

Street Photography Seminar Review

By Ryan Raz

photography.rraz.ca

Peer Review – Discussion - Pub Night

Bring Your Street-Home-Work

Downtown Toronto At A Place To Be Announced

Monday October 22th 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Workshop Outline

What is and what isn't street photography

History and the decisive moment

Composition, emotional impact and story telling

Colour Or B&W

Safety and legal

Blending in and dealing with people

Location, location, location

Street exercise (homework)

Peer review of homework

Street Shooting Exercise

(homework)

- Talk to and ask strangers if you can take their photo, wait until they stop posing before you take any shots
- Take a street portrait or 2
- Walk along until you see something interesting and then take some quick stealthy shots without thinking too much
- Hang out at an interesting corner or other location don't hide that you are taking photos rather blend in
- Embed yourself into an activity and then take photos from within the action
- **Option** Try some hip shots or shots without looking through the view finder

Final Message

- Get Out Take Photographs In The Streets
- Don't stifle yourself with labels whether or not coming from yourself or from others
- Know Your Rights (but don't rely on them to keep you safe)
- Be Safe (but still get out of your comfort zone)
- Have Fun, Enjoy Yourself, Get Some Exercise, Meet New People, Take A New Road
- Hear, See and Photograph Some Life Stories
- Develop Your Own Style; Your Own Point of View
- Reviewing Your Work is an Important Step In the Learning Process

Blending in and dealing with people

1. Quick don't ask candid shot
2. Stealth such as shooting from the hip or telephoto
3. The Street portrait
 - Don't limit yourself by dismissing the street portrait as not really street photography. It's a good way: to polish people skills; to learn to interact with people; get some good photos and to have some fun.
 - Some of the most iconic photos of our time could be defined as street portraits.
 - The NY Times has a popular widely viewed article on Street fashion.

Blending in and dealing with people

4. The not so candid candid (asking and waiting) People soon go back to doing what they were doing.

Asking can extend your chance of capturing the decisive moment from a second or 2 to a minute or 2, or even longer if you come back later.

4. Camouflage yourself by being in plain sight. Blending into the scene by hanging around or walking through the scene. Your camera should be in plain sight.
5. Embedding yourself into the action. Talk to the people around you, walk in the parade or join the protest. Photograph from within the action rather than being an outsider looking in.

Remember it's the resulting photograph that counts.

Be Safe!

- Don't take your camera to places that you would normally be scared to go to when alone
- Don't let strangers get too close to you and your equipment unless you are really sure
- Have your cell phone within easy reach, if someone threatens you call 911

Be Safe!

- Remember the laws but don't get in arguments about your right to take a photograph
 - Just because it is legal doesn't mean you can be a jerk without consequences.
- Be aware of your surroundings
 - Don't get lost in your photography to the extent of backing out into traffic or falling ...
 - Beware of what other people around you are doing
 - Be polite - Just because you have a camera doesn't give you the right to block another person's view

Legal - Where can I photograph?

A photographer can take a photo anywhere that the photographer is legally allowed to be. This includes but is not limited to:

- Your own property*
- Public property*
- Private property with permission of owner*

Ontario Law from <http://ambientlight.ca/laws/>

Legal - What can I photograph?

Assuming no others laws are being broken you may photograph anything you can see.

Despite common misconceptions this includes:

- Children* *Accidents* *Fire scenes*
- Infrastructure* *Residential buildings*
- Industrial buildings* *Criminal activity*
- Law enforcement officers*

Ontario Law from <http://ambientlight.ca/laws/>

Legal - What can I photograph exceptions

The most notable exception and basic rule of thumb on whether the subject was legally photographed is considered “reasonable expectation of privacy”.

Anybody that has a “reasonable expectation of privacy” cannot be legally photographed, even if other laws are being followed.

For example, a couple in an intimate embrace cannot be photographed from the sidewalk through their window. If the couple were outside and in the same embrace then they could be photographed legally.

Ontario Law from <http://ambientlight.ca/laws/>

Legal - Can I be forced to delete photos?

With very few exceptions nobody can force you to destroy your personal property. This means you cannot be forced to delete memory cards or expose your roll of film.

Notable exception is where the photograph jeopardizes national security.

Ontario Law from <http://ambientlight.ca/laws/>