

Light Painting

Stage 1 Photography Amy Gu Year 11

Photographer's work analysis

• Lightmark

Lightmark is the work of German couple photographers Cenci Goepel and Jens Warnecke, who specialize in finding hidden landscapes that have not yet been captured and depicting them as light paintings. Long exposures of up to an hour are required to create the torch and very low ambient light is needed to illuminate the landscape. They use digital medium format cameras for their photography, focusing on photographic techniques rather than post-processing.

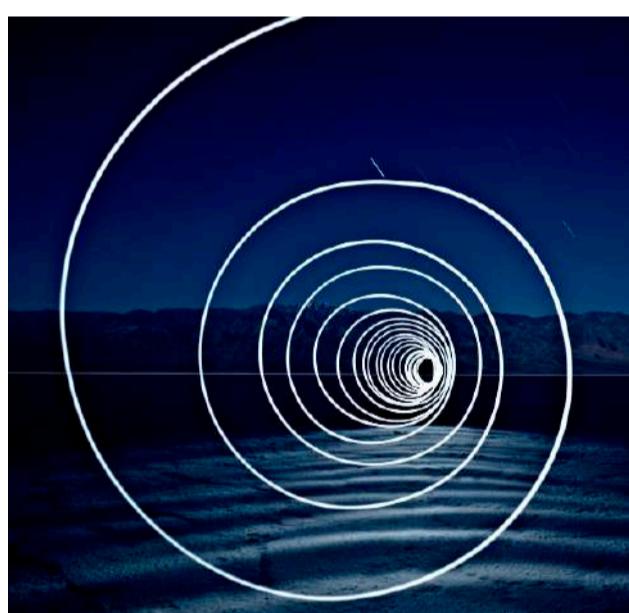
http://lightmark.de/EN_Im_info.pdf

<https://www.lightmark.de/overview.htm>



Lightmark No.122 Aldeyjarfoss, Sprengisandur, Iceland

This photograph was taken at the Aldeyjarfoss waterfall in Iceland, where they used long exposures to capture the dreamy waterfall, which meant slowing down the shutter in the camera to achieve a special photographic effect. The painting of light is also used as a means of creating the unique lines and stars and contrasts with water. It is remarkable how well the light painting blends in with the scenery, with none of it standing out in the photograph, creating a harmonious scene. The use of long exposures also adds clarity to the evening sunset and all elements of the photograph are in wonderful balance.



Lightmark No.113 Bad Water Bassin, Death Valley, California

Taken in the Bad Water Basin in Death Valley, California, the photographer used torch light to paint a connected circle, giving focus to an ordinary photograph, while the reflections on the ground appear to have a surprising effect. The camera's long exposure also captures the shooting stars in the sky, which along with the blue tones of the picture gives it a mysterious visual feel.



Lightmark No.29 Harz, Germany

This photograph was taken in the Harz Mountains in Germany, with the camera selecting a slow shutter and a small aperture to achieve the final light painting effect, drawing the line connecting the two stars and creating a beautiful atmosphere for the photograph. The back shadow of the main figure and the bright light reflecting off the ground make for a very interesting photo highlight, and combined with the melancholy blue color, the photo conveys an overall sense of tranquility.

• Denis Smith

Denis Smith got stuck in a rut for a while and moved unexpectedly from New Zealand to South Australia to start his photography journey, where he would spend a lot of time away from the city to create his work, and now he has his own video and photography production company.

<https://www.denissmith.com.au/meet-denis>



The photograph is from Denis Smith's initial series of balls of light, where he used light painting to draw lines that interlocked to form a circle. He may have used a tripod to help hold the camera in place during the long exposures and checked the weather before shooting outdoors at night in order to get an evenly lit image. The photographs contain dead and drab marine animals, which contrasts strongly with the brightly colored light painting, creating an impactful visual experience that conveys the idea of protecting marine ecology and animals.



The photographs are from the Freestyle series, which is named as such because the pictures are created from fluid light painting movements and are not part of the light sphere or liquid field. The photographs are single exposures and do not include compositing or extensive post-production, presumably use a wide-angle lens to allow the camera to capture more of the scene. To achieve the light painting effect in the shutter B or T doors may have been chosen for the shot and in order to capture the star trails it had to be in an area free of stray light, the slightest stray light would have caused glare in the image, which was handled very well in this case. The red explosion-like light painting is creative, contrasting with the night, giving a unique visual experience and a stunning effect. In addition, this photograph is composed in rule of thirds, placing the subject in the center of the photograph so that the viewer can immediately focus on it.



The photographs are from the Light Portrait series, where the photographer has combined light painting techniques to create a distinctive visual effect on the people. Still shot in the dark, the photograph uses the triangle method of composition, placing the subject in the middle of the frame, while the blue in the foreground contrasts with the yellow in the background to create a strong visual impact. The light painting is still done by reducing the shutter speed to achieve a long exposure, where the blue and red lines meet and combine with the person to create a coherent scene.

Shooting Plan

Because of the online classes caused by the epidemic, there may be some limitations when doing the shooting myself, for example I don't have a tripod and have to use other tools that can keep the camera steady to help. I have also purchased a handheld light wand which can be color-changed in anticipation of the unique effects that can be rendered.

I am looking forward to the beauty of geometric shapes or lines that can be drawn with light painting and would like to take on the challenge of combining light painting techniques with portraits. At the same time, when doing a shoot, it is important to remember to combine and apply the knowledge

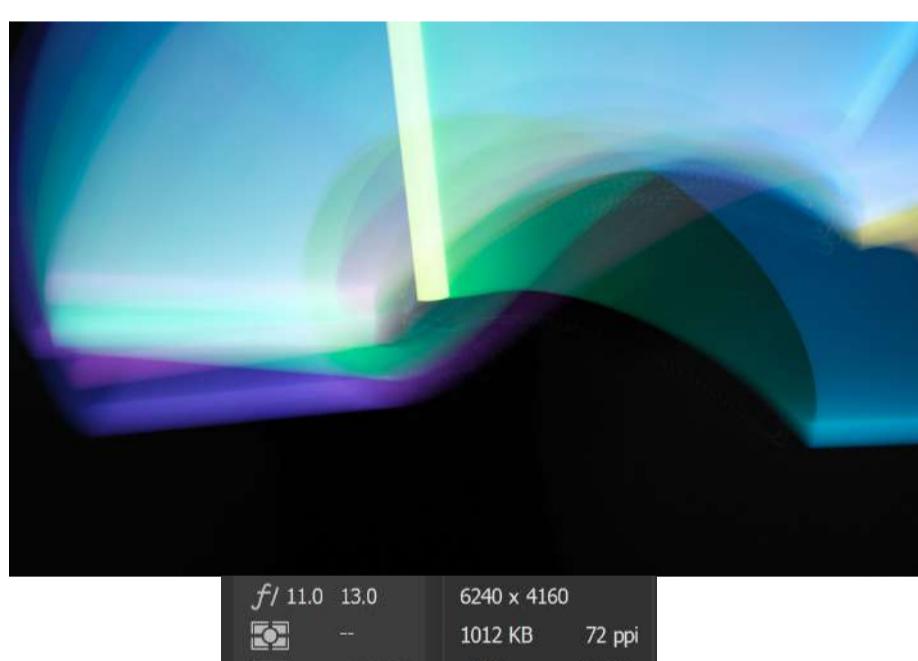


(Handheld Light Wand)

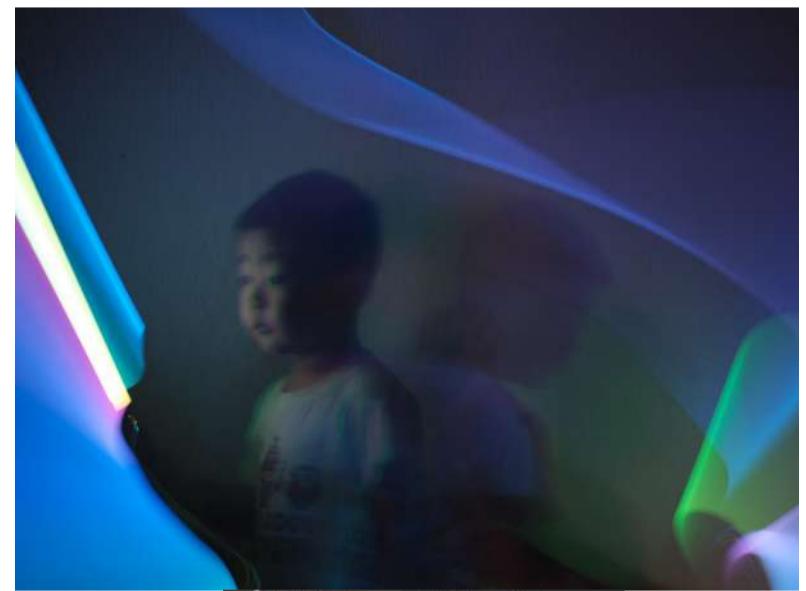
Shooting

My own shoot #1

First, I tried shooting in a room where I could easily get the ambient light to almost near total darkness. Instead of a tripod, I used a stable table to hold the camera in place, then chose the right angle and illuminated the location I wanted to shoot from with a light point. For the camera shutter I chose to shoot with the B mode, keeping the aperture above F8 and adjusting the ISO to around 100. Shooting with the B mode gives me more freedom to choose the timing of the shutter speed, but there is also the disadvantage that the photographer needs to keep pressing the shutter button, so I invited my grandmother and brother to help me with the light painting.



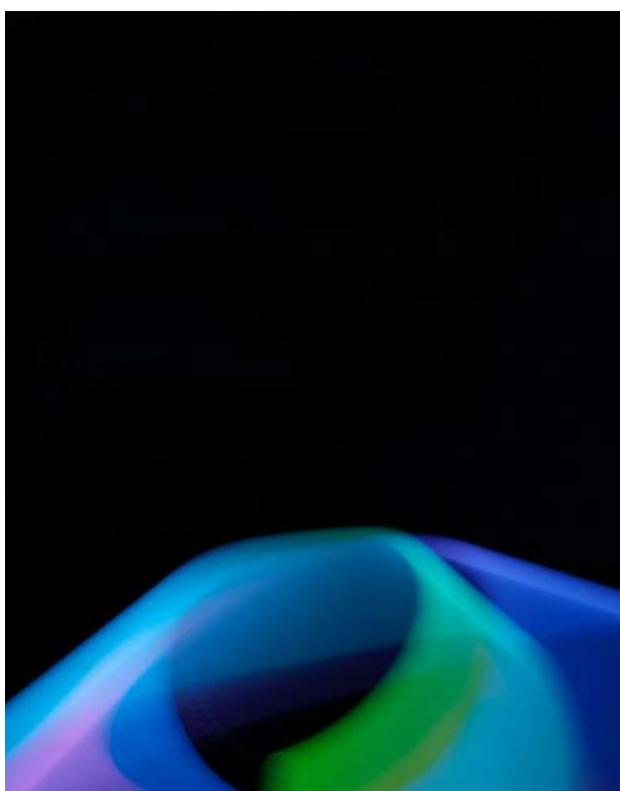
f/ 11.0 13.0 6240 x 4160
-- 1012 KB 72 ppi
AWB ISO 160 sRGB RGB



f/ 9.0 12.0 6240 x 4160
-- 5.27 MB 72 ppi
AWB ISO 160 sRGB RGB

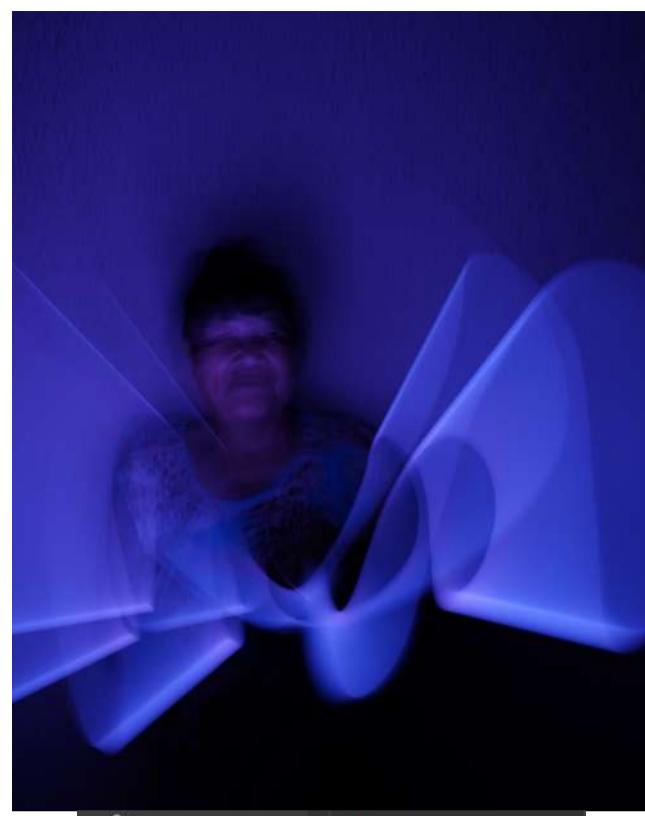
This photo was my first attempt at light painting and I turned on the automatic color change function of the light wand to create a distinctive effect. The shape of the semi-circle was drawn, but perhaps because of the difference in force between the left and right sides the shape was not drawn accurately, resulting that the final product was a little messy. Also, the focus is still lacking and needs further improvement.

The model for this photograph is my brother, who was also responsible for the random waving of the light wand for the light painting, and I enjoyed working with him. Because he doesn't get to paint as you instruct him, the photo is very random, but that's one of the advantages, unexpected surprises can occur. On the right side of the photo I think the finish is really great, the colors are very well coordinated and the shapes are perfect, there is an aurora borealis feel to them. However, on the right side as he did not move the light wand for a long time, it left residual shadows and made the picture look a bit messy. Although he moved around during the shot, the final effect is still well rendered, creating a mysterious effect instead. Also compared to the previous photo, this one is less dark in the figure and the face can be clearly seen, but the background can also be faintly visible, probably due to the ambient light being a little brighter as a result of the curtains not being closed properly.



<i>f</i> / 9.0 2.0	3037 x 4252
<input type="checkbox"/> --	482 KB 72 ppi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB	ISO 160
sRGB	RGB

I have improved a lot in this image, the light painting is very coherent so it doesn't look cluttered in the photo, and attention was paid to the composition during the shoot. Another advantage is that the colors are in harmony with each other, the combination of purple, green and blue gives the picture a peaceful feel. The light wand painting creates shapes that are irregular and are obtained by constant rotation, emphasizing the sense of mystery.



<i>f</i> / 11.0 12.0	4160 x 6240
<input type="checkbox"/> --	4.18 MB 72 ppi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB	ISO 160
sRGB	RGB

This was my first portrait combined with light painting, the model was my grandmother who was also responsible for drawing the shapes with a light wand. It doesn't look really well, much less than I expected and too dark on the person, this issue needs to be figured out and improved. As she had a wobble in the process it resulted in heavy shadows in the final result and could have been enhanced in the composition. However, I think this one is quite good in the shape of the light painting, creating irregular lines that merge with the main purple color of the photo to give it a mysterious feel.

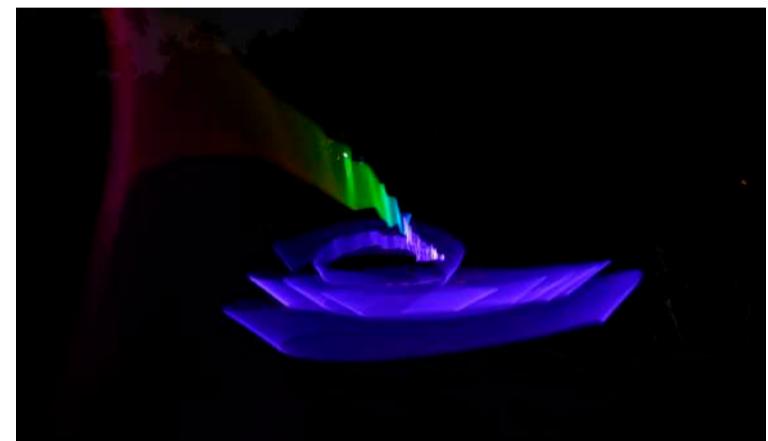
My own shoot #2

For this shoot I wasn't confined to indoors, I invited my friend to my yard where there was more space for us to light paint and thus create better work. For the camera settings this time I chose M mode, where I could set the camera shutter to delay time, which would prevent camera shake when the shutter button was pressed, and this also allowed me to leave the camera to work on the light painting as well. Also adjusted to manual focus, keeping the ISO at around one hundred and still using the table as my tripod.



