

What is it?

Why do it?

What makes it artistic and impactful?

How to master it? or try to...



What makes it different from a snapshot?

- Snapshot is primarily about the main subject and not the rest of the image
- Goal of a snapshot is to capture people or places and record events that are personal to the photographer
- Goal is generally not to utilize elements of visual design to create an artistic image

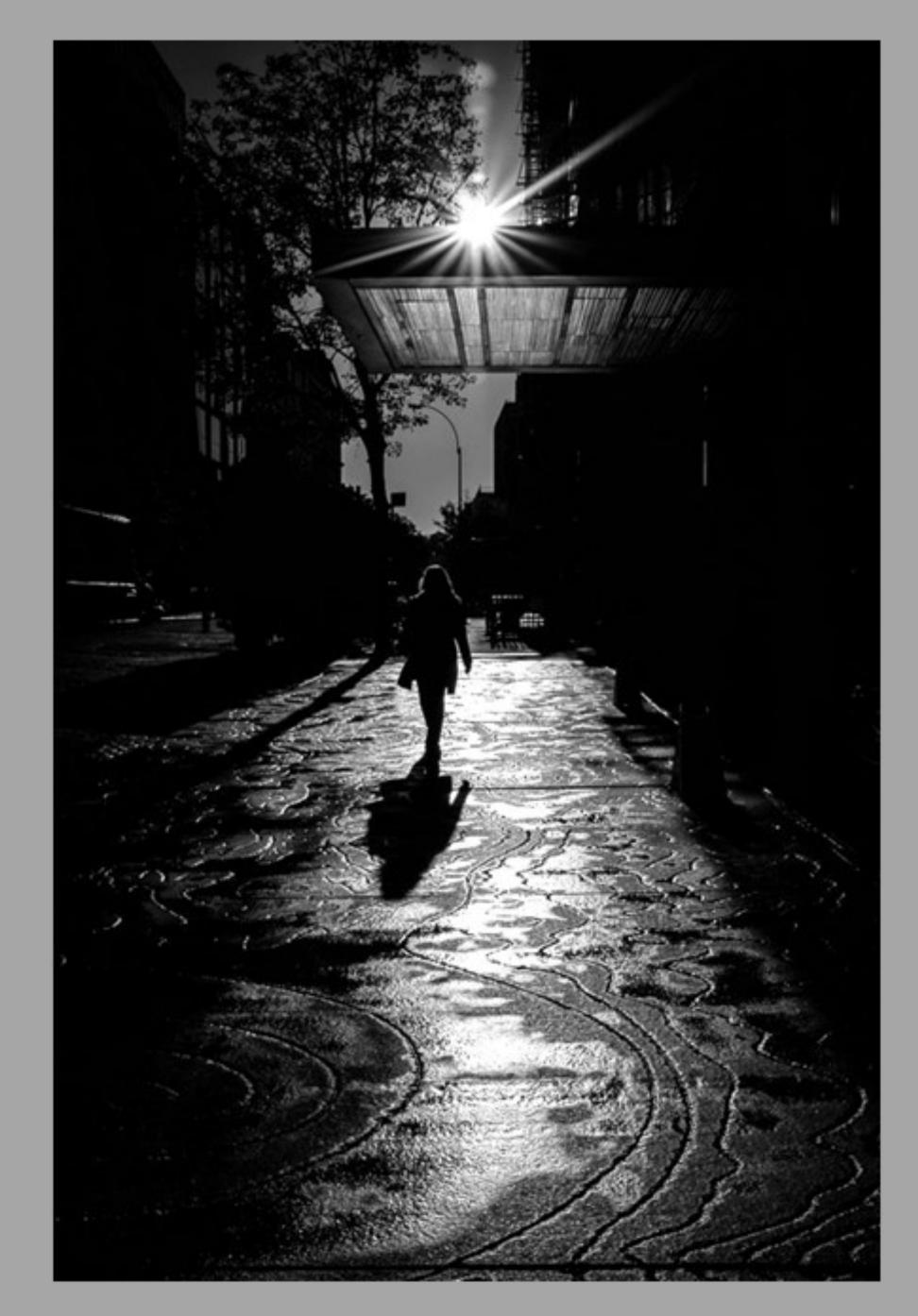




Snapshot? The context provides more of a story



Valerie Jardin





Valerie Jardin

Gesture and Character in Rome







La Quinceañara at Vizcaya in Miami







What makes a good street photo?

