial!

See with a viewfinder

For eyeglass wearers with bifocals a viewfinder is essential, because otherwise the juggling with the glasses on the camera monitor to focus point takes time.

A viewfinder is much more subtle than a monitor, because the monitor lights up like a lamp, and this can often be noticed.

Quietly and quickly streetphotography means use a viewfinder!

But all the smart phones and most digital cameras have no viewfinder.

Yes, they are often not so unobtrusive. But it is a question of the situation. If much people use smartphones it is better to use it too. But if the light is dark then the smartphone is like a lamp and people look to lamps ...



Here you see three cameras that I use for streetphotography:

- Nikon V1 with electronic viewfinder
- Fuji X10 with optical viewfinder
- Olympus XZ1 and no viewfinder.

Panorama of streetphotography - examples from reality

It makes a difference whether I cick a ball or play soccer and volleyball. Rules come into play.

Between Fineart-streetphotography and paparazzi-streetphotography or between 5 stars and 1 star, you can choose.

Photography should not have too much theory. But you should know how you can take pictures and why you're doing something.

On the following pages you see examples that show what you can do, what you can get and what is the difference between fineart and paparazzi.

Remember: These are "real" photos, seen moments, unposed and real.

Example 1 - Paparazzi-Streetphoto



For many men, this would probably be a street photo of choice. The focus is on a woman, it can be seen even in its feminine form and it is the main point. The photo would be interesting, but this one would need the consent of the lady. Therefore, the photo may not actually be published and is only possible in this unrecognizable pixelated form. This is a paparazzi-street photo.

Example 2 - Streetview to Beach



This is also a streetphoto. The beach scene is told but the emphasis is really on the color arrangement. To reinforce this this photo was saved as HDR. What I like is the Ordinary, Scavenged, Colours and Quiet. But is a matter of taste!

Example 3 - Handy and handling



Here the topic is self-explanatory. The new photograph with the smartphone is practiced, while the focus here is focused on the smartphone screen. Only those who look to it see what is happening behind the screen. You remember the inauguration of Obama and the photo made by Elliott Erwitt how all the people use their smartphones to make a shot. You can do it in your everyday life too with five stars...

Example 4 - Elberfelder Cocktail



A bit ironic because the poster describes a cocktail party in Wuppertal-Elberfeld.

Example 5- Man looks with belly to po



The man looks to the po of the girl. The invisible becomes visible through the clothing and the rotation. And the geometry is correct.

Example 6- Bull riding with audience



Children and street photography is particularly explosive. We must be very careful and consider all personal rights.

The girl riding the bull - mother and sister look. Action for Children. But there's something else. In the window are two dolls that look out. On the right you see a reflection of a couple in the shop - looks like two other dolls.

Example 7 - In sight of the lions



You see a kid who absolutely can not be recognized as a person and you see two male lions, lying about six feet away from the child and consider it carefully (?). We do not know what goes on in the head of the lions, but it seems to be good that thick safety glass is between kid and lions.

Example 8 - Human landscape



This photo shows the world in front of the Cologne Cathedral. The incredible number of people on the steps look monochrome like a structure. The photo tells a story, and is a streetphoto, which shows a human landscape in front of one of the most famous churches in the world.

Beispiel 9 - Man in Black



A combination of black and white in a colour photography.

A black limousine and man with black clothes wearing dark glasses.

Both are linked with the white bicycle trace.

Example 10 - Sun protection on the street



Street photography is everywhere possible, even where the street of a city is directly on the beach. Where is it?

Do you know

- What is the difference between fineart-streetphotography and paparazzi-streetphotography?
- What do you like, wide or tele, people or bigger situations?
- Which cameras are better for streetphotography?
- How can you shot for worldwide-ready-photos?
- Which five stars has fineart-streetphotography?
- What is important using a mobile phone?
- Why are digicams better for real streetphotography?

If you can answer these questions and you remember this in photographic situations then this little Ebook has done its job very well and you have good information for your whole photographic life!

This is my special offer. If you buy the ebook and I come in your country and I make a workshop „One day with streetphotography“ for money then you get 20 % off.

Information you find on www.street62.com