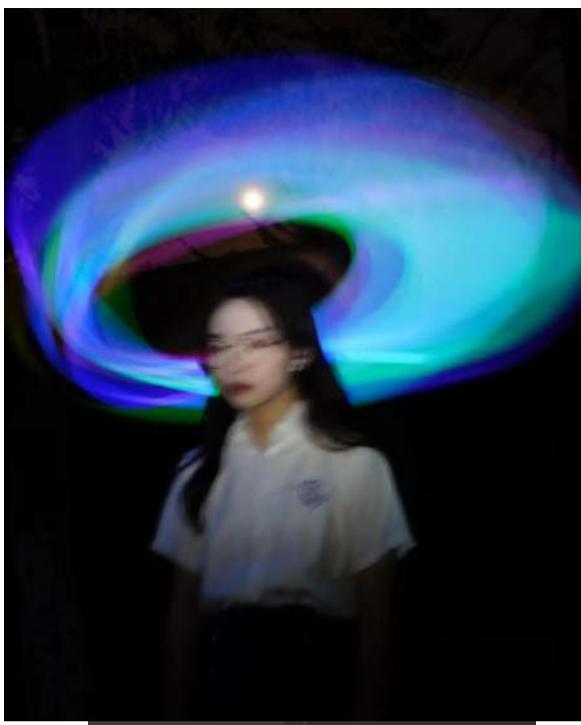
<i>f</i> / 13.0 20.0	1616 x 1080
<input type="checkbox"/> --	256 KB 350 ppi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB	ISO 100
sRGB	RGB

In this photograph, I chose to use a single color for the light painting, the layers and connected circles add a special atmosphere to the photograph, the beauty of this repetition expressing a distinctive mood. And the expressive purple gives the photograph a sense of mystery that hits the viewer's eye. The contrast between the light and dark colors adds to the dreamy atmosphere of the photograph.



<i>f</i> / 13.0 30.0	1616 x 1080
<input type="checkbox"/> --	231 KB 350 ppi
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB	ISO 100
sRGB	RGB

The colorful light painting gives a unique and mysterious atmosphere, and the almost total darkness provides good conditions for this shot. 30 seconds shutter speed gave me plenty of time to paint the light, and I ran around with the light painting wand to get the final result. The colors of the light were in perfect harmony, the transition was natural, because I kept running again there were no residual shadows and the light was smooth throughout.



f/ 13.0 15.0 1616 x 1080
-- 244 KB 350 ppi
AWB ISO 100 sRGB RGB

Learning from my previous experience with dark faces, I prepared a torch to hit the model's face with light during the shoot, but there was a flaw that only the face was lit but the body was all black. I wore all black clothes during the shoot based on advice from the internet so that there would be no reflections and stood behind the model to repeat the circle of light painting. Also, I used the rule of thirds in the composition, placing the subject in the middle of the photo, which allows the viewer to focus more on it. Perhaps because the table was unstable or the model moved, there was a blurring of the figures in the final work, but this accidentally created another sense of enigma. It is also worth mentioning that this photograph was taken at the time of the Chinese Hungry Ghost Festival, similar to Halloween, which adds to the eerie atmosphere of this photograph. However, the background is somewhat brighter in the back, so it seems that the background is visible in the light painting.

My own shoot #3

For this shoot I decided to challenge myself to go somewhere with brighter ambient light, and I borrowed my friend's Sony a7m3 camera and tripod for a new experiment. We ended up in a park where we could capture the bridge as a backdrop. The camera settings were still in M mode and autofocus, with sensitivity around one hundred, while the aperture was adjusted according to the brightness.



f/ 22.0 25.0 1616 x 1080
-- 697 KB 350 ppi
AWB ISO 100 Adobe RGB RGB

The effect is created by running back and forth with a light painting wand, the colors in the light painting are also well processed and the street lamps give off a star like light, conveying an overall sense of harmoniousness. The long shutter speed on this one gave me more time to create the perfect light painting pattern. The use of leading lines also allows the viewer to see as far as possible. However, one drawback is that the photo lacks a subject, which makes it look a little too empty.



f/ 14.0 25.0 1187 x 793
-- 176 KB 350 ppi
AWB ISO 100 Display P3 RGB

This photograph was taken on the terrace next to the park, which has an apartment building in the background. The highlight of the photograph is the contrast between the light painting and the lights in the windows of the building in the background, but still without being obtrusive, creating a harmonious effect. The use of negative space in the composition of the photograph enhances the subject and helps to create a mood for the image, which in turn stimulates the viewer's imagination. The colors of the light painting are also a feature, with the reds, blues and greens linking very well and echoing the colors of the light in the background.



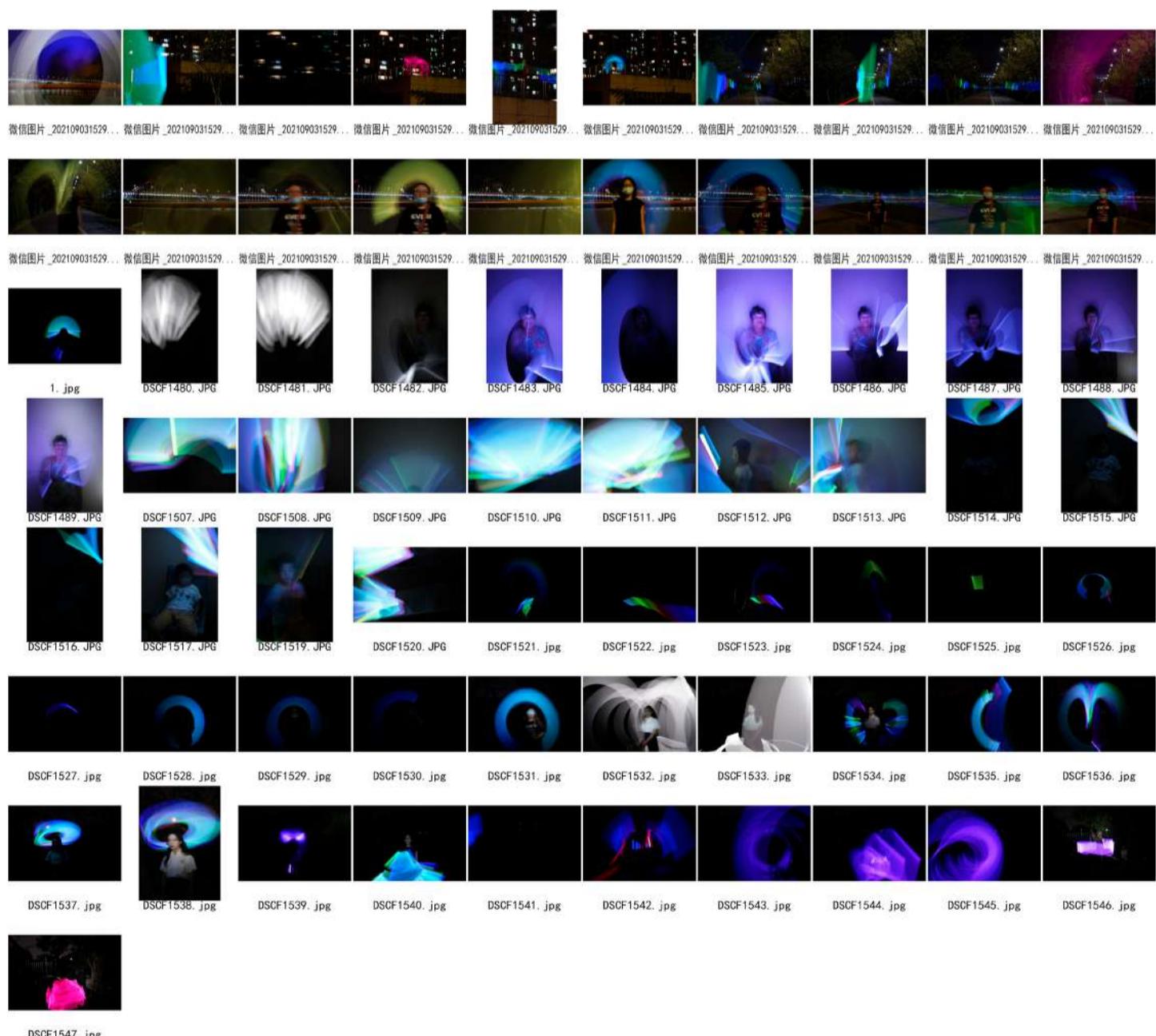
f/ 22.0 20.0 1616 x 1080
-- -- 312 KB 350 ppi
AWB ISO 100 Adobe RGB RGB

Compared to the other portraits taken, this one is much improved to a great extent and becomes much sharper. The bridge in the background gives the photo a much better impact and the light on the bridge echoes the light of the light painting. The shape of the light painting is rotated around the figure, but perhaps because the ambient light is so bright the color of the painting is a little too paler. The composition of the photograph is rule of thirds, placing the figure in the middle of the photograph to focus the viewer's attention. The shot was taken in a darker area and maybe the lighter color of the outfit would have been more prominent and worked better. I also wanted to use this photo to convey a reminder to wear a mask.

Reflection

After this learning and shooting on my own, I have learnt how to do light painting photography and have gained a better understanding of my camera's settings, which has made me more familiar with it. Although the end result may not be as good as I thought it would be, but it has progressed a lot. Light painting photography requires a lot of patience and only a few photos out of several may be chosen for use. The lack of tools used resulted in some repetition of colours in the light painting and the lack of a tripod may have blurred the photos. However, it was still a very valuable experience and hopefully the next assignment will be better and better with the experience learned from the outings and portraits.

Contact sheet



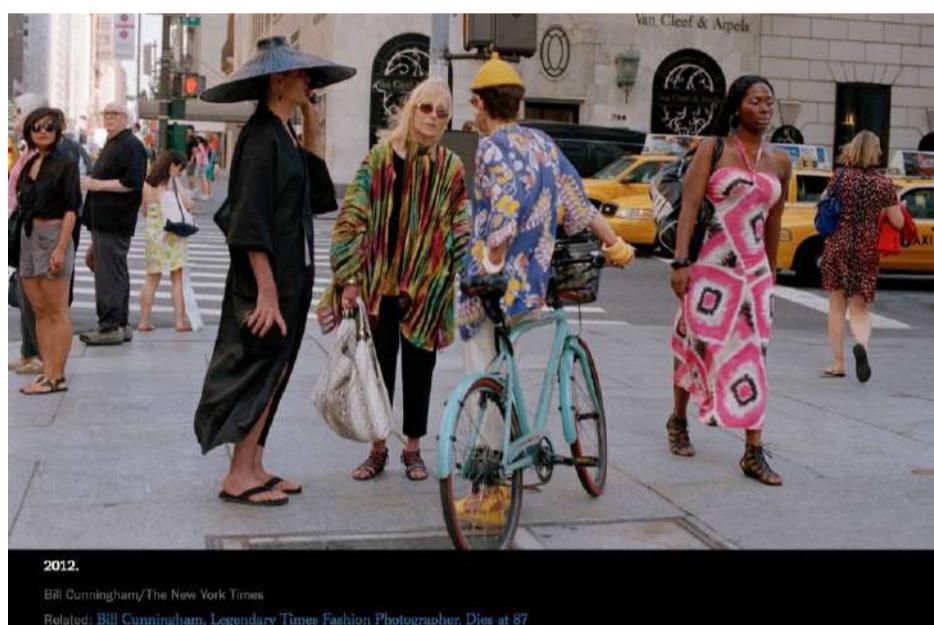
STAGE 1—PHOTOGRAPHY

‘CAPTURE THE MOMENT’

Amy Gu Year 11

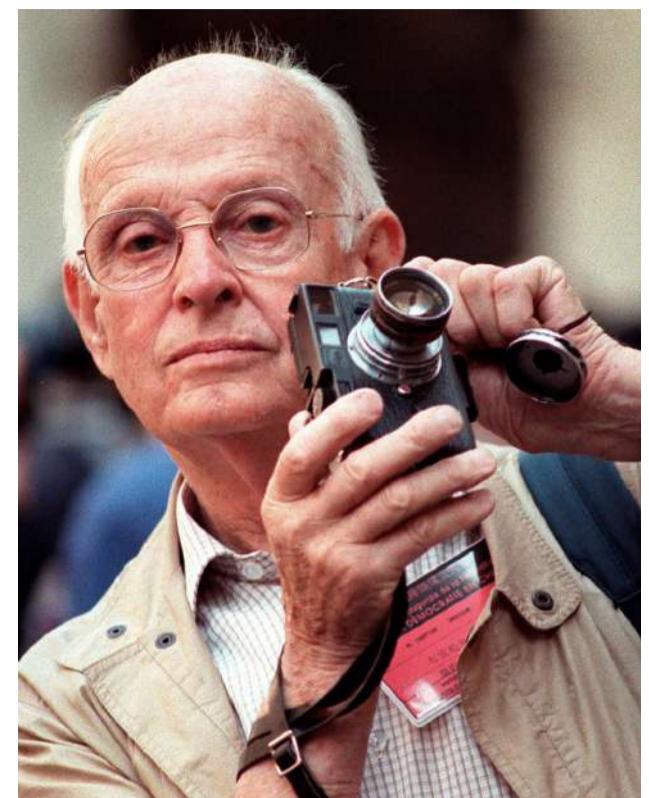


Inspiration page



Photographer Brief

Henri Cartier-Bresson was a French photographer who was born in August 1908 and died in August 2004 at the age of 96. His theory of the “aesthetics of the moment” is said to have influenced media and photography worldwide, creating Magnum, the world’s most influential and longest-running photographic agency, and being regarded as one of the top ten contemporary photographers in the world for capture photography. During his career as a photographer for over 40 years, Cartier-Bresson travelled constantly around the world. From 1932 to 1934, he travelled all over the Mediterranean coast, Mexico and the United States. However, there was nothing compulsive about his travels and he made it clear that he wanted to move slowly, to “live by the rules” in each country, allowing him to be fully immersed in his environment. His style captures the sense of unreality in life in a subtle way. As a child he was already learning the secrets of the simple “brownie” snapshot camera. But his first serious interest in the media came around 1930, when he saw the work of two of the 20th century’s leading photographers, Eugène Atget and Man Ray, and bought his first 35mm Leica three years later. Bresson’s use of photographic equipment was minimal, which he attributed to his realistic style and his desire not to draw attention to himself. His approach is natural and realistic, with photographs that do not rely on specialised equipment or techniques, for example he never uses additional light sources like flash. He always tries to minimise subjectivity and bring to life the objective moment. The last thing I found most interesting was that he had also been to China before, and twice, with exactly ten years between them, in 1948 and 1958. This can be contrasted with my current photographs of China in 2021, and the clash of photographs would be fascinating.



<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/dec/23/henri-cartier-bresson-the-decisive-moment-reisued-photography>

<https://aboutphotography.blog/blog/2019/9/30/behind-the-gare-saint-lazare-by-henri-cartier-bresson-1932>

Photographer's work analysis



[Rue Mouffetard, Paris]

This is one of Cartier-Bresson's most famous portraits, in which a boy returns from buying wine for his father with great gusto. Carrying two large bottles of wine, he walks home with a brisk gait, as if he has accomplished a glorious and difficult task. The smugness of the boy's look is a lovely expression of teenage innocence. Even as the girls next to him look on, and some even make fun of him, he strides on with his head held high, full of the optimism of life. The joyfulness of the photographs can also be conveyed to the viewer, leaving people in a happy and cheerful mood. Although the subject matter of the photograph is not significant, but his use of the camera to capture the boy's expressions and gestures in just the right moment, expressing the emotions in a realistic way, demonstrates his superb capture technique. The colors of the photograph are black and white, adding contrast to the image, while short depth of field makes boy in focus and girls blurred. The composition is chosen in rule of thirds, placing the boy in the center, all of which serve to focus the viewer's attention on the subject. The picture was taken by the photographer's SLR camera and in the 1950s, when there were not many editing tools available, so it is presumed to be seen as a pure photograph.



[The Coronation of George VI]

This photograph was taken in 1936 at the coronation of George VI of England. While most photographers around the world at the time were focused on the magnificent guard of honor, Bresson was different in that he also noticed the crowds of people on the road. The man in the photograph was so sleepy and tired from being out late at night “occupying his seat” that he could not support himself and fell asleep in a pile of newspapers before the guard of honor arrived. This is a style that is characteristic of Bresson’s ability to find interesting shots of ordinary people in their lives. The colors are still black and white, but the figures in black suits in white newspapers are still contrasted in colour to stand out, and the contrast between the sleeping man and the crowd sitting above watching intently conveys a strong sense of interest. Although the people on the viewing platform are standing or sitting in different positions, they are facing the same way to convey a sense of unity and structure. The composition is still in rule of thirds, but the difference is that the focal point is placed at the bottom of the picture, where the color divide is a good way of conveying the structure of the image.



[Behind the Gare Saint Lazare]

This photograph is an iconic masterpiece in Bresson’s art of capture and is a perfect example of what he considered to be a “decisive moment”. The first thing to notice about this photograph is the man jumping in the foreground and his shadow underwater, which have a strong symmetry that gives the photograph a harmonious visual experience. Secondly, on closer inspection one notices that the figure of the man happens to resemble the jumping woman in the poster behind him, and this echoing of one another adds to the interest of the picture. At the same time the photographer has perfectly captured the tension caused by the man almost touching the water in this dynamic photograph, where the viewer’s mind will be thinking about what is about to happen and anticipating it, but the image is frozen in time to stop the action in its place, a special effect that enhances the photograph’s scope for thought. The colors of the image are kept black and white, which although seemingly monochromatic, allows for a more imaginative and better visual artistic expression. The composition is in rule of thirds, placing the figure on the right side of the photo and leaving the sky white, while the house behind provides stability to the leaping figure.