They tell a human story that we relate to

Often in a setting that is unfamiliar and yet fascinating

You feel like you are part of the action; a witness

They evoke many different kinds of emotional responses

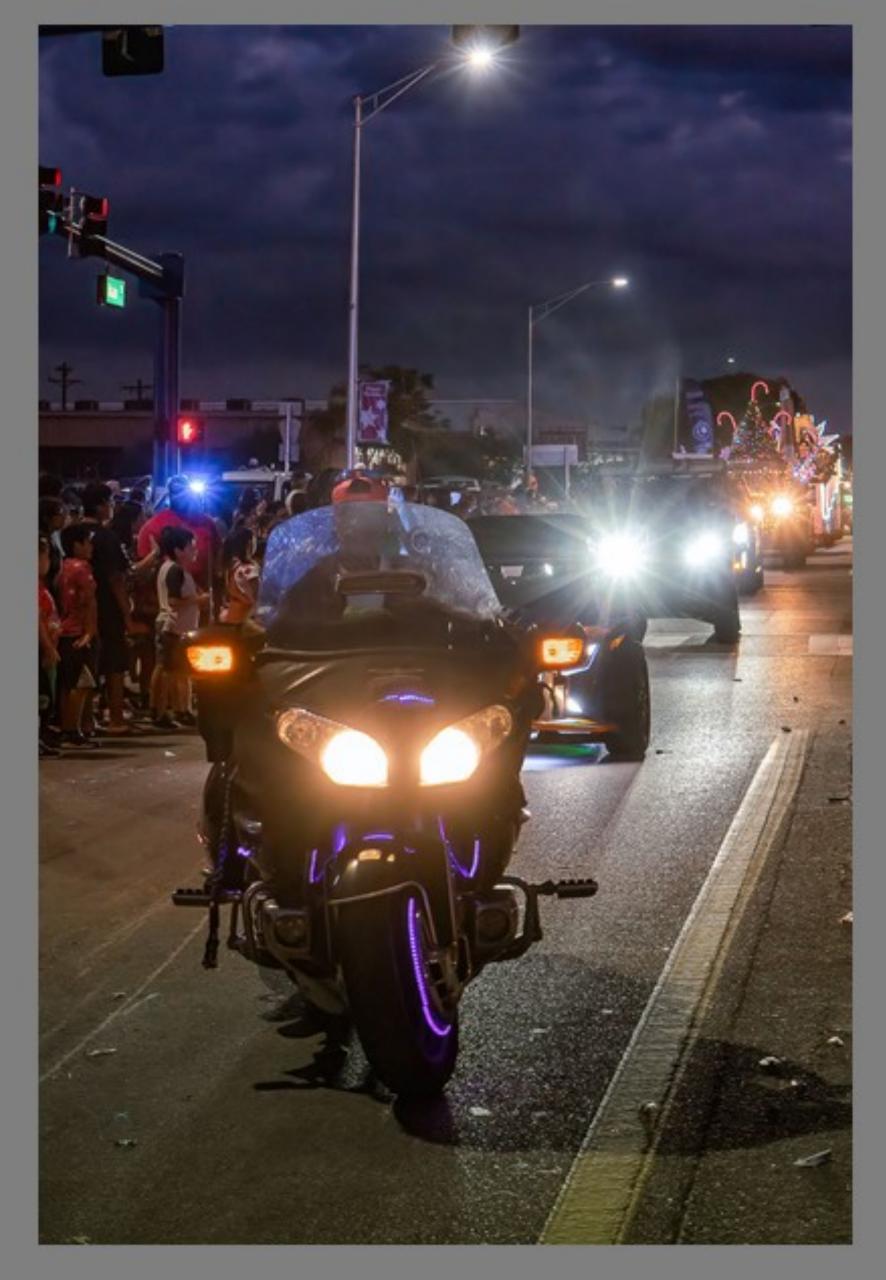
The artistry is often very compelling



Alex Webb in Havana



Parade Action





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From Aristide: There are two ways to take a street photo

"The first is where the photo is completely candid and the subject has no idea that it was taken. [stealth] The other is when a photographer gains the trust of a subject and then they start to ignore the photographer. [interactive]."

"...a talented photographer can be very inconspicuous even if the subject knows they are there and especially when there is a lot of drama going on around them."



What Jay Maisel said about street shooting

He was asked what he looks for when he goes out...

His answer:

"I'm not looking for anything – just trying to stay open to what is in front of me"



HOW TO BE INVISIBLE

Why?

- Preserving the scene as you see it
- Avoiding confrontations
- > Blend in, move slowly, avoid eye contact
- Be a lamppost, wait, and shoot past people
- Work quickly and compose mentally before raising your camera

WHY ARE YOU TAKING MY PICTURE?

