

Story Telling Through Photography

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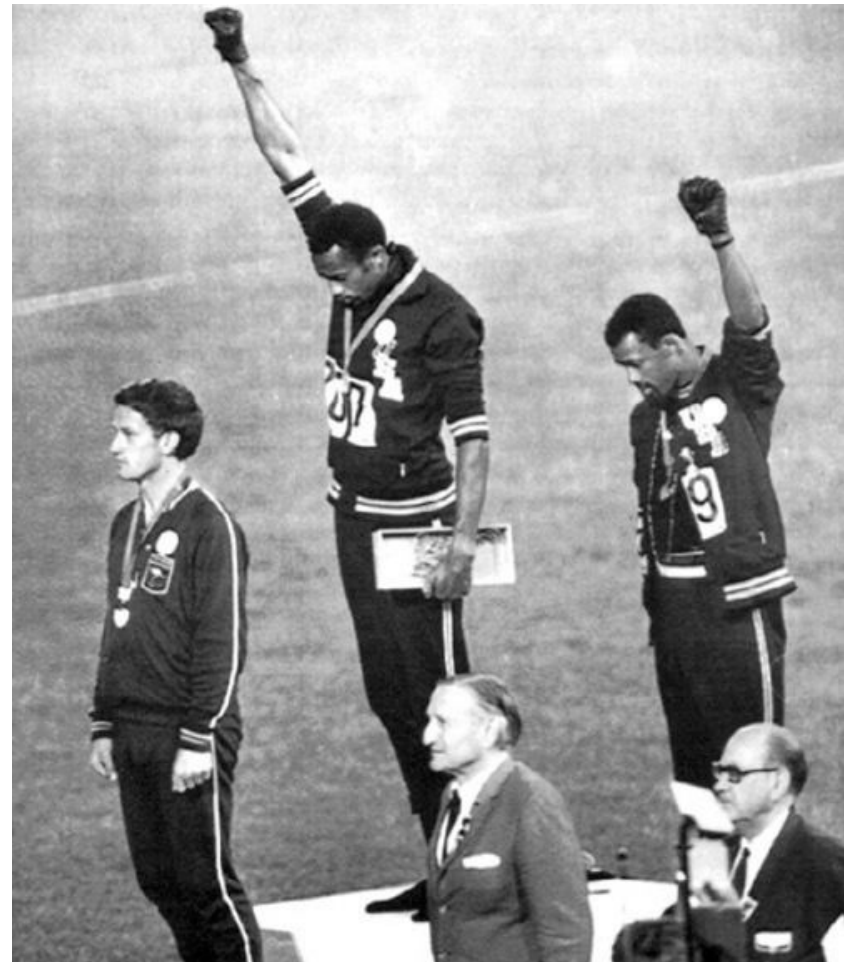
A Powerful Image

- Digital photography has brought unparalleled convenience into our lives.
- Despite the benefits, the 'digital revolution' has resulted in people putting less thought into their photos.



A Powerful Image

- Engages and stimulates our hearts and minds.
- A powerful image has the ability to tell a 'story'.
- Can be complex as a social commentary to something as simple as a feeling or an emotion.



A Powerful Image

- Storytelling is the easiest way to create a powerful image.
- Need to understand and master the technical, compositional, and post-production aspects of photography.
- When used correctly, these aspects will bring out the story more effectively.



Types of Photo Story Telling

- How many times have you heard this?

“This photo is beautiful!”

“Thanks!”

End of conversation.

- There are 3 types of stories to think about:
 - Ambiguous, personal, and documentary.

Ambiguous Photo Story

- An image where the story is unclear.
- A photo that makes you think, where you can imagine multiple stories.
- The photograph will never get old.
- There will always be mystery and an evolving story based on the viewpoint of the observer.



Personal Photo Story

- Capture something that happened to you.
- Can be done through a single image or multiple shots.
- Photo(s) that carry a story with them that you can tell the viewer.
- Needs to also be technically pleasing.



Documentary Photo Story

- Usually refers to photography that chronicles significant and historical events.
- Typically covered in professional photojournalism.
- Photos that attempt to produce truthful, objective and usually candid photos of a particular subject.



Tips on Creating a Photo Story

- The photographer decides what to photograph and how to photograph it.
- They organize the photos into a specific series or sequence that helps tell a story.
- Also known as a photo essay.