Pre-shoot planning

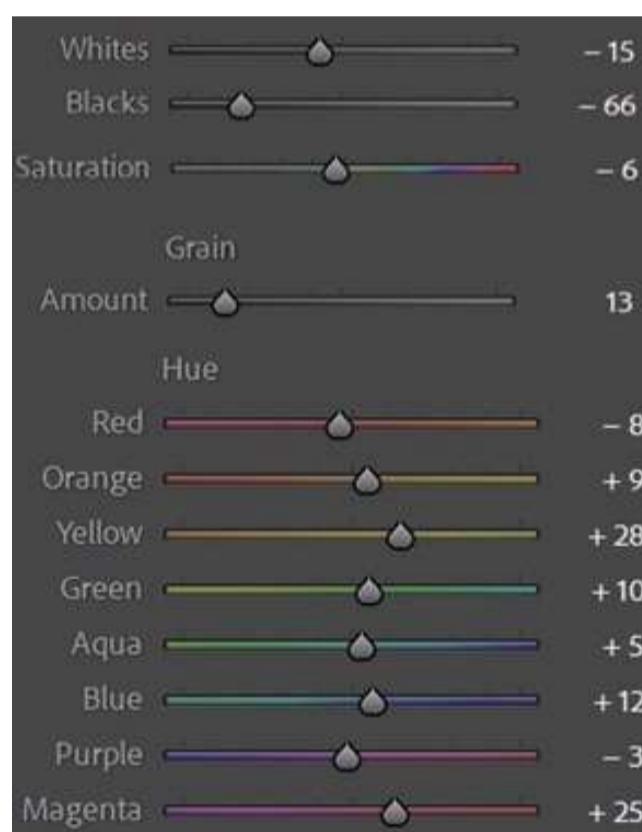
The most important thing to remember when taking these types of snapshots is to have the camera with you at all times so you don’t miss any moments. It is also essential to get out more often and not hesitate to capture moments with your camera. On the camera settings you need to select for autofocus and auto mode in order to have fewer errors that lead to bad final shots. When I’m out shooting, I need to be keenly observant and think carefully about composition. As you can see from the inspiration page above most of the photos are in black and white, they will convey more of a sense of story and try this more in post-production. Humanities photography has always been an area of interest to me and I hope I can capture the “decisive moments” in this assignment too!

First time out shooting



In this part I will take you to those Chinese cities I have visited and will have a comparison with one of Bresson's works for different times in China. Let's get started!

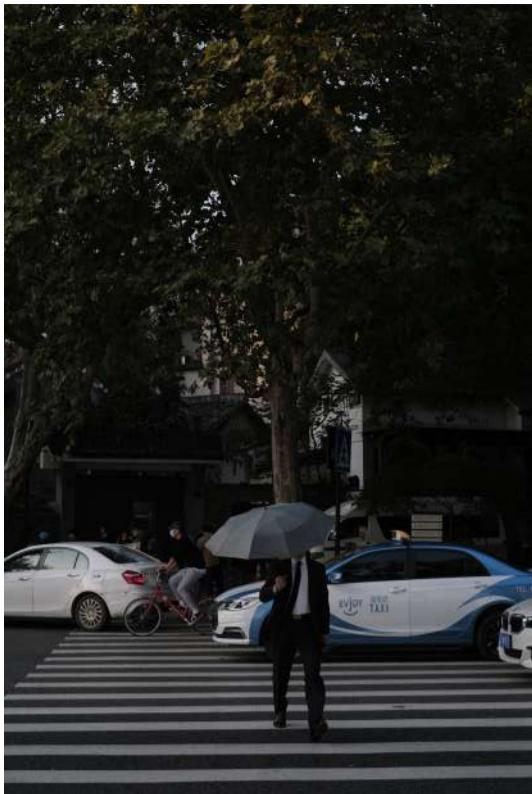
(Contact sheet)



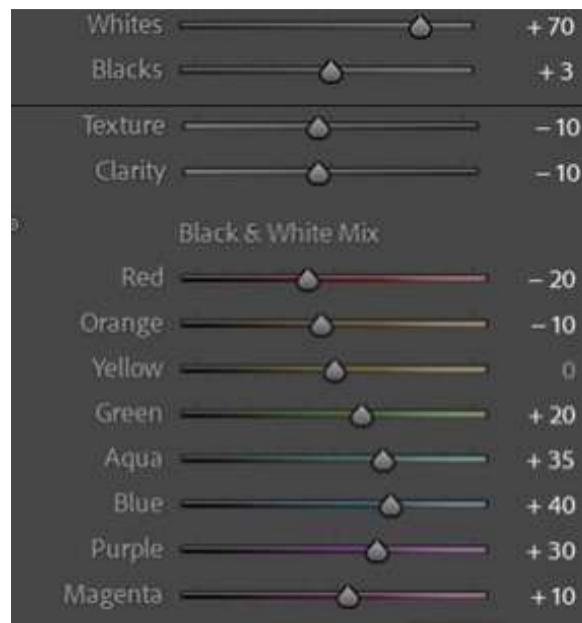
(Lightroom cropping and toning)



This photograph was taken in the Imperial Palace in Beijing, China, where one of the figures is on a ladder carrying out maintenance on the building, while the other two are on the ground holding the ladder. The reason I captured this moment was because the Imperial Palace is a very ancient building, dating back to 1420, when it was used as a royal court. However, as history has changed and people are now free to go in and visit, I found it very interesting to see the shift in time. I also thought the modern maintenance workers in the picture, who are preserving the old building were remarkable and worthy of attention. In the post-production process, I mainly deepened the red color of the buildings, which made the color contrast between the background and the people stronger and set the mood for the photo. The composition is in rule of thirds, placing the figures in the center of the photo so that the viewer can see the focus at a glance.



(Original image)



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

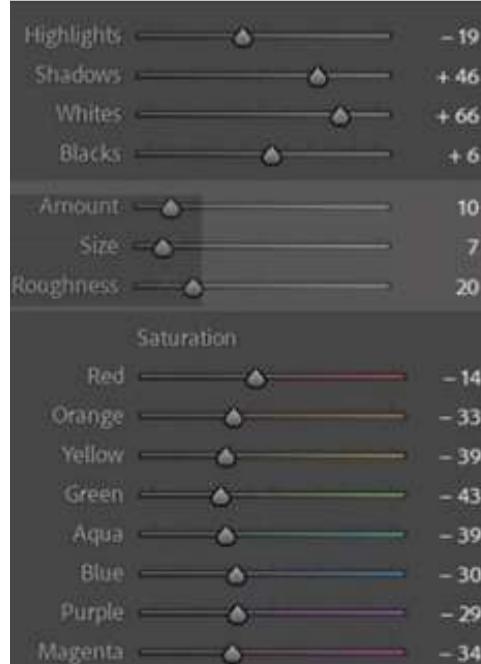


Final image

The photograph was taken in Shanghai on a road with a modern and cosmopolitan feel. The flash points are the tie that just happens to be blown up by the wind, the face covered by the umbrella and the pose that is walking forward, this capture of the moment gives the image a strong sense of dynamism. Also adding the effect of black and white, which removes the distraction of other colors, allows the viewer to focus on the picture and adds a story to it. The contrast between the color of the white car in the background and the figure in the black suit is also very well handled, adding a sense of space and visual expression to the image. The composition of the photograph is divided into thirds, placing the main figure on the left and leaving the rest blank, leaving more space for the viewer's imagination.



(Original image)



(Lightroom toning)



Final image

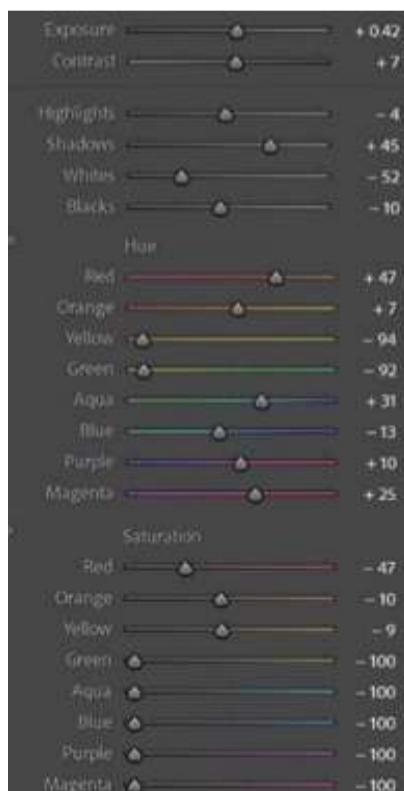
This image was taken in the streets of Shanghai, but it doesn't have a very modern feel to it, which is one of the things I love about the city, because it has both high-rise buildings and retro architecture. When I took this photo, I just turned my head to look at the scene and immediately lifted my camera. The light and shadow reflected in the sunlight and the person riding the bicycle happened just right, like they were specially prepared for this photo. In handling the photograph in post, I didn't adjust the composition too much as I felt the original was already very well done, but I did brighten it up and add warm tones to give the final result a relaxed and bright visual feel.



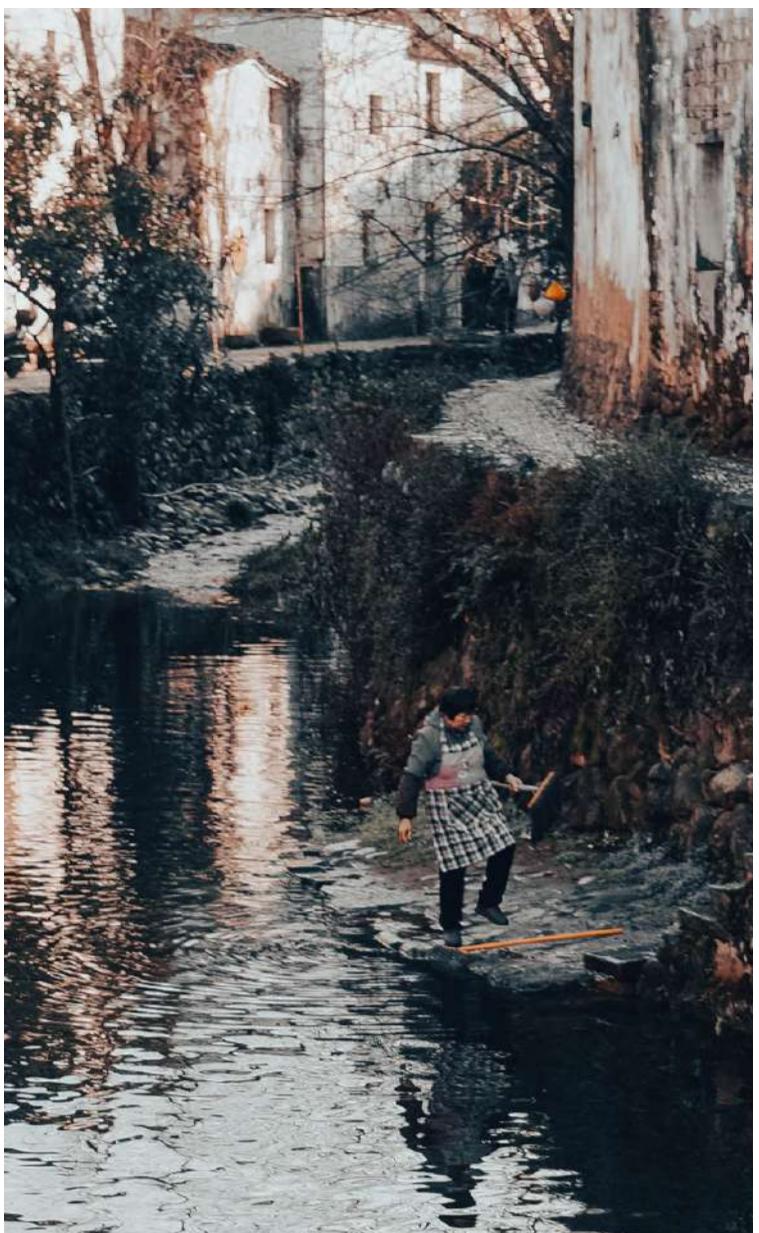
The picture was taken by the photographer Bresson when he was in China. The gestures of the people pressing themselves against the glass and pointing their fingers at the bicycle show that they wanted the bicycle, but because the Chinese economy was not well developed at the time it was not affordable for ordinary people to buy bicycles, so they only looked at the window with great desire. However, in my photos, it can be seen that most ordinary people nowadays can buy bicycles and even have cars or various other means of transport. Comparing these two photos from different eras they touched my heart deeply and show the rapid development of China, which I think is the meaning of humanistic documentary photography.



(Original image)



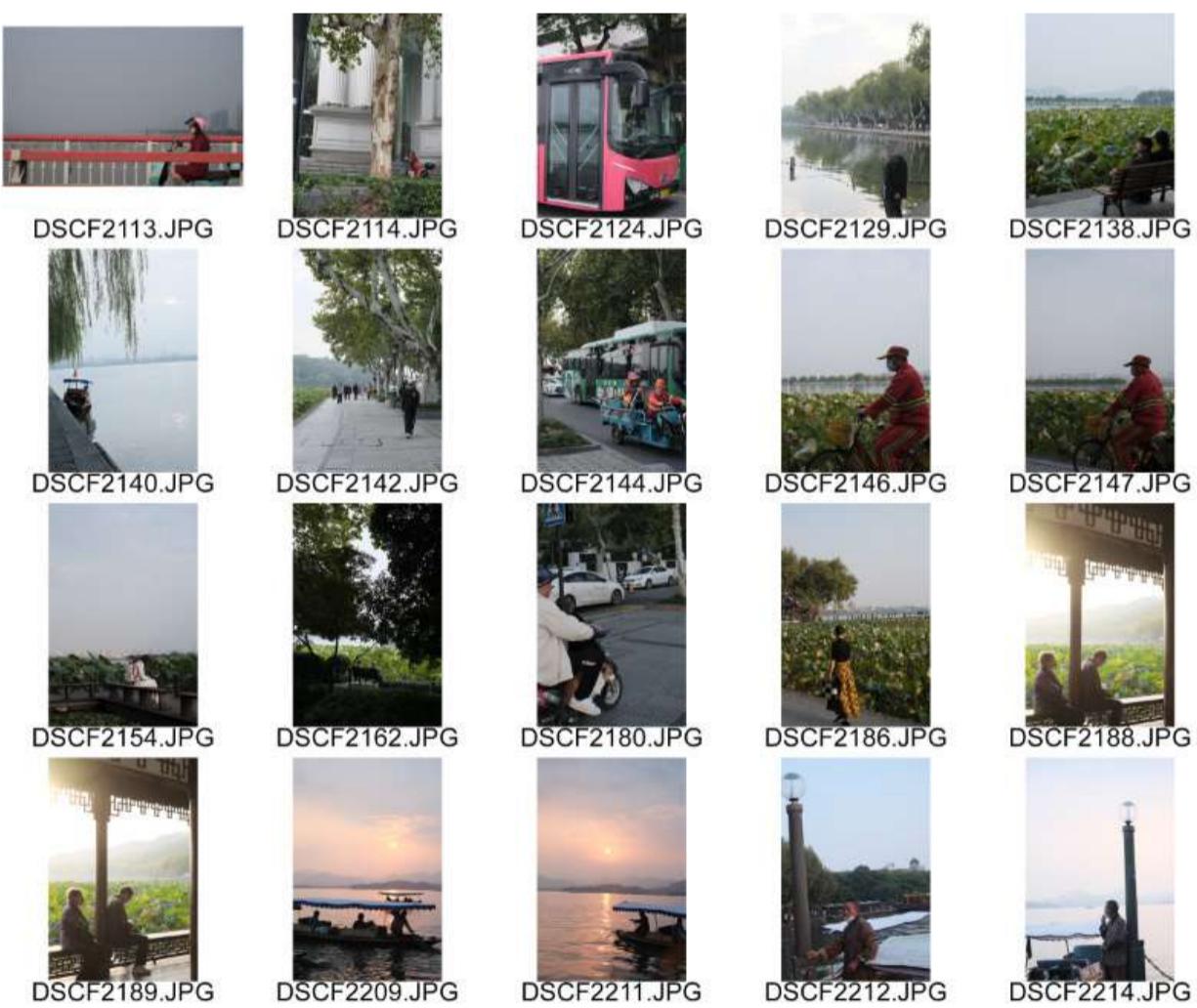
(Lightroom cropping and toning)



Final image

This image was taken in Ningbo, China, and shows the traditional southern old town architecture of white walls and black tiles, bringing a unique style. Because the local people live close to the river, they would clean their things with it as the characters in the picture do, which is a tradition that only exists there. Moreover, I chose to shoot from an overhead angle to give a visual effect of looking from the bottom up, giving a more expansive feeling. In post-adjustment I chose warm tones and kept mainly yellow to bring out the overall atmosphere of an autumn sunset. One interesting aspect of the photo is the reflection of the houses and people on the water, it plays a role in punctuating the image, where the position of the front and back, top and bottom enhances the sense of hierarchy. More notable is the way in which the photograph includes the pavement as a guide line, drawing the eye to follow it as it views the photograph. The composition also highlights the subject by enlarging the figure in comparison to the original image.