Conquer Your Fear of Being Challenged

- Why? You miss a lot of good shots
- Taking photographs in public places is legal in the U.S. and many other places
- People are usually curious and often flattered and rarely offended and mad
- Prepare your answer as to "why" like I'm in a photography class or club, doing homework, working on a project
- Smile and be friendly. If asked, delete the photo



Finding the action...after interacting

This couple in Central Park said it was their first trip to NYC from Texas



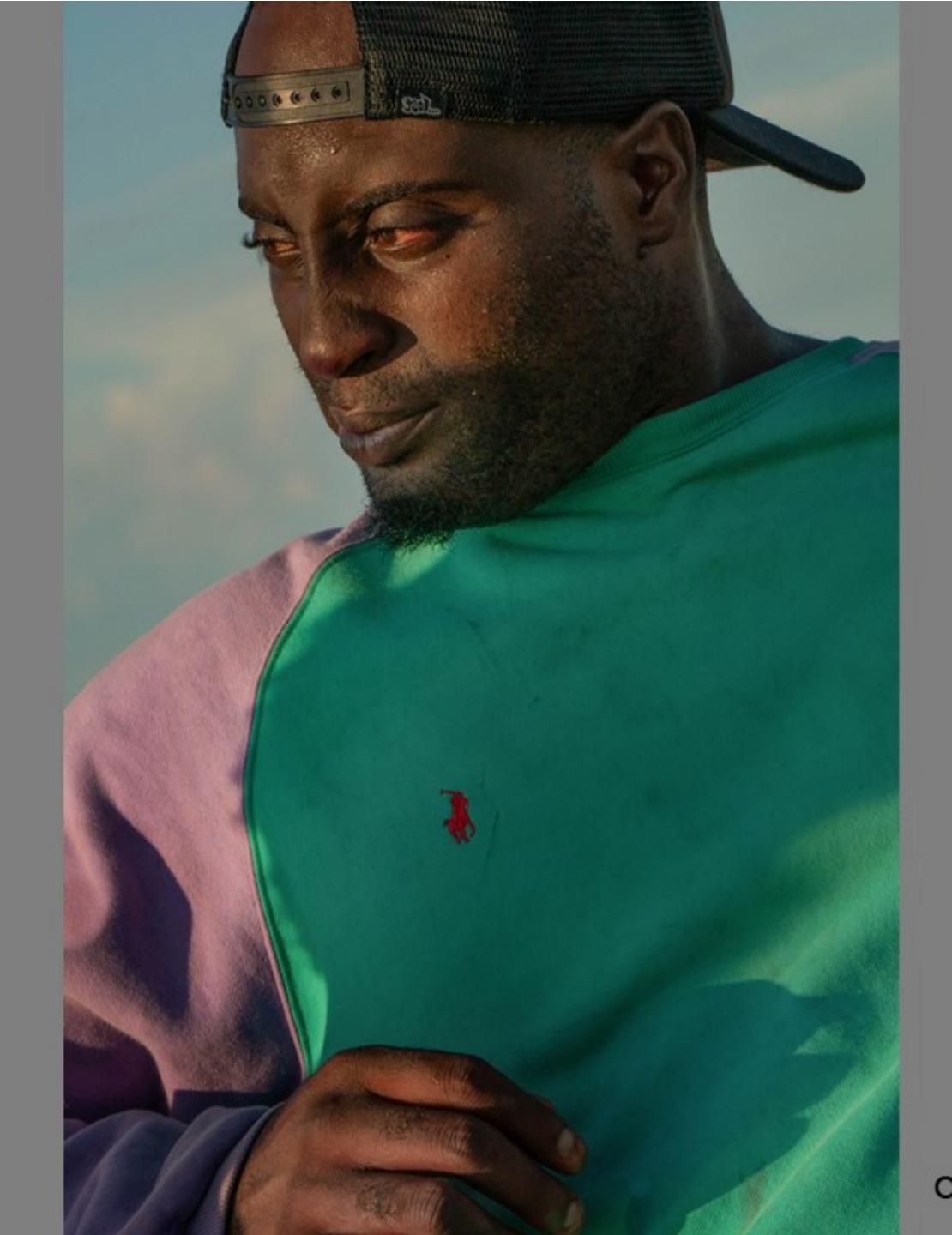




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Street Portraits on the fly...

Shot from the hip walking by



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At night, look for sources of light



Indian Desert Scene by Grace Pui Wan Ho from Malaysia



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Recap: Some characteristics of great street photographers

From the book "Mastering Street Photography" by Brian Duckett:

1. Well-developed observational skills

6. Ability to blend in/look anonymous

2. Patience

7. Anticipation

3. Realistic expectations

8. Fast reactions

4. Curiosity

9. Liking people

5. Confidence and a thick skin

10. Stamina

Gordon Lewis, a street photographer for over 40 years, highlights these in his book:

- Strong composition with a clear subject (harder with street photos)
- The moment is the true subject an unusual action, gesture, facial expression conveying an emotion or story
- Exceptional lighting dramatic quality and direction of light, helps to create a mood: tension, mystery, drama, playful

