Why You Should Get Close in Street Photography

"If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough." – Robert Capa

Getting closer is a **fundamental principle** in street photography that can transform your work. By stepping in and embracing proximity, you'll create images with more **impact**, **authenticity**, and **raw energy**. Here's why getting close is key to elevating your street photography.

Impact is Important

The best street photographs are those that make a **lasting impact**. When you get closer to your subjects, you fill the frame in a way that creates **intimacy**. A filled frame doesn't mean cramming a million elements into one image—it means including **just enough** to leave a **strong impression** on the viewer.

Why Get Close?

- **Fill the Frame**: A closer perspective brings out the details that capture attention.
- **Create Connection**: Proximity allows the viewer to feel like they're part of the moment.

I've always found that when I get close, my photographs resonate more deeply. It makes the viewer feel **connected** to the scene, as if they're right there in that fleeting moment.

Be Authentic

"Authenticity is important in street photography."

Getting closer to your subjects encourages an **open and honest** approach to making photographs. You don't want to be that person hiding across the street with a telephoto lens, **zooming in** on strangers. Instead, be **in the heat of the action**, showing what life was like in that **exact moment**. Being close allows you to capture life as it unfolds, with an **authenticity** that is hard to achieve from afar.

Why Authenticity Matters:
- It builds **trust** with your subjects.
- It ensures your photographs **feel genuine** and **unposed**.
- It aligns with the **spirit** of street photography—documenting life up close.

By closing the distance, you become a **participant** in the scenes you're capturing, not just a distant observer.

Raw Energy

"Street photographs that evoke raw energy are powerful."

There's a certain **energy** that comes from photographing up close—a **rawness** that captures the life and pulse of the street. To create images that feel **dynamic** and **alive**, you need to **get in close** to your subjects.

Capturing Raw Energy:
- **Focus on details**: People's gestures, the movement of hands and feet, the **gaze in their eyes**.
- **Capture the tension**: Close proximity allows you to photograph those subtle, powerful moments that convey emotion.

Getting close allows you to **hone in** on the little things that make a moment special. It's in these **details** that the true energy of a scene comes through.

Connect with People

"By getting close to your subjects, you can connect with people on a new level."

One of the most rewarding aspects of getting close in street photography is the opportunity to **connect** with people. Don't let the fear of rejection hold you back—instead, **embrace it**! Be **playful** and **engaging** on the street. Sometimes, it's worth starting a conversation to get closer to the moments you want to capture.

Benefits of Connecting with Strangers:

- **Build rapport** with your subjects.
- Create photographs that are **more personal** and **emotionally rich**.
- Return home not just with successful images, but with **shared memories** and **stories**.

You don't always have to be a **fly on the wall**. By interacting with the people you photograph, you bring a **human touch** to your work that's difficult to achieve from a distance.

Conclusion: Embrace Proximity for Better Photos

Getting closer in street photography isn't just about physical distance—it's about creating images that **connect**, **engage**, and **resonate**. By embracing proximity, you'll capture the **essence of a moment**, with all its energy and emotion. So, take a step forward, hold your camera with confidence, and **close the gap** between you and your subjects. The results might surprise you, and you'll walk away with **better photographs**, new experiences, and perhaps even a few new friends.

Happy shooting, and remember—sometimes the best photos are just a little bit closer.