Second time out shooting



(Contact sheet)

In all the shots that follow I will introduce you to Hangzhou, the city where I live in China! It is a beautiful city and the capital of Zhejiang province, close to Shanghai. It is an important international center for e-commerce, but also has many cultural sites, such as silk and tea culture.

The first place we came to was the famous tourist attraction West Lake, which contains more than 100 park sites and was inscribed on the *World Heritage List* in 2011.





(Original image)



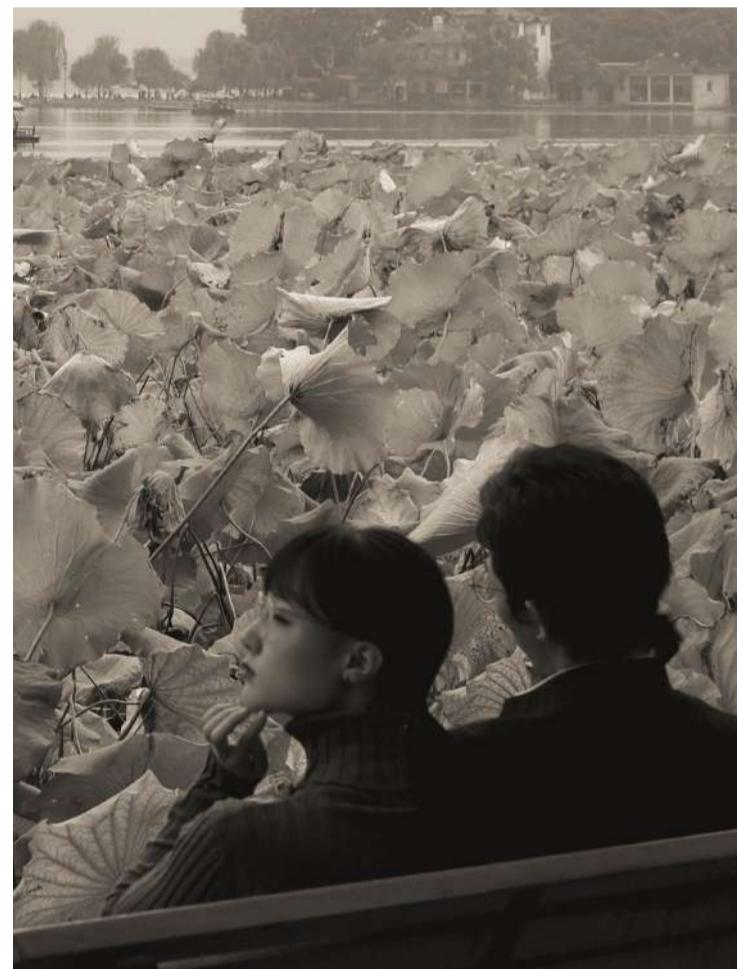
(Try 1)



(Try 2)



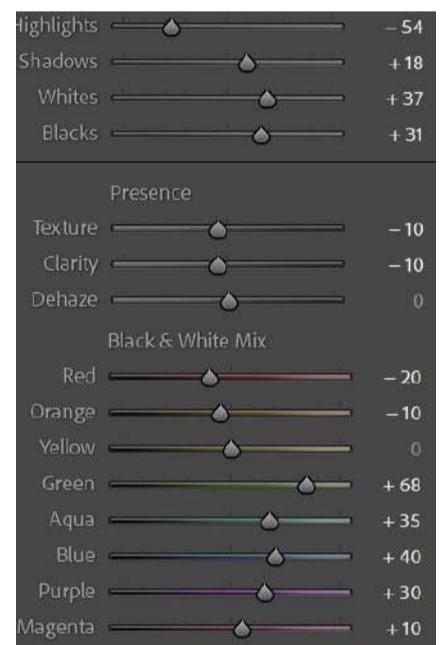
(Try 3)



Final image

The photograph shows a couple leaning against each other on a bench by the side of the West Lake road, enjoying the view and chatting, while I happened to pass them and captured the girl looking into the distance to her left, seemingly thinking about something. A special feature of this photograph is the many lotus leaves behind the figures, a plant belonging to the water lily family, most of which grow in one direction in the picture, providing a sense of harmony and enriching the background. In post, I added a black and white effect to the image, but unlike traditional, it has more of a brown feel to it, offering more of a vintage and storytelling feel. In the process, I showed more of my post experimentation, as you can see by comparing it to Try 3, where I enlarged the composition and removed the extra ground and sky, allowing the viewer to focus more on the expressions of the people. I also toned down the green lotus leafs to highlight the contrast between the subject and the background.

(Lightroom cropping and toning)



(Original image)



(Try 1)

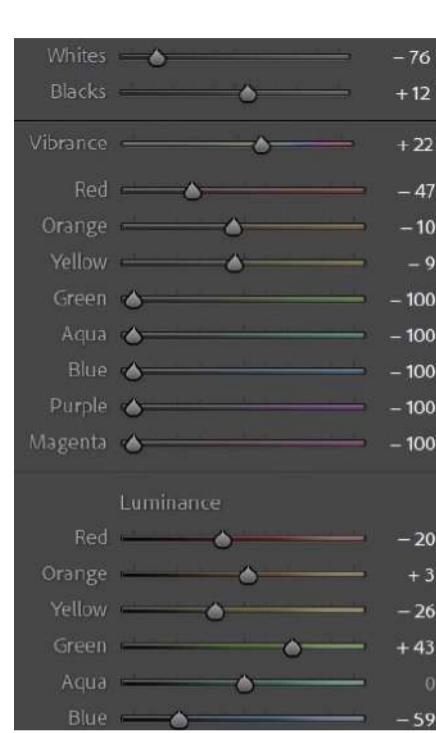


(Try 2)



Final image

The photograph was taken of an old man resting in a pavilion next to the Broken Bridge at West Lake. In this photo I chose a yellowish colour palette in order to emphasise the sunlight reflected on the figure and to give the overall feeling of autumn. Again, the lotus leafs is used as a background in this photo, making the image less monotonous and adding layers. Unlike the other post-production experiments, the final composition of the photograph only includes one man, perhaps due to the incongruity of the column. The use of rule of thirds to place the figure in the centre of the image provides the viewer with a more focused view.



This photograph was taken by Bresson in Beijing in December 1948 and shows a man whose job is to escort brides in a sedan chair. The relevance of this one to my final photograph is that they both represent old Chinese people in different eras, but span a period of over seventy years. The largest population of elderly people in the world is in China, and the state of life of a country's elderly is representative of the strength of that country. In my photo this man is retired in a pavilion at West Lake with all the other people of the same age doing recreational activities, such as singing or chatting, but in Bresson's photo to this man is still working despite his age. In addition, comparing their bodies, it is obvious that the elderly are now stronger than before and are dressed in more sophisticated and warm clothing. All of this illustrates how China's policy and treatment of the elderly has improved dramatically over the years, and shows the country's rapid development.



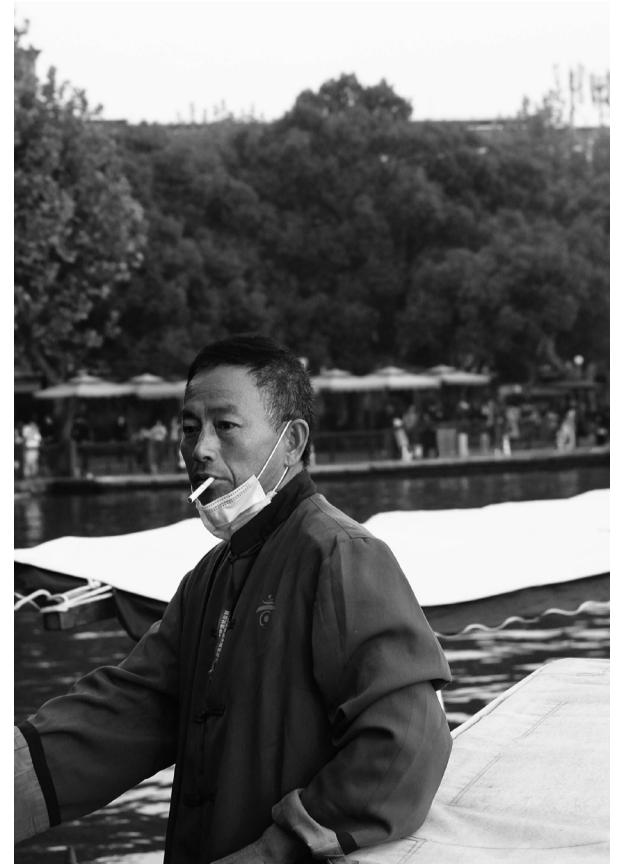
(Original image)



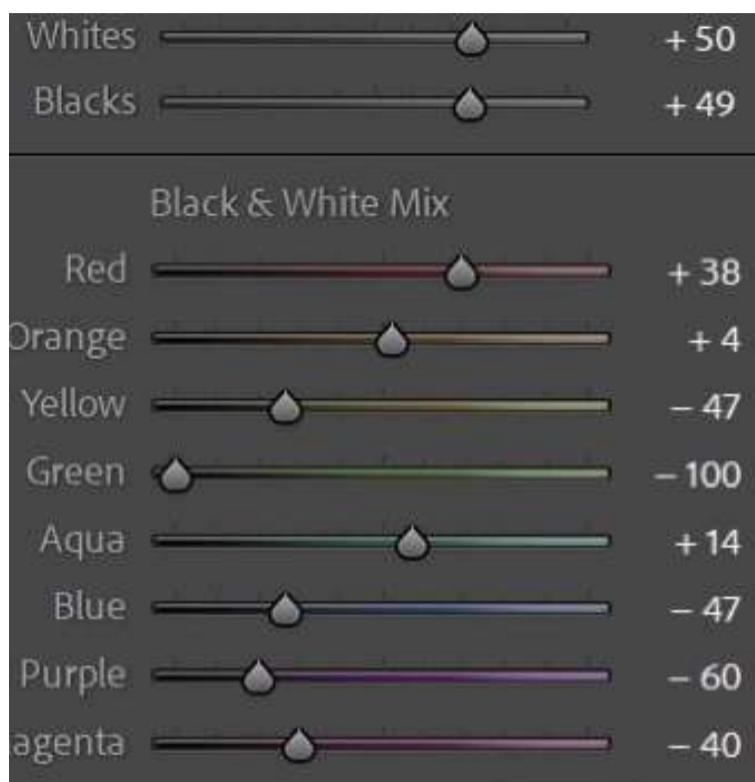
(Try 1)



(Try 2)



(Try 3)



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

Final image

The photograph captures a boatman working on the West Lake resting on his boat, notably the cigarette in his mouth is not lit and the reason for this is that he has to wait for his customers to arrive and cannot rest for too long. In post adjustment I used black and white to emphasise the relationship between light and dark and to give the viewer a more pure visual experience. From the post-production experiments you can see that I thought for a long time about whether or not to keep the hand in the composition, but in the end I chose to keep it to make the picture more complete, while in contrast to Try 3 I reduced the brightness of the blue for a more harmonious picture. I also used rule of thirds to place the man in the middle of the photo, focus on the figure and bokeh the background, all of which emphasise and highlight the main point. The contrast between the white smoke and mask on the man's face with the black of his clothes provides a sense of contrast that is unique and attractive. In addition, the man's eyes look away revealing a strong impression of exhaustion, and a closer look at his hands reveals signs of regular labour, all of which convey the hard work and diligence of working people.



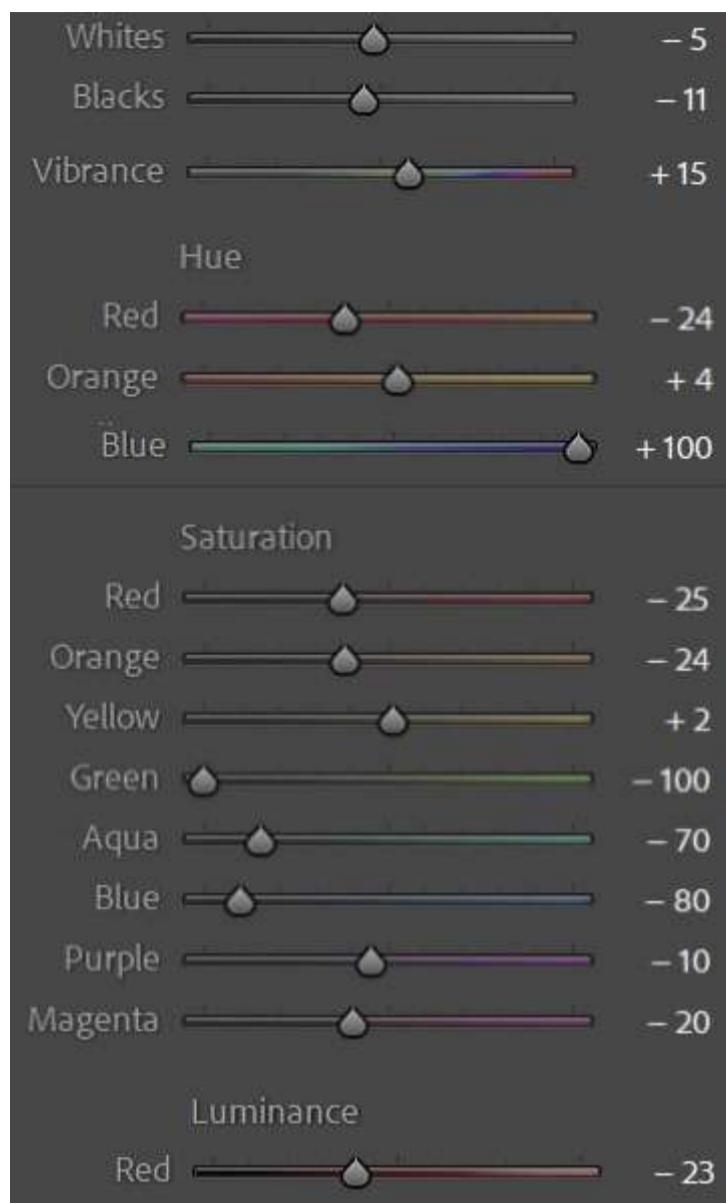
(Original image)



(Try 1)



(Try 2)



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

Final image

This photograph captures the boatman taking the tourists on a boat trip at sunset. What I like most about this shot is the way the sunlight shimmers on the lake and the beautiful ripples on the water caused by the swaying of the boat. The movement of the boatman holding the oar creates a sense of storytelling and the moment is frozen as if it could stop time forever. During the Lightroom adjustment process, I subtracted some of the pink tones to increase the yellow tones and darkened the areas of the people to bring out the atmosphere of the sunset. Meanwhile, the composition used the method of rule of thirds to remove other elements, such as the mountains and the sun, to make the photo cleaner and more focused on the subject. The reflections in the photo also work well, bringing out the light and shadows in the image and differentiating between light and dark areas.

Third time out shooting



After spending so much time in the high-rise buildings of this city, I had forgotten what old Hangzhou was like, so this time I went closer to the old neighbourhoods and observed the activities of the people there. This shoot was particularly emotional for me because I grew up in this city and when I went into these less developed places, I felt I was back in my childhood. It's just like a forgotten corner of the city, but the people inside are still relaxed and enjoying themselves.



(Original image)



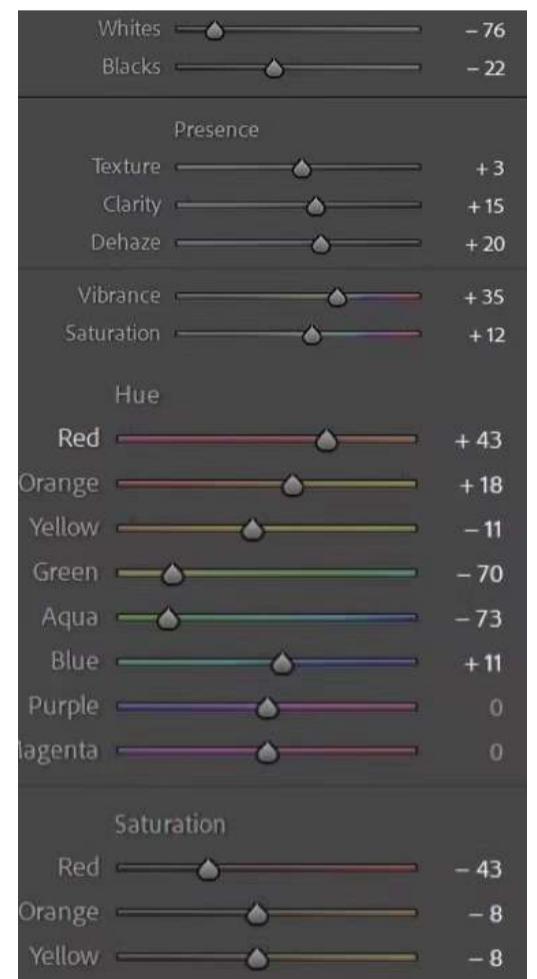
(Try 1)



(Try 2)

Final image

This photo was taken of a little girl in the alleyway wearing a Snow White dress, I showed her the image afterwards and she was delighted with it. We chatted for a while and she introduced me to the place, even worrying that I would get lost. I think that's the fascinating thing about photography is how quickly it can bring people closer together. One of the ingenious things about the photograph is the echoing of the red elements in the picture, their previous position in distance and proximity giving the picture a coherent and regular visual experience. In addition the white lines in the photograph act as guiding lines, drawing the eye towards the little girl and enhancing the effect on depth of vision. The shadows on the ground are used as an important element to balance the image, which enhances the impression of space and also serves to express the mood. Meanwhile, in post-process my colour palette was leaning towards a vintage feel, so I added a yellow tint to the photo. Contrast this with Try 2, where you can notice that I used a thirds composition to place the subject in a more central position, allowing the photo to be clearly layered and in focus, thus highlighting the theme.



(Lightroom crop-
ping and toning)



This photograph from Shanghai in 1949 showing a child waiting for rice to be distributed is by Bresson. It reflects the need to issue food vouchers for people to receive the necessities of life at a particular time in China's economy, hence why this scene is shown. This is the same as my final photograph above in that the subjects are both children, but in a completely different time period. In the photo above the girl is playing under a tree in elaborate clothes, but in the left picture 78 years ago children of similar age are wearing rough clothes to help their parents carry the load. The contrast between the two photographs shows how much progress has been made in China, which has allowed children to spend their childhood in a carefree and happy environment.



(Original image)



(Try 1)



(Try 2)



(Try 3)



Final image



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

The image depicts two women leisurely drying their clothes. Unlike the Western choice of machine drying, most traditional Chinese families still insist on drying clothes naturally in the sun and believe that this is a good way to sterilise them, which is a clear reflection of cultural differences. The hanging clothes above the photograph provide a nicely spatial hierarchy, showing the relationship between near and far. One problem with the picture is that there are too many elements that give it a cluttered look, which I decided to address by enlarging the composition to give it a relatively clean feel. Furthermore, because of the many colours in the photo, I opted for a black and white effect in post to remove the distraction of colour from the image, leaving only light and dark for a unique result. By using colour contrast, I have brightened the wall and darkened it to differentiate the background from the subject, allowing the viewer to focus more precisely.



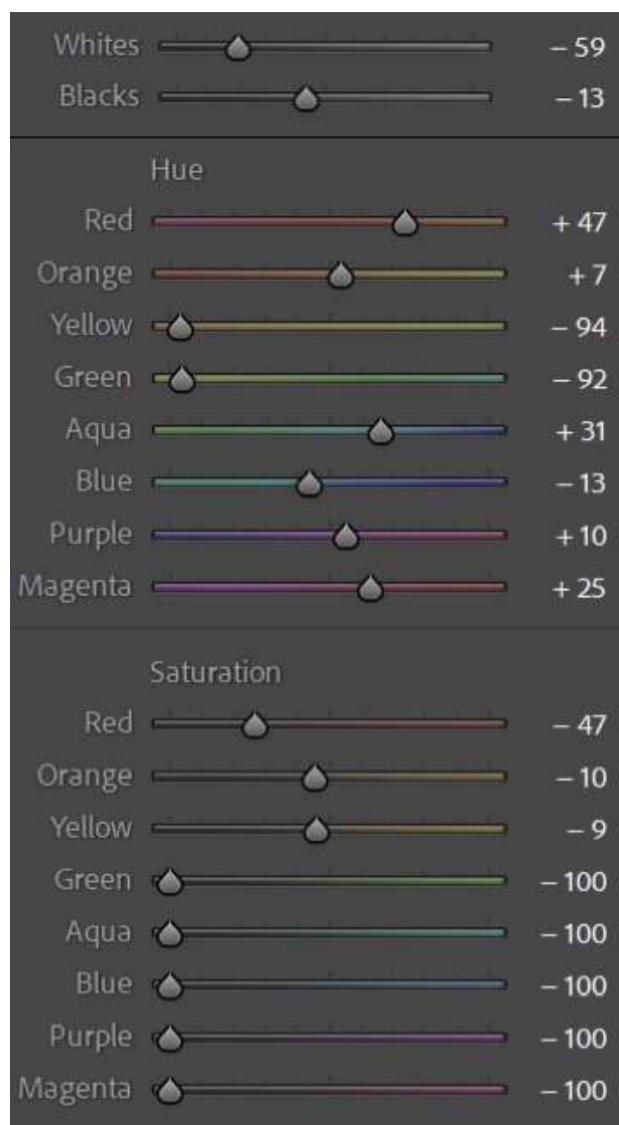
(Original image)



(Try 1)



(Try 2)



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

Final image

There is a strong storytelling feel to the photograph, and you can sense the dog's concern by the way he looks at the child, lying beside her as if protecting her at all times. Although only the back of the mother can be seen, the movement of her crossed legs gives a sense of her relaxation and comfort, and the way her hand is dragging her face as if she is thinking about something. This brings a relaxed atmosphere to the viewer and takes the viewer into a realistic landscape of an old street in the city. Looking closely at the original image there are a lot of red and orange elements, and to emphasise the vintage feel of them I achieved the intended effect by increasing the saturation of these two colours, but reducing the rest in Lightroom's HSL. This has the advantage that the observer is immediately drawn to the strong colour contrast at first glance, and also appears to highlight the subject without cluttering the background. In addition, when making two post-production tries I found that the arm of the figure in black on the left was redundant, so I first used the clone tool in the software to eliminate it and thus achieve a harmonious look. For the composition, I worked in rule of thirds, placing the faces in the middle of the image and using the presence of the dog in the bottom left to keep it from being monotonous.



(Original image)



(Try 1)



(Try 2)

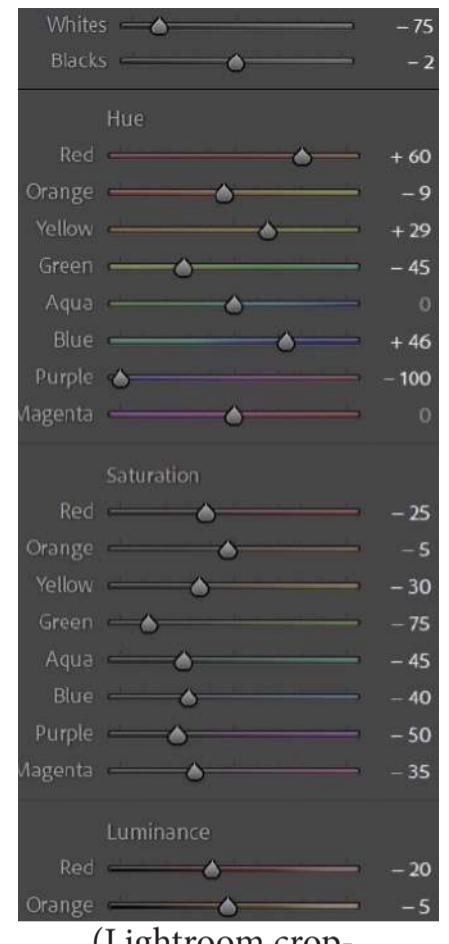


(Try 3)



Final image

The story behind this photograph is that of an old man sitting in a chair watching the people in front of him play mahjong, which is a mind game that originated in China during the Ming Dynasty and was listed as one of the world's intellectual sports in 2017. Using Lightroom the photo was toned mainly in green to give it a retro vibe, such a timeless feel like an old photo that has been dusted off for a long time. I hesitated for a while on whether to keep the whole leg in the final image or not, and tried many times before, eventually getting a crop in the middle section. This way it doesn't divert the viewer's attention too much to other places and retains part of the ground's presence. Apart from this, the technique of rule of thirds and negative space is still used in the composition to give a sense of harmony to the structure of the picture without crowding. The red placard on the right of the photograph provides a wonderful highlight to keep it from being monotonous and subtly echoes the colour of the flower pots.



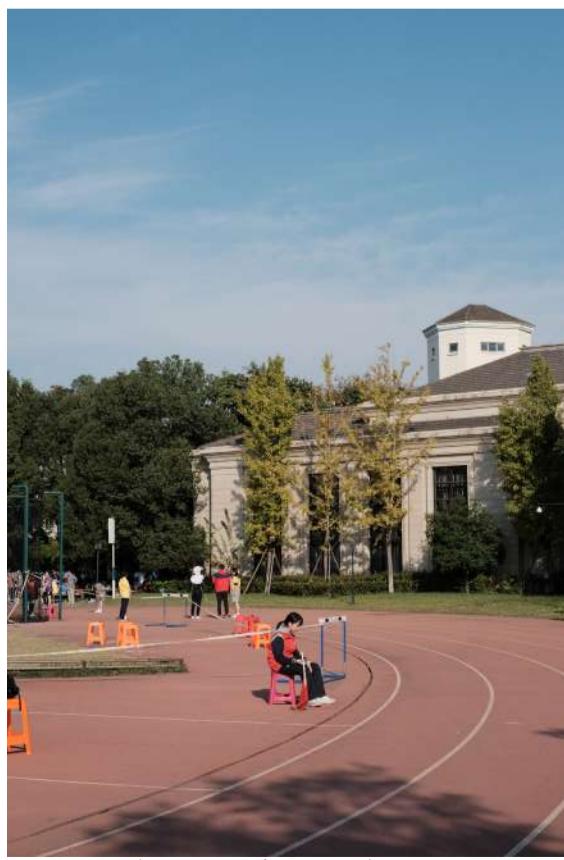
(Lightroom cropping and toning)

Fourth time out shooting



(Contact sheet)

This time I went to my primary and junior Greentown Yuhua School, which is also a friendly school with Westminster and where I did my current school interview. The most special thing about this time was that I had nine years of memories here, and it was a little sad to see a place that was once so familiar but is now unfamiliar, with many faces I didn't know in my original class. That's why this shoot was the most unique, I walked the path I used to walk, revisiting old scenes and new people.



(Original image)



(Try 1)

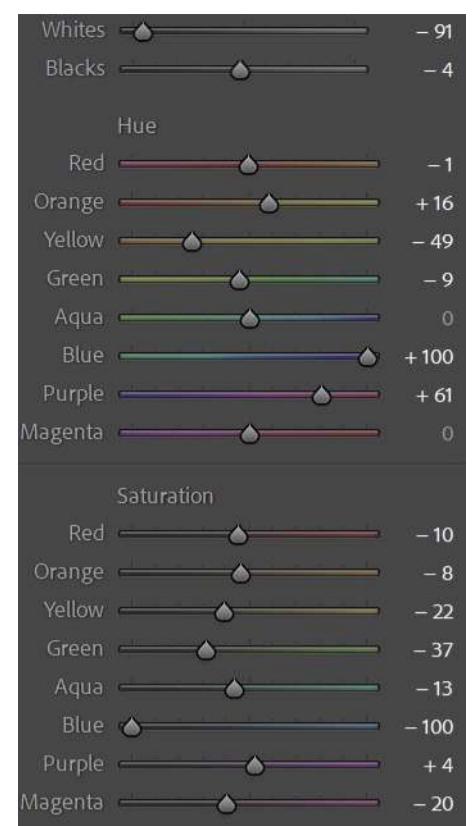


(Try 2)



Final image

In this photograph there is a girl who is volunteering for the sports day, her job is to sit and supervise the people taking the running race. Why I know this is because I held the same position in Year 8 and I still remember the sun shining as brightly as it does today, but the sky seemed even bluer. The way she lowered her head to the ground in a stare and the act of putting the flag down revealed her boredom, and watching her expression I could literally feel what I was feeling at the time. I have used the playground to echo the orange of the chair at the back, as well as another chair to echo the red of the subject's clothes, which adds greatly to the interest of the image. These two colours are also warm tones and they give the viewer a sense of warmth. In addition, the runway line in the playground serves as a guide line, drawing the eye in and making the photo less monotonous. In post-production, I lightened the colour of the playground to bring out the subject, and chose rule of thirds composition to give a more direct view of the people.



(Lightroom cropping and toning)



(Original image)



(Try 1)



(Try 2)



(Try 3)



Final image

In this photo there is a girl posing, which is one of the most interesting things about it is that I am photographing someone else taking a picture, bringing a sense of story to the image. Afterwards I showed them the pictures I had taken and they all loved them, I was pleased to meet people who shared the same interest and we had a long chat, which is part of the attraction of photography too. The shot is backlit and my favourite thing about it is the sunlight shining on the girl's head, it draws out her silhouette and hair, creating a vivid artistic effect. Furthermore, the painting on the girl's face also works well and makes the image less monotonous. I changed the colour of the tree from green to yellow during the Lightroom adjustment process to better match the sunlight, bringing an overall sense of warmth and autumnal ambience. A negative space composition was used to achieve a nice harmony and to make the photo more spacious.



(Lightroom cropping and toning)



(Original image)



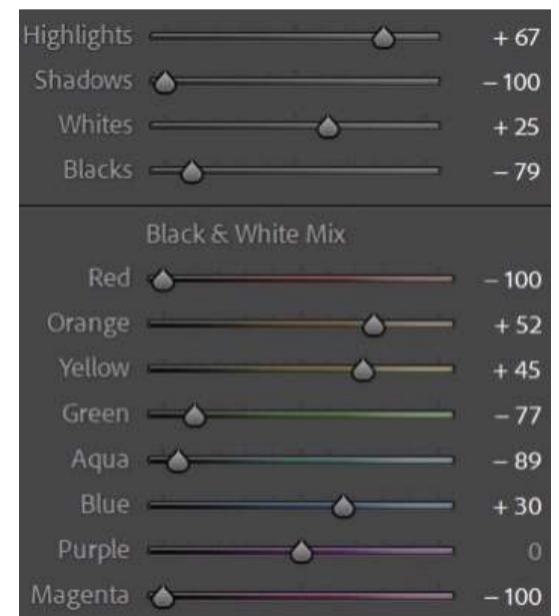
(Try 1)



(Try 2)

Final image

The photograph captures a young boy playing football, just as the sun is shining down to give a concrete outline of the shape. The shadows of both the figure and the obstacle are facing in one direction which is an important element of balance and serves to highlight the subject well. The movements of the boy's hands and legs provide the right sense of movement and add to the narrative, as if bringing the viewer into the scene. I used black and white to get rid of the clutter and to keep the photos simple. I was worried that the viewer's attention would be distracted by the number of people in the back, but I used black and white effects and post-production adjustments to increase the contrast between light and shadow, making a good distinction between the people and the background, instead of letting the worry become an advantage and reducing the monotony of the image. The composition still uses thirds and guiding lines, allowing the viewer to follow the instructions to the people and drive the content of the photograph.



(Lightroom crop-ping and toning)



This photograph was taken by Bresson in China from 1958 and shows two children looking out of a window, and it seems that their eyes show a desire for freedom. The economy was not very good at that time, and education was even less widespread, so the children did not have many places to play. But compared to my final image, I see that nowadays children can run and play football happily in the school playground, they are much luckier than before. In this way, it reflects that China is developing at a very fast pace and children can enjoy a better childhood.



(Try 1)



(Try 2)



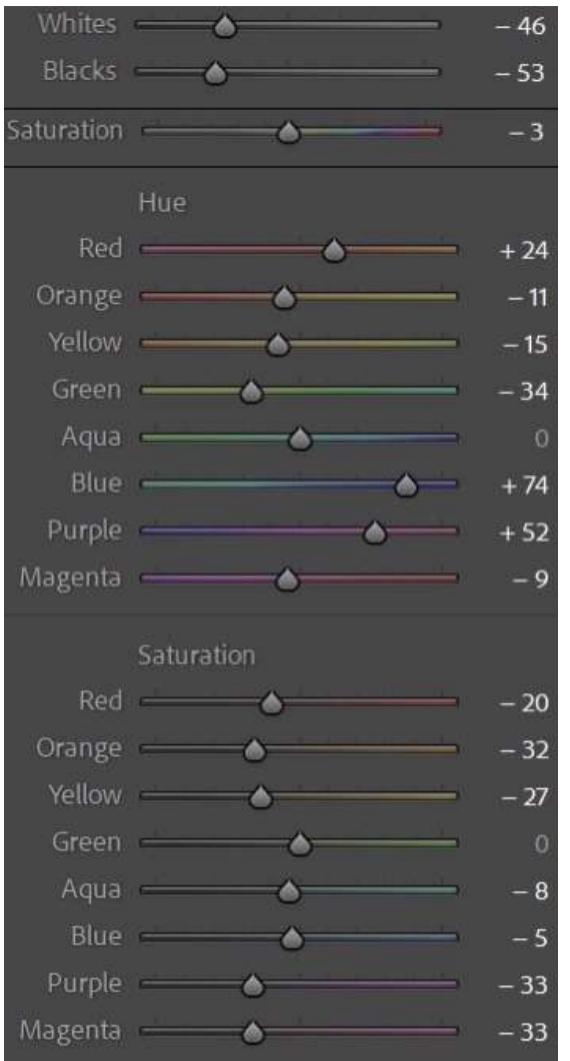
(Try 3)

(Original image)



Final image

The photograph was taken at a school night band activity and shows two girls, one playing the piano and one singing, with the audience below sitting on the lawn waving glow sticks. The lighting on the stage works well to illuminate the girls and the instruments giving the photo a wonderful highlight, providing a dreamy and subdued visual experience. The shadow of one of the instruments had the effect of adding atmosphere, conveying a lively and positive mood. In post, I increased the saturation of the yellows and lightened the colours of the audience to bring out the main character and allow the viewer to see the focus at a glance. The composition is still in rule of thirds, which differentiates the light and dark areas to balance the photo well.



(Lightroom cropping and toning)

Reflection

I think I did quite well on this assignment, explaining the Henri Cartier-Bresson photographer and its work specifically at the beginning, which provided a good reference for my own photography afterwards. In the four subsequent outings, each with its own topic, a different experience of China from a variety of places. At the same time, at the end of each series there was a comparison with Bresson's work in China, through which I could feel the progress of China and the development of the times, allowing me to understand the charm of documentary photography. And except for the first outing, all the final images show the post-production experiments, in which I was able to better find the final optimal composition and colour palette. Of course there were shortcomings, as Chinese people are generally more introverted, so I was afraid to get particularly close to them. Besides, as I had a fixed focal length lens, I had to re-compose all the subsequent shots by zooming in, so the final result may not be as sharp as it could have been. Looking forward to the next shoot, hopefully I can do better!

Photographic Techniques – Levitation

Amy Gu Year 11
Stage 1 Creative Arts Photography

PHOTOGRAPHER NATSUMI HAYASHI

Brief

Natsumi Hayashi is a lovely girl from Japan who travels around Tokyo with her DSLR camera and tripod to take time-lapse selfies of herself “levitating”, which have been wildly posted on the internet. She spent a year photographing in a diary format, taking a series of photographs of herself floating in the air under the theme “Today’s Floating”. In September 2010, she was so taken by the colors in the scene that she wanted to take a picture of her friend, but as she pressed the shutter, her friend abruptly jumped up. This gave her a sudden inspiration to continue her pursuit of such photos that rest in the air. The photo shoot is not as easy as it seems, sometimes she chooses only one photo to post out of over three hundred, and has fallen over many times trying to maintain a good pose. She hopes that her levitation series will awaken people to think about the line between what they think as ‘real’ and ‘unreal’. According to her, when she is free from the gravity of her images, she feels no obligation to society and lives freely from many things.

<https://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/23/not-just-a-jump-but-levitation/>

<https://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/interview-tokyo-photographer-reaches-new-heights-levitation-self-portraits>



Photograph analysis



In this photograph depicts a woman in a red and white dress suspended in mid-air as if time has been forbidden. To create this effect the photographer may have used Photoshop in post to help, and a tripod may have been used during the shoot to guarantee symmetry between the two images with and without the model. There is a deeper depth of field, so a narrower aperture may have been implemented. The photograph is composed using the rule of thirds, placing the figure in the center of the photograph, while the contrast between the color of the red dress and the grey background in the photograph enhances the visual impact, all of which helps the viewer to see the subject at once. The expressions on the face of the figure, the shapes and lines and the overall balance keep the people in the image in order and the color scheme is very pleasing, although it is a simple photograph to look at it has a strong sense of interest.

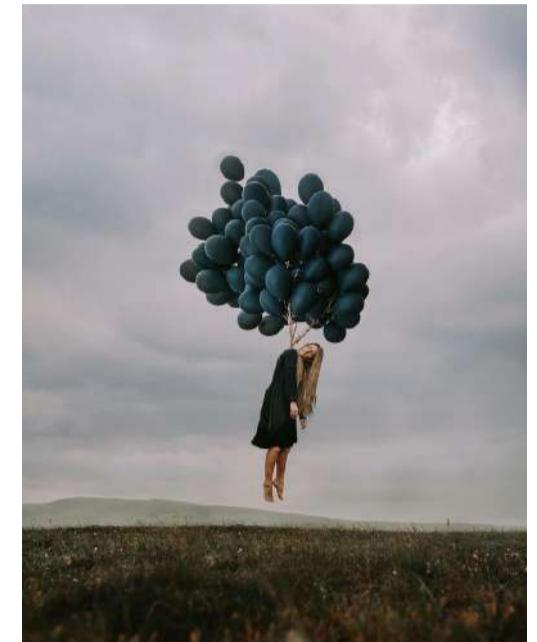


This photograph was taken at an underground station in Japan showing a girl floating and desperately trying to get out of an underground entry/exit barrier. Natsumi wanted to convey the idea that people are in a hurry at the underground station, and the levitation exaggerates the eagerness of the people. During the shoot she needed a camera tripod and a ten second timer to assist her as she was the model herself, and then in post-processing she used Photoshop techniques to help her with the final hovering effect. The interesting thing about the photo is the contrast between the people, firstly the whole photo is of men except for the model, and they are all wearing very formal clothes to work, but the model is wearing a casual dress. At the same time, all of the people are dressed in blue or black, which are low saturation clothes, and they stand out in the white and yellow underground station, giving the viewer a strong visual impact.



The photograph represents a girl trying to jump over a puddle and stopping in mid-air. The image may have been captured by the camera for a moment, but she probably had to try many times to achieve the final result. And to emphasize the natural flow of time, she usually shoots at shutter speeds of 1/500th of a second or faster. But in post she might also use Photoshop to make further adjustments to the suspended look. The most noticeable aspect of the photograph is the shadow of the figure over the puddle, which also appears to be jumping, giving the viewer a sense of the top and bottom, making the photograph more balanced and coherent. Meanwhile, the bright red shoes give the photograph an immediate focus and distinguish it from the dull colored background, making it the focus of the viewer's attention.

INSPIRATION PAGE



PRE-SHOOT PLANNING

My plan for the series of photographs was to use an object to express levitation, such as a balloon or a wing, which would give the photograph a more realistic look, even though it was originally fake. I will take a chair and tripod out to help with this, as well as setting up time-lapse photography for the shoot. I would choose to go somewhere less crowded, firstly to make it easier to use Photoshop in post, and secondly because it looks a bit strange to shoot this way and I'm afraid of scaring people.

EXPERIMENTS

Shooting experiments

At the beginning I decided to experiment at home to gain some experience, the contact sheet on the right shows some simple shots. Through this experiment I realised the importance of going out, as the room is small if I try to stand on a chair I won't get a full view of the people, as well as the colours are very dark, which can be all solved by out shooting to get more space and brighter ambient light. Then there is the issue of dressing in lighter colours or contrasting colours, otherwise they will not be as attractive. By comparing the different photos of the sheet, it can be seen that a stretched out pose has a better effect than a huddled one and this is something, this should be noted later. Finally I tried to capture the photo using the photographer Natsumi Hayashi's method, but it took many attempts to get it to work, so to make it easier I will choose to use Photoshop in post to achieve the levitation effect.



(Contact sheet)

Photoshop experiment



Background photo

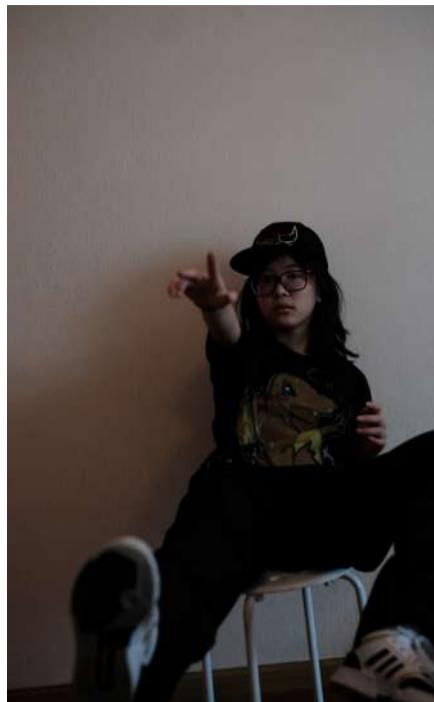


Figure Photo



Finished product



Step 4: Add highlights and reduce contrast

Step 3: Add some movement to the hair and trousers with the blur tool

Step 2: Remove the chair part with the brush tool

Step 1: Copy the photo layer of the background to the figure

Through this experiment I learned that in Photoshop it takes a lot of patience to take your time and that you need to be careful to leave some space on the ground to draw shadows when shooting, otherwise it will look unrealistic like in the finished product.

Sorry because after I went back to China and re-downloaded Photoshop, I found that it was only available in Chinese and I looked for a long time but couldn't find where to change the language. So I will translate what they do and their names next to it.

OUT SHOOTING

In this series of photographs, I have used umbrellas as my levitation tool with the idea of using them to float and take you on a tour of the different landscapes of Hangzhou, China. The umbrella is used here because it conveys a reason for the levitation of the figure and allows the viewer to understand that it is the umbrella that takes the person up, giving the photograph a stronger sense of story.

Hangzhou is a beautiful city and the capital of Zhejiang province, close to Shanghai. It is an important international center for e-commerce, but also has many cultural sites, such as silk and tea culture.

Let's go on an exciting levitation trip!



Photograph 1



Final image

The first place we came to was Lingyin Temple, built in 326 as one of the oldest and foremost ancient Buddhist temples in China. Also, the largest temple in the Wulin Mountains of Hangzhou, Lingyin Temple attracts thousands of visitors and Buddhist followers every day with its long history and stunning scenery. For my shots I fixed my camera on a tripod and set the time lapse, then placed them in the position I had envisaged. Next, I placed a chair at some distance from the camera and stepped on it to create a floating pose, this chair will be removed later in Photoshop. Finally, the camera takes a picture a few seconds later, but only one is not enough and more attempts were needed to provide options for later. Although the shooting place was a scenic spot, I chose a relatively uncrowded area to avoid disturbing people.

The light colour of the clothes and the background in this photograph provide a wonderful contrast of colours and the use of rule of thirds in the composition puts the figure in the centre of the image, which helps the viewer to see the focus at once. The negative space in the picture also works well, giving the scene a harmonious effect. The upward looking and stretched pose of the figure is also well done, making the photo look more realistic.

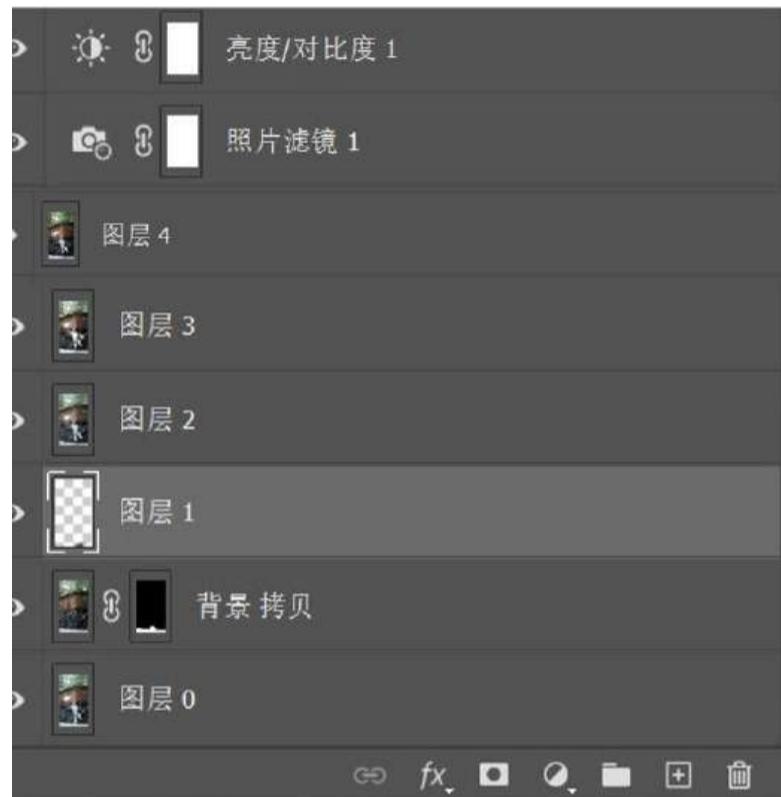
Post-photoshop process



(Photo 1)



(Photo 2)



Step8: Brightness minus fifteen and contrast plus thirty-two

Step7: Add orange photo filter toning 13%

Step6: Use the Camera raw filter to add bokeh to the photo as well as the adjustment brush to add contrast and saturation to the top tree area

Step5: Liquefied the shape of the shoe to make it look more realistic

Step4: Blur some parts with the smudge tool to make it look more like it's floating

Step3: Drawing a shadow

Step2: Erase the part of the chair

Step1: Copy photo 2 to photo 1

Although there were no shadows in Photo 1 originally, but in the final photo, I added them in step 3 to give a more realistic and hovering look. In steps 7 and 6 I used filters to add orange and bokeh to give the photo a more vintage look.

Photograph 2

Final image

Then, we floated to the famous Su Causeway, which is a 2797m long boulevard running through the north and south scenic areas of the West Lake, adding a charming scenery.

As for the shooting procedure, it is the same as the one mentioned above, fixing the camera on a tripod and setting a time lapse, then stepping on a chair and posing until the camera is complete to shoot. It was also a quiet environment.

However, the difference was it was already dark at night when I took this picture, so I asked a gentleman next to me to help me with the lighting. I didn't want to delay him too long, so the shoot was quick, which may have resulted in a lack of posing for all the levitation images. In addition, the light was not evenly lit and concentrated only on the umbrella making this part of the photo look a bit jarring. Also there are good points, the expressions of the figure are well done, although the eyes are closed but show a sense of relaxation and enjoyment, while with the pose like lying down further conveys the feeling. The choice of background is excellent too, with the willow trees floating in the wind and the shimmering water creating the mood of the picture, the whole picture is filled with a peaceful and serene atmosphere. The composition also uses rule of thirds, and the contrast between the clothes and the background both focus the viewer's eye.



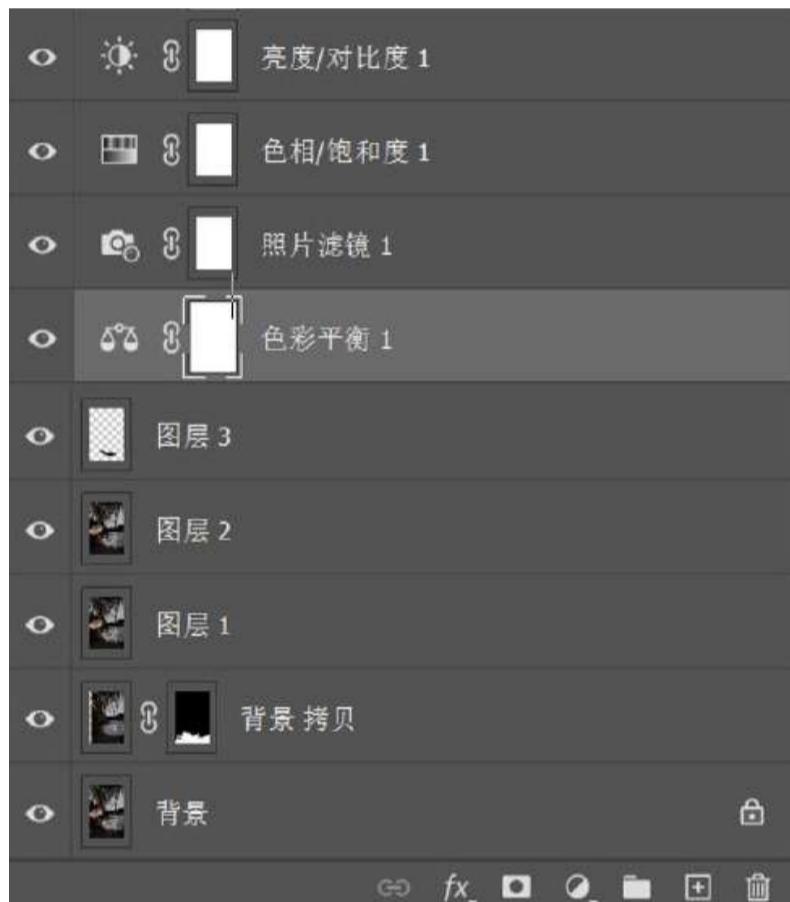
Post-photoshop process



(Photo 3)



(Photo 4)



Step9: Increase brightness 41

Step8: Hue plus eight and saturation minus ten

Step7: Add photo orange filter 25%

Step6: Colour balance towards cyan -10

Step5: Drawing a shadow

Step4: Blur some parts with the smudge tool to make it look more like it's floating

Step3: Removing iron frames using the Spot Healing Brush tool

Step2: Erase the part of the chair

Step1: Copy photo 4 to photo 3

Because it was taken at night it was darker in photo 3, so I increased the brightness to make the final image lighter. Secondly, the cyan tones and the orange filter both convey the vintage feel better and give the photo a strong sense of atmosphere.

