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5 things most street photographers do wrong

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#1. Walking too fast.

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#1. Walking too fast.

What I mean by that is that photographers are often in a hurry to cover a lot of ground and just like the fear of not getting to where the photos are, you run the equal risk of passing through where the photos were.

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**#2. Always
looking
forward not
back.**

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#2. Always looking forward not back.

Similar to the problem of moving too quickly through an area, not looking back from time to time risks not seeing the area from a different and sometimes better vantage point.

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#3.
Spending
too little
time in one
area.

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#3. Spending too little time in one area. Sometimes you come to an area that is full of activity and a lot to photograph. It's easy to think that you have the shot and walk away too soon. More shots and possibly better ones may come. Conversely, You may find an area that looks like a great place for something to happen but nothing is. Wait for a while. Why not find the angle, frame the shot and wait for something to happen (don't forget to react to something else that comes along though that may not have gotten the memo to walk into your frame).

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**#4. Wearing
headphones
or being
distracted
while
walking.**

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#4. Wearing headphones. I love music and listen whenever possible. That said, I have been drawn to wonderful scenes because I heard something as I walked. Sometimes it was a few blocks away, sometimes right around a corner, in an alley or even a courtyard. If you can't see it then you will miss it if you remove that one extra sense so many of us take for granted.

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**#5. Not
taking my
workshop.
[Just
kidding.]**

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**#5. Spending
too much time
comparing
yourself to
other
photographers**

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#5. Spending too much time comparing yourself to other photographers.

This one may be less obvious. It's important, I feel, to view the work of the greats and find inspiration wherever you can. It all goes in and mixes with everything else you've ever seen and done. A bit of who you are and how you view the world is added and out comes an image that is yours and yours alone. That's the good part. [con't...]

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The bad comes when you look and judge that you aren't as good as one of the people on Instagram (or anywhere for that matter) and you start doubting the worth of your work (and by extension yourself).

Remember, you aren't anybody but you. The people you admire probably feel bad about their work too (or at least they did at one time). You can admire a style that you don't actually want to reproduce. Your work has validity and it will get better the more you work on it. The longer you make photos the more your individual style will show through. Don't give up, don't feel bad and don't work to please anyone but yourself. In the real world, what does it matter if everyone likes your work if you don't feel true to yourself as the artist.

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**join me on my
Paris Street
Photography
Workshop,
May 5th-9th,
2023**

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