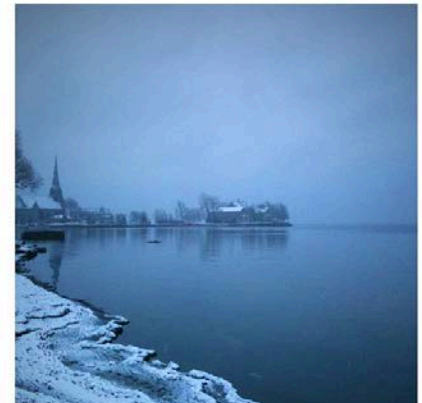
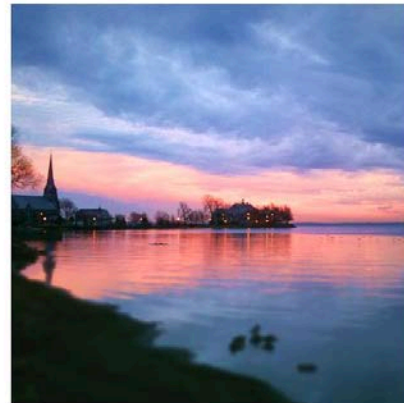
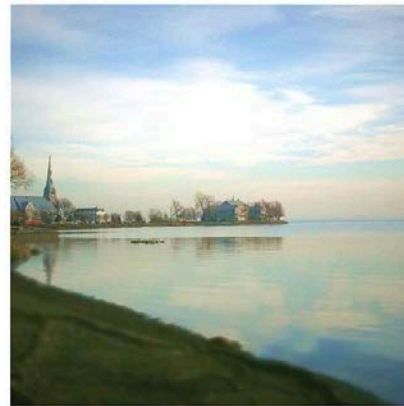
Practice Taking Photographs That Tell a Story

- Take two different photographs from two different angles.
 - Do they tell the same story?
 - How might a photo give a different impression based on a different perspective?



Practice Taking Photographs That Tell a Story

- Take the exact same photograph at different times of the day or year.
 - How does this affect the story?



What to Shoot

- Either think of a story you want to tell or let one evolve on its own.
- Don't be set in your original concept.



Use Your Gut Feeling

- If you think there's something there, there is likely something there.
- Start taking photos until you find direction or purpose.



Take More Photos

- Take advantage of digital and fill a memory card.
- You may end up trashing everything, or you may not.
- Can find shots that complete photo stories.



Ask for Help With Image Selection

- All creative work is personal.
- We see our own mistakes.
- Ask someone for help who has no personal feelings towards the images.



Choose Different Compositions

- Different angles and points of view.
- Photograph cultural markers that tell a story.
- Put a face on the story.
- Include foreground and background subjects.
- Show context.
- Include contrasts.



Single Image Storytelling

- Combine good composition, action and emotions.

Engage with your subject and mix those three elements to get a good photograph.



Single Image Storytelling

- When looking for a story in your photos try different angles.
- Watch things from a different perspective.
- Get low to change your point of view.



The Photo Essay

- Should have a simple but clearly defined flow.
- Like a written essay, it should include a beginning, middle, and an end.
- Each shot should be good enough to be viewed separately.



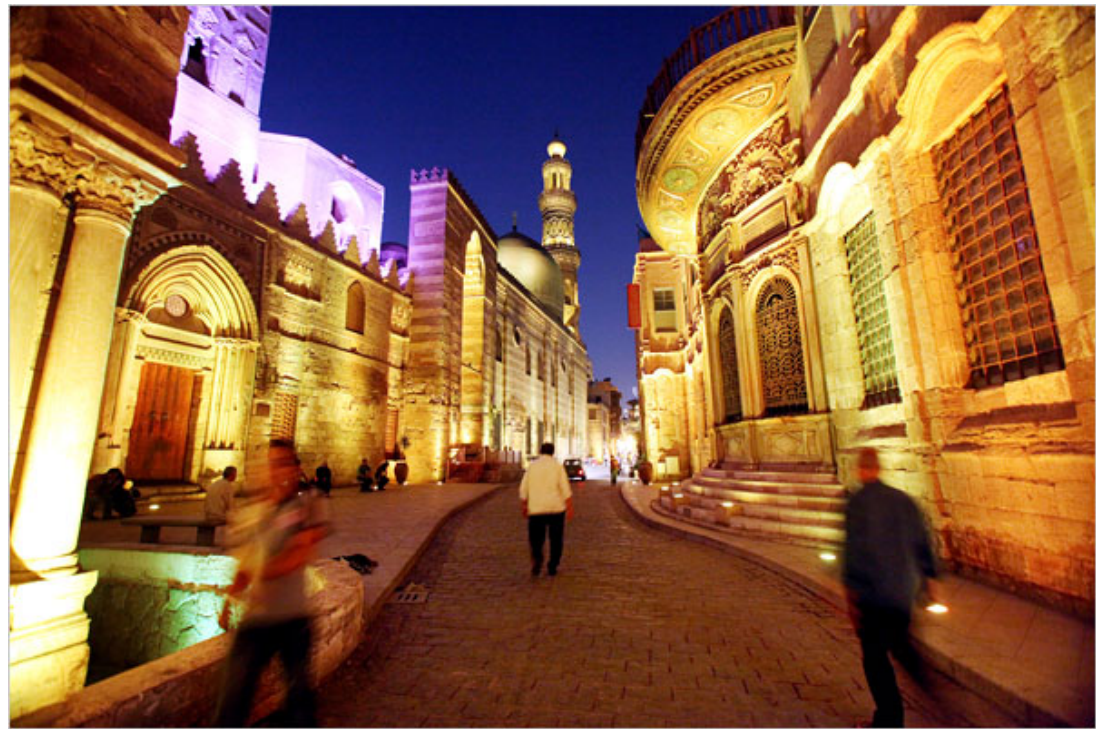
The Hook or Lead Shot

- A photo that grabs you and pulls you into the story/essay.
- Often a creative image that makes the viewer want to see more.
- The literary equivalent is the first few words in a novel.