REFLECTION

I think I did very well on this assignment, explaining the photographer and the photos in a very specific way, and then the experiments gave me more experience before I started to go out and shoot, which allowed me to show the final two images with great success. A particular highlight was the series of photographs set up to take people on a floating tour of my city, which added to the interest of the photographs. However, there are also shortcomings, such as experimenting with more photos and learning more from experience, maybe the final images will be more perfect. In my next assignment, I will show a more elaborate photoshop process to demonstrate more of my knowledge and enrich the folio. Also, learning from this experience, I will try to take more photos during the experiment to give me a deeper understanding of the project. Looking forward to the next shoot, hopefully I can do better!



Stage 2 Photography Project

Amy Gu

Inspiration page



Documentary Photography

Documentary photography is a form of photography whose main appeal is to record the reality of life. Its material comes from life and has the value of recording and preserving history. It reflects the essence of the social person, abandoning the tendency to be aesthetic and artificial, creating a new aesthetic field.

Macro photography

The fascination of macro photography is the ability to observe the wonderful world of the microscopic, to discover a different kind of beauty, and even to transform ordinary or simple scenes into magic. Photographers use a unique perspective to capture insects, plants.

Architectural Photography

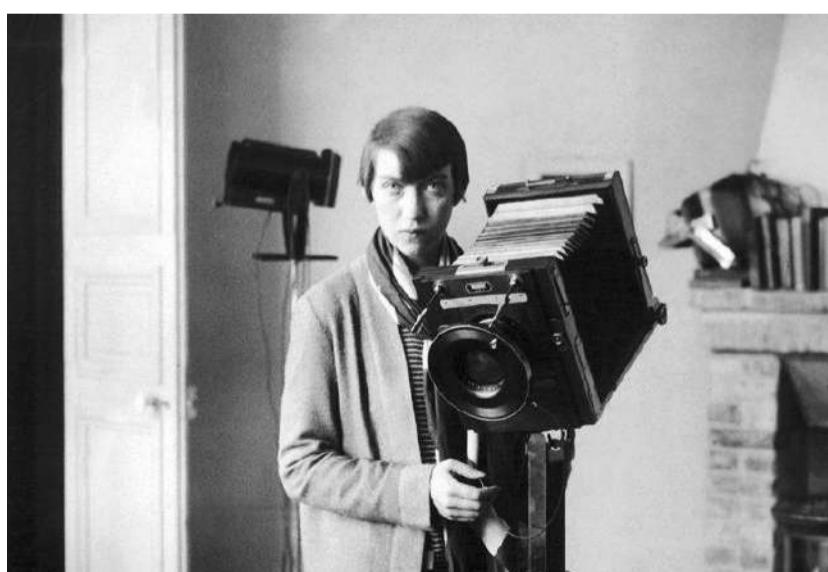
Architectural photography is the capture of buildings as subjects. This includes the exterior and interior of buildings, as well as bridges, other structures and cityscapes. Architectural photography has a wide range of uses in journalism and commerce, not only to capture the design and shape of buildings, but also their aesthetic

Fashion Photography

Brand endorsements. Fashion photography is a team effort to plan and follow through on the entire shoot, which is what makes it different from regular portrait photography. Good fashion photography not only has to be stylish, but also has to have a theme, connotation and

Architectural Photography

Berenice Abbott (1898-1991)



Abbott was an important figure in the development of modern American photography. She used an old black-and-white film camera and had a strong aversion to pretentious work, pursuing a realistic and straightforward approach to the art of photography.

In 1929, Abbott had just returned to New York from Paris and was struck by the rapid changes in the city's architectural landscape. On the eve of the Great Depression, she began a series of urban documentary photographs documenting the dramatic changes in the city, capturing the glitz and glamour of New York. From 1935 to 1939, under the auspices of the Federal Arts Project, these photographs were presented in a travelling exhibition and publication, *Changing New York*, which attracted considerable attention.

<https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/constituents/berenice-abbott>



The use of an elevated angle in this photograph shows the height of the subject, which gives it a special visual effect and adds interest. In the case of the buildings and statues, the use of leading lines in the composition and the contrast of colors allow the viewer to look upwards and distinguish between them, unifying and highlighting the image.



This photograph is taken at a high angle from the top to the bottom of the frame, which gives a good overview of the building and brings depth. At the same time, it uses the foreground to create a sense of obscurity, focusing the viewer's attention to the left, which is more likely to arouse curiosity and create a special visual effect.



The clever combination of geometric composition, strong contrasting light and shadow in the image serves as an emphasis when conveying the modern city. At the same time, the crowd below plays a part in making the photo not boring.

What have I learned?

I can see the benefits of different composition perspectives and appropriate presence of people in the photo.

Wayne Thom



Thom is a renowned Chinese-American architectural photographer, who has spent the last 50 years of his professional career documenting the wonders of the Pacific Coast through his lens. He has been invited to photograph nearly 3,000 architectural projects, and many of his works are in the permanent collections of prestigious American museums as works of art. He has always insisted on using only natural light, producing each photograph individually in the darkroom and consistently carrying a heavy load of proprietary equipment.

<https://www.monacellipress.com/book/wayne-thom/>

<https://architectsandartisans.com/photographing-the-late-modern-wayne-thom/>



The photograph uses the reflection of the building's glass to add beauty, making it blend in with the sky to create a distinctly different look. Also, the photo was taken at dusk, when the light becomes diffused and often softer, making any harsh shadows invisible in the photo, which is the best time to take it. The composition is rule of thirds, with the subject in the middle to attract the viewer's attention



In this photograph, the bottom-up approach was used to avoid the clutter on the ground and to create a cleaner image. The symmetry of the composition is well balanced, giving the buildings a sense of order and the right, also balance of light and shadow adds a sense of magic and seriousness to the subject. In addition to this, a high light ratio has been applied to create a strong contrast between light and shadow, bringing about the effect of black and white silhouettes. The use of leading lines draws the viewer's eye to the top of the image.

What have I learned?

I learnt the importance of choosing the time to shoot and using special techniques, such as light and shadow, and symmetry that will improve the quality of the photographs.



Yosigo (1981-)

Yosigo is a Barcelona-based photographer, who has published several books of his own work and been featured in various international magazines. His subjects are mostly architectural views and landscapes, and in Yosigo's shots the architecture is soft and poetic, with a unique spatial order. Yosigo insists on shooting on film rather than digital cameras, as he believes that no two photographs are ever the same and that is what makes an image so precious and unique.

<https://www.thesocialitefamily.com/en/blog/barcelona-at-yosigo-home-photographer/>

<

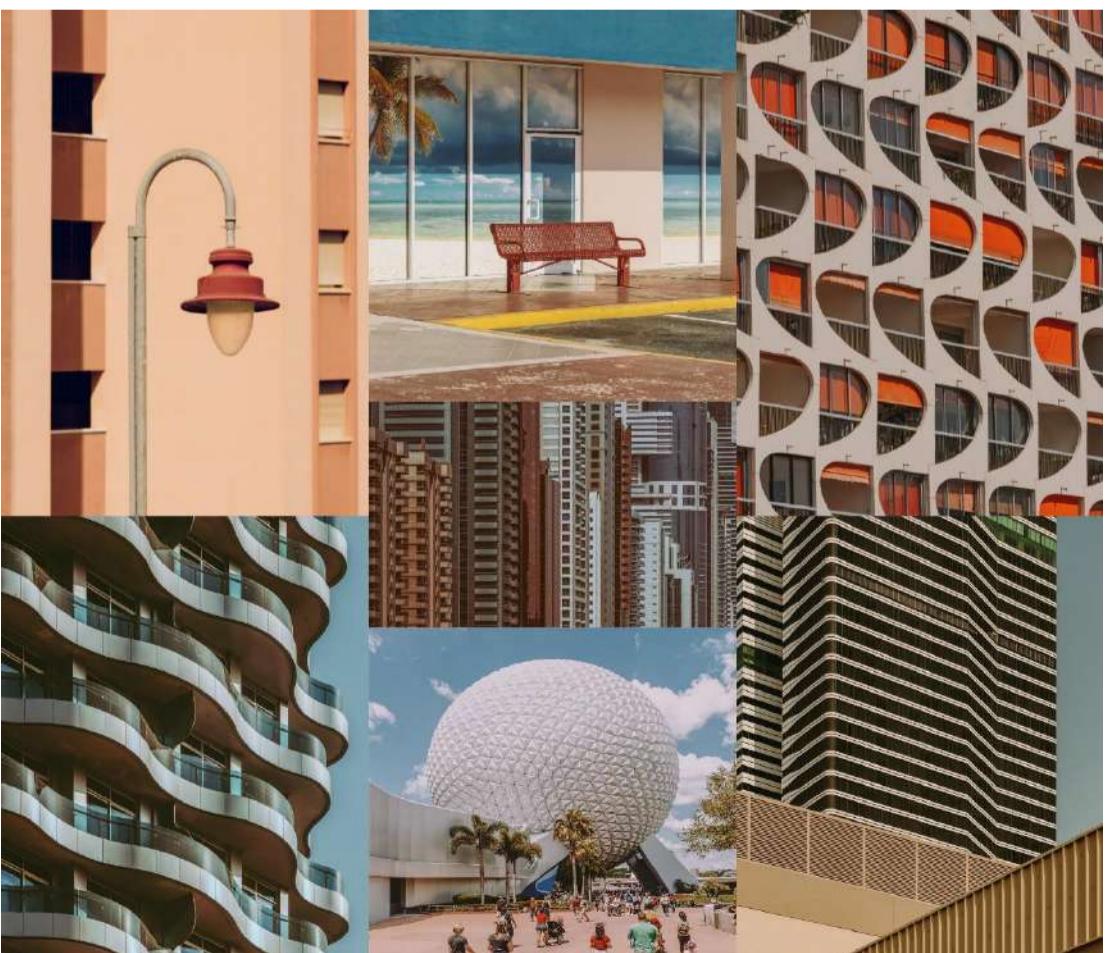
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The simple structure of the building and the solid colors in the photograph give it a minimalist feel, improving the sense of space and texture.

The photographs capture the detail of the building's balconies, while their regular arrangement provides interest and sequence to the photographs.

The use of highly saturated reds in the photographs captures the viewer's attention and creates a special visual

What have I learned?

I realized that color can also work well in architectural photography, while simple or cluttered photographs can be tried.

First shot



DSCF2893.JPG



DSCF2904.JPG



DSCF2905.JPG



DSCF2906.JPG



DSCF3105.JPG



DSCF3108.JPG



DSCF329.JPG



DSCF330.JPG



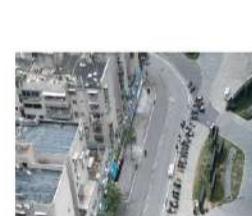
DSCF331.JPG



DSCF332.JPG



DSCF3595.JPG



DSCF3597.JPG



DSCF3599.JPG



DSCF3600.JPG



DSCF3401.JPG



DSCF3402.JPG



DSCF3403.JPG



DSCF3404.JPG



DSCF3415.JPG



DSCF3720.JPG



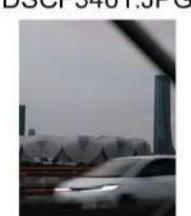
DSCF4144.JPG



DSCF4145.JPG



DSCF4146.JPG



DSCF3416.JPG



DSCF3417.JPG



DSCF3418.JPG



DSCF3473.JPG



DSCF3483.JPG



DSCF4148.JPG



DSCF4150.JPG



DSCF4151.JPG



DSCF4152.JPG



DSCF3484.JPG



DSCF3530.JPG



DSCF3540.JPG



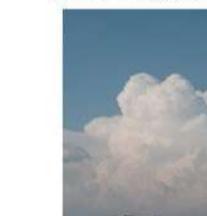
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DSCF3584.JPG



DSCF4154.JPG



DSCF4193.JPG



DSCF4194.JPG



DSCF4195.JPG



DSCF3587.JPG



DSCF3588.JPG



DSCF3589.JPG



DSCF3590.JPG



DSCF3591.JPG



DSCF4197.JPG



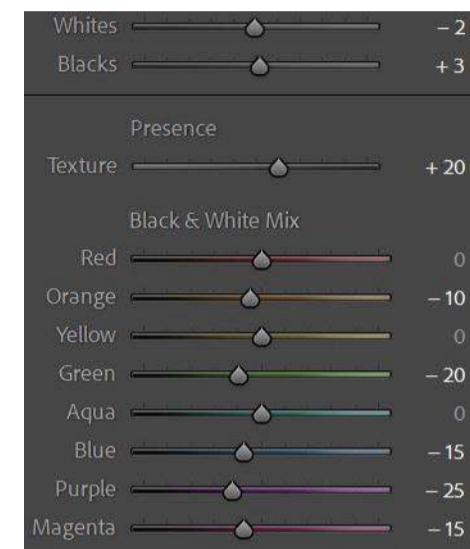
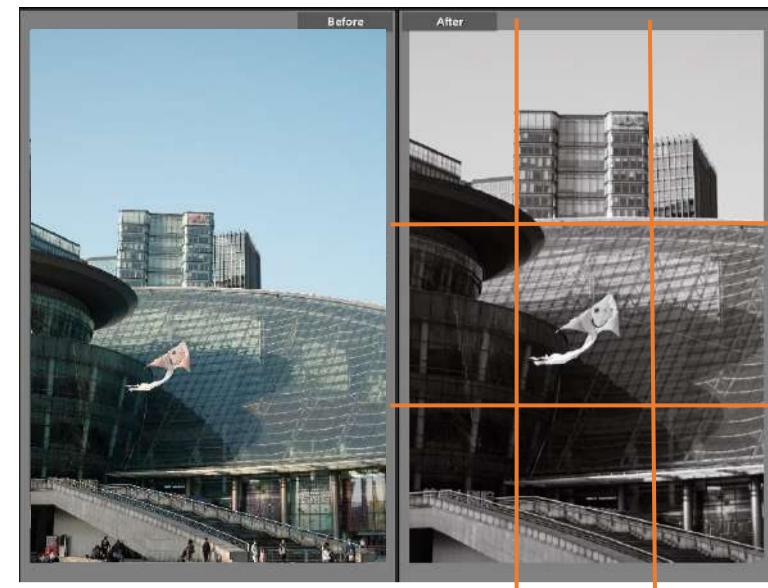
DSCF4209.JPG



DSCF4210.JPG

Contact Sheet

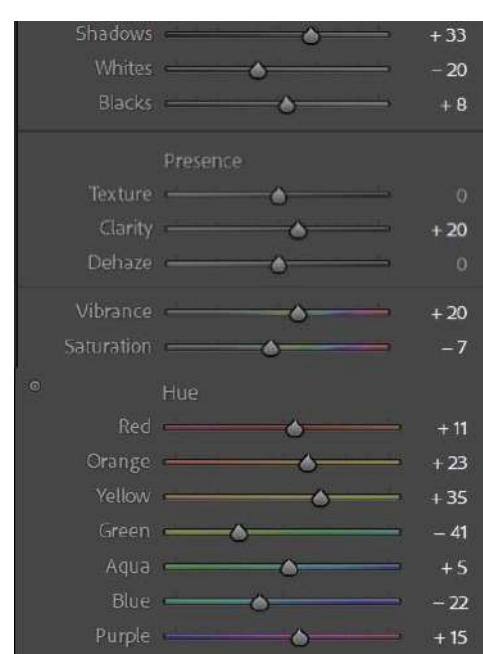
Final works



This photograph was taken at the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, a local landmark and in 2006 selected as one of China's top ten architectural technological achievements. At weekends, many people come here for picnics or walks in the square. My camera caught a kite flying around the buildings, bringing out a strong sense of contrast. It makes the original cold buildings more interesting and storytelling because of the smiley kite. I wanted to express through the photographs that even in the restricted concrete and steel buildings you can still fly as freely as this kite. I also used Lightroom to turn it into black and white to give the overall image a more unified color effect, while the white kite in the black shadows of the buildings provides a sense of mystery to the photo. The photo is composed in rule of thirds, placing the subject in the middle of the frame to capture



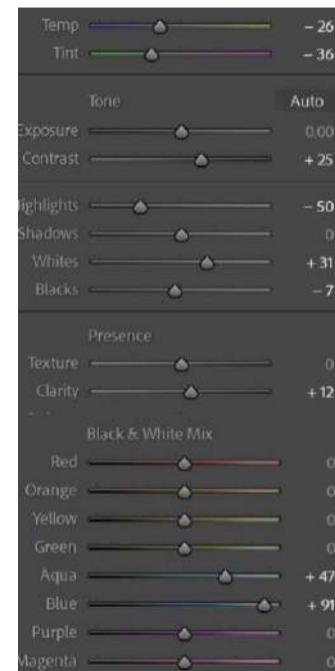
This shot was taken on the highway and shows the tall buildings in the city. The photograph is side lighted, using shadows to create texture and dimensionality in the architectures. The neatly arranged building give a nice structure, giving order and geometry to the picture. At the same time, the distinctive irregular shape of the clouds in the background is a unique feature of the photograph and brings a mysterious atmosphere to the whole. It is worth mentioning the Lightroom color palette, where I have reduced the saturation of the sky to emphasize the buildings and brightened up the shadows. For the composition I cropped the original 4:3 to 1:1 to further focus the photo. Negative space is also used to increase the spatial depth and the viewer's imagination of the image.



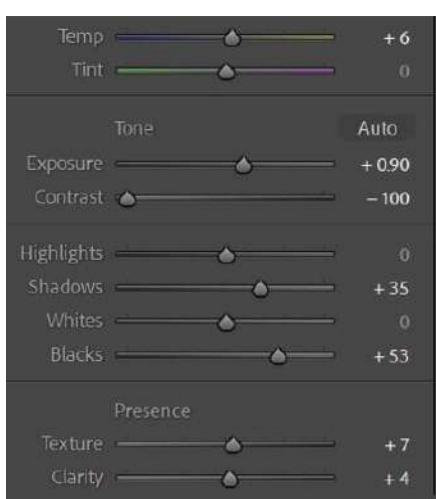
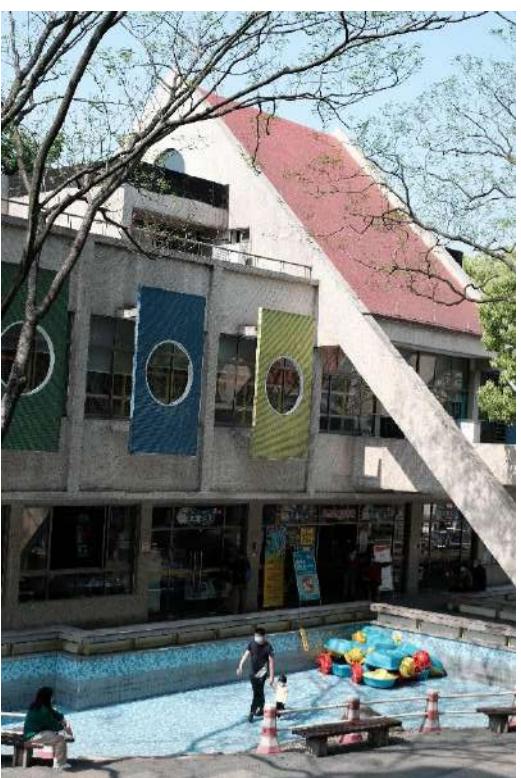
Lightroom process



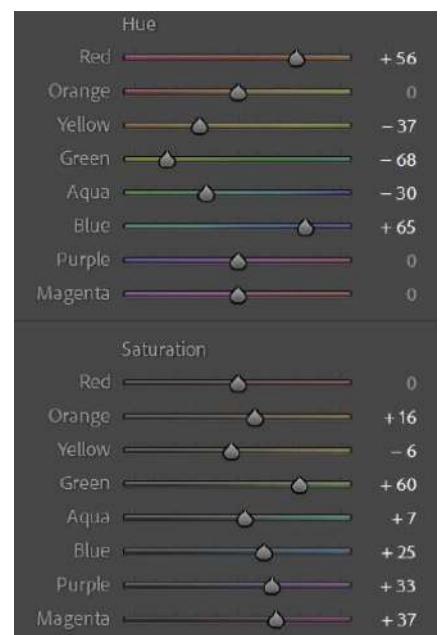
The photograph was taken in Wuhan's Yellow Crane Tower, which was reconstructed in 1985 and is known as one of the ten most famous historical and cultural buildings in China. It attracts countless visitors every year, and you can even see them if you enlarge the photo. In the foreground of the photograph is an electric pole, whose wires act as a frame for the building, to create a nice effect. At the same time, the wire serves as a guide line, drawing the viewer to the subject. In addition, this contrast between modern objects and ancient architecture allows the viewer to feel the passage of time and history. In Lightroom color grading I added cyan to the photo to produce a vintage feel and brightened the building to provide detail.



The photograph is taken from an elevated angle, which allows for a clean background and makes the building appear taller. The lines used to decorate the building are used as guide lines to direct the viewer's eye and enhance the three-dimensional feel of the image. The symmetrical shapes are also used to enhance the impact of the image. In comparison to the original photograph, I have enlarged the image to focus more on the details of the building's structure. In using Lightroom, the color of the photo was changed to black and white, and the highlight areas were brightened to create a color contrast for a better visual experience. The clarity of the photo was also increased to emphasize the lines of the building.



Lightroom process

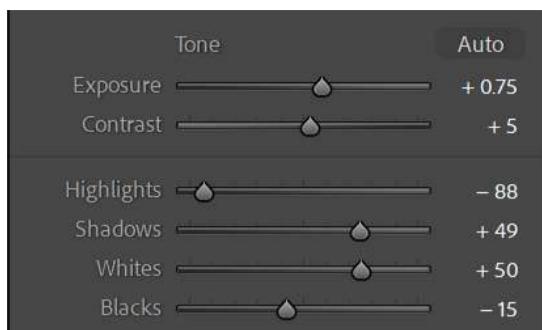


This photograph was taken of the Hangzhou Youth Palace, which was a playground and was built on Children's Day in 1963. This building has a special meaning for me because it is the happiest place of my childhood and has many memories for me. The creative architectural style provides uniqueness to the photograph and the contrast of light and shadow adds layers. In terms of composition, the use of the tree as a foreground highlights the subject, balances and decorates the image. When using Lightroom, I borrowed from photographer Yosigo's style to enhance the saturation of the colors and reduce the shadows in the image. Having a visual experience that puts you in a good mood to look at, it fits the atmosphere of the building perfectly.

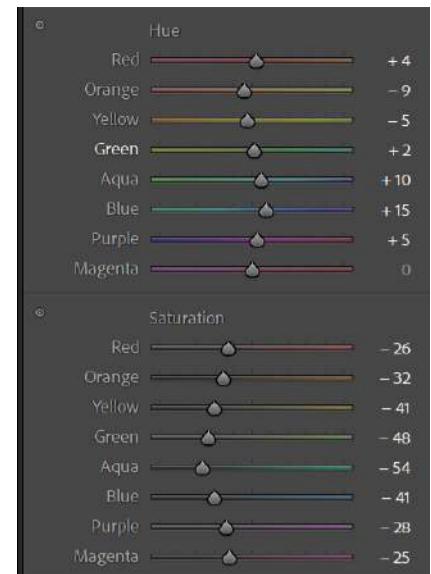
Second shot



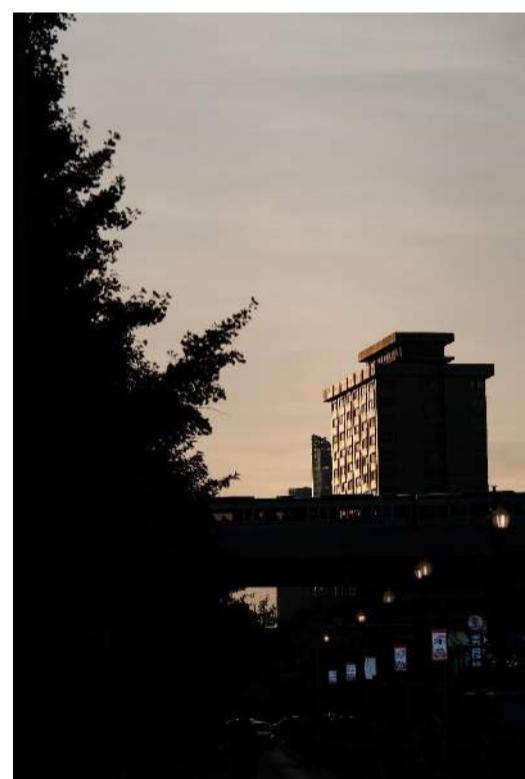
Contact Sheet



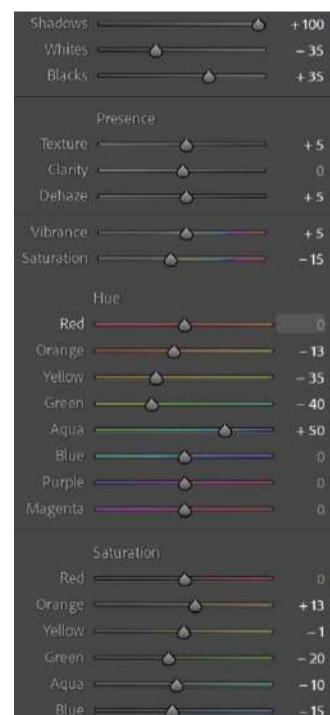
Lightroom process



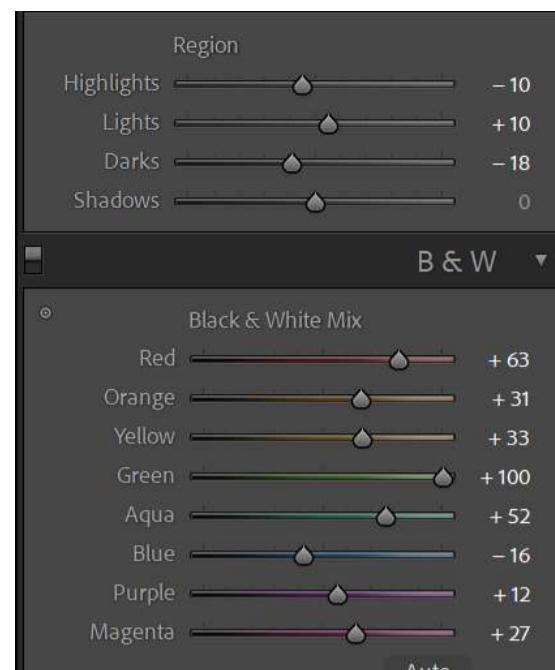
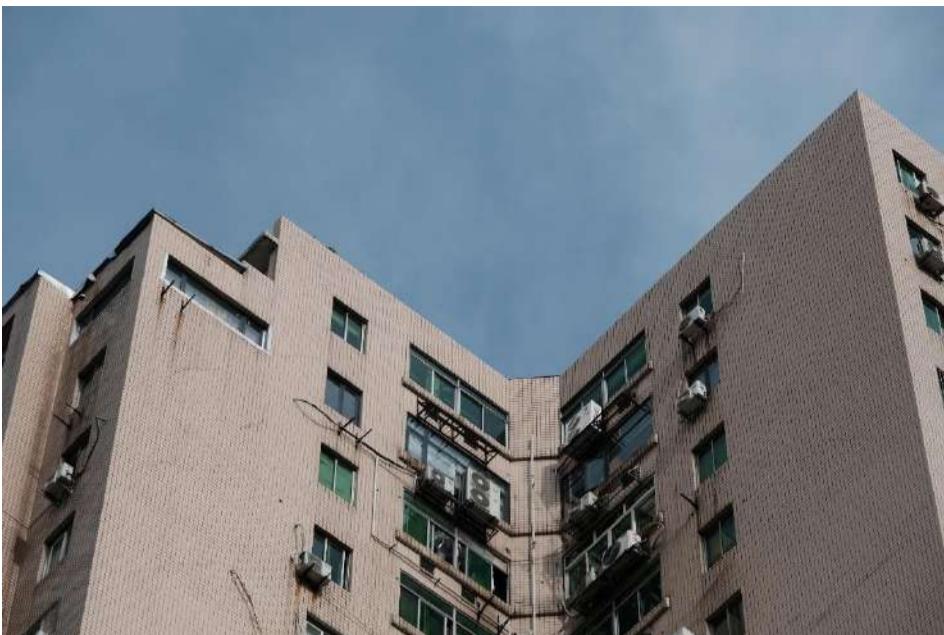
The lessons I learned from photographer Wayne about finding a good day to shoot are reflected in this photo. This photograph was taken during the supermoon phenomenon, showing a larger and fuller moon. Unfortunately, the moon is only half full due to cloud cover, but it does create a mysterious atmosphere to the whole. At the same time, the reflections from the glass of the buildings provide a great effect and create a unique scene. The light color of the boat in the foreground distinguishes it from the buildings behind and makes the composition less monotonous. In addition, the cropping to a 16:9 ratio brings it closer to the human eye and provides a cinematic touch that allows the viewer to look more closely at the photograph. There is no big difference in the color palette, just a brightening of the overall picture to provide more



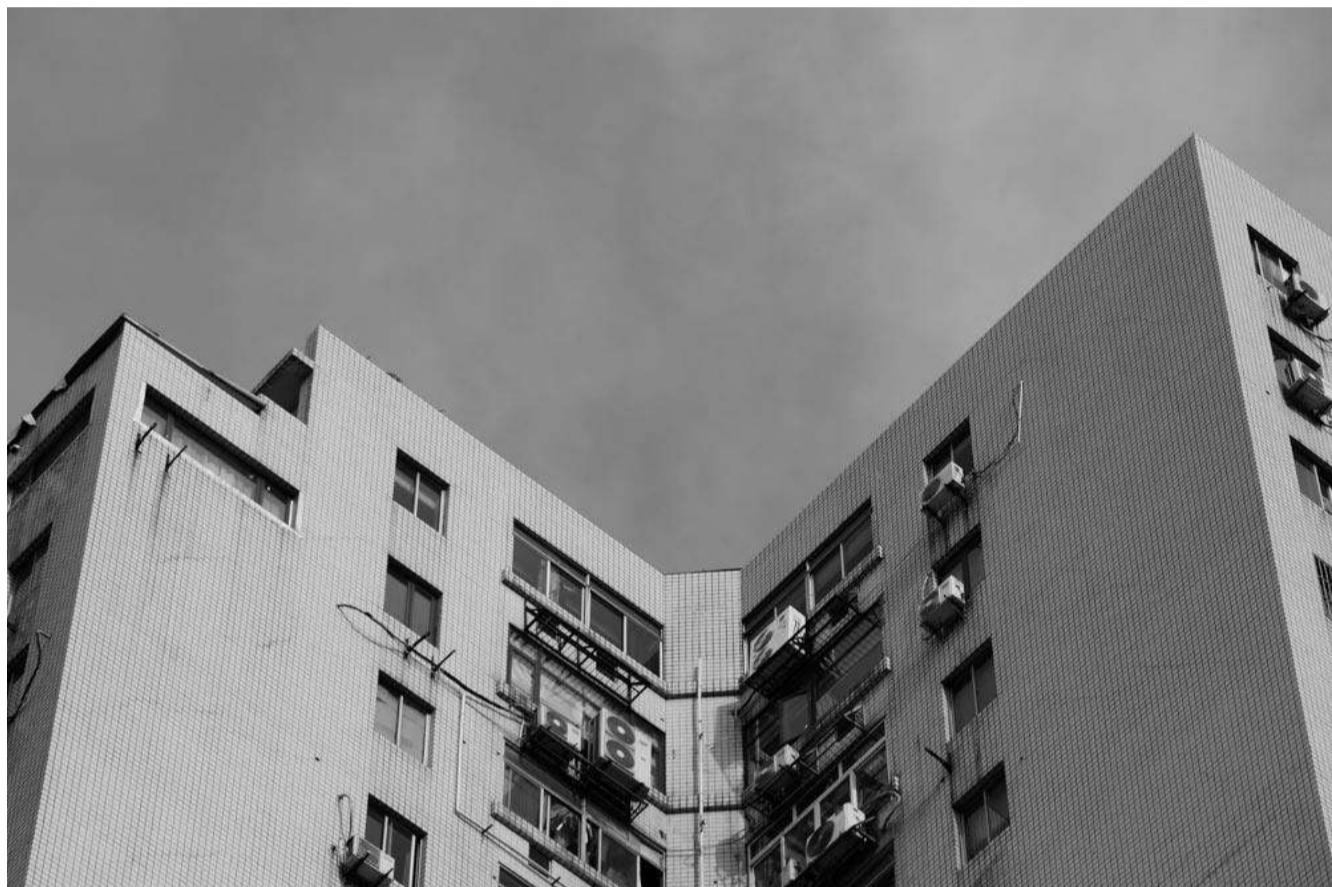
Lightroom process



It might become boring if there were only buildings in the photo, so in the composition I added the moving subway as the foreground to give the image more variety and a sense of story. Also, as the subway takes up half of the bottom section, I left negative space in the sky so that the photo does not look crowded. It is worth noting that the sunlight allows the viewer to notice the shadows of the people on the metro, bringing a unique visual experience. You can see that the final image differs considerably from the original, because the strategy of 'over-darkening' is better than over-exposing' was followed in order to retain more detail in the buildings. This was also done to make it easier to adjust in Lightroom afterwards, and I chose to make the buildings red for a sunset look, while reducing the contrast for a vintage look. This gives the overall photo a warm atmosphere.