The Establishing Shot

- A photo that lays visual context to the story.
- Often a wide shot that shows the setting or environment.



The Medium Shot

- Informs the viewer who the characters are and what they are doing.
- Include both the subject and their surrounding.
- Not a detail shot.



The Detail Shot

- These shots add flavour to the story.
- Creates intimacy with the viewer.
- Gives the viewer a sense of place.
- Anchors the story.



The Portrait Shot

- Often a tight portrait or head shot.
- Gives face to your characters.
- Makes the story personal to someone.



The Gesture or Exchange Shot

- An interaction between subjects in the story.
- Usually movement involved in some sort of interchange between the subjects.
- Keeps the essay from becoming a series of portraits.
- Allows viewer to experience life within the essay.



The Closure Shot

- Should always be the final photo in a story.
- It is the parting shot.
- Draws things to an end.
- Provides resolution for the story and puts it to bed.



The Photo Essay

- Does not need to have every one of these shots.
- It should have most, but there are no defined rules.
- The goal is the story, not the process.

“An indicator of whether your photography is good is if you do not need to explain anything. A photograph telling a story does not need to be explained. If you want to make the story more complicated you will need to put more elements in harmony in your frame, it is more complicated but is a challenging experience.”

Photo Story Examples

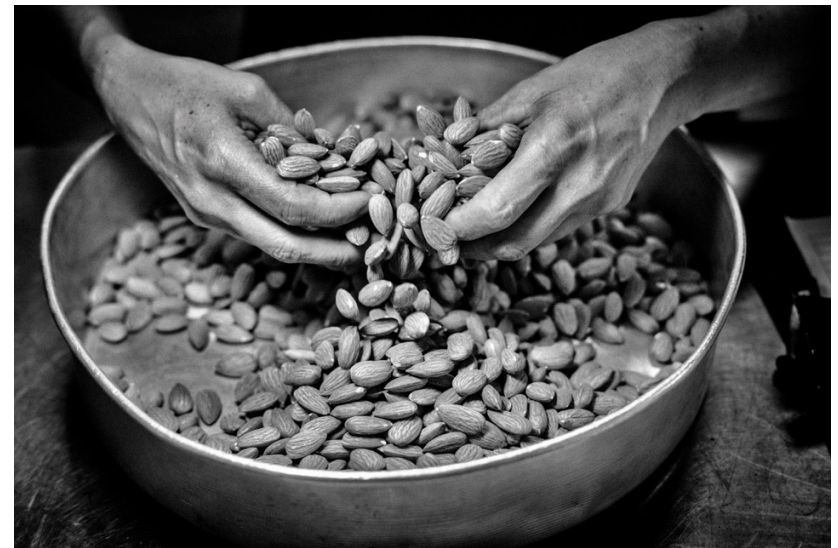


Photo Story Examples



Photo Story Examples



Photo Story Examples

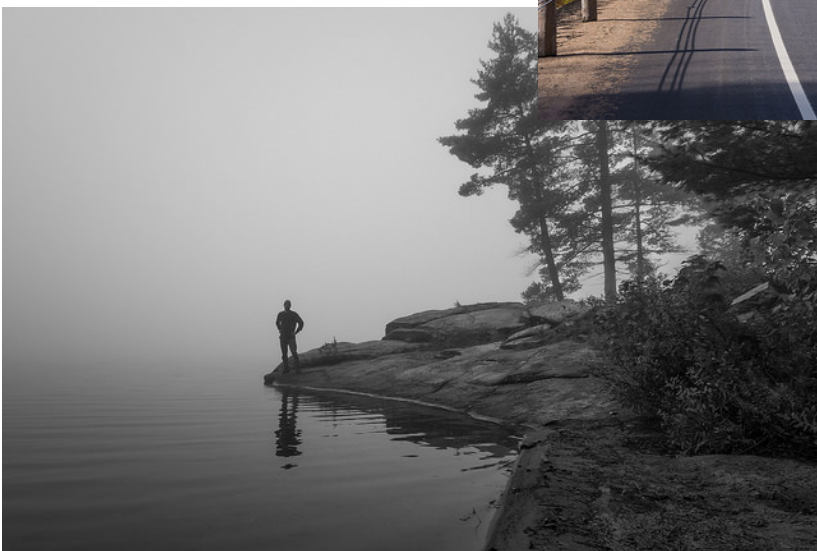


Photo Story Ideas

- Vacation
- Holidays
- Parties and Festivals
- Daily Life
- Food Preparation
- Social Awareness
- Sports Team
- Music Group
- Family

Source & Reference

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The Challenge

- Create a 3-5 shot photo story on a topic of your choosing.
- Submit them for the month end slideshow, and we will view them separately from the other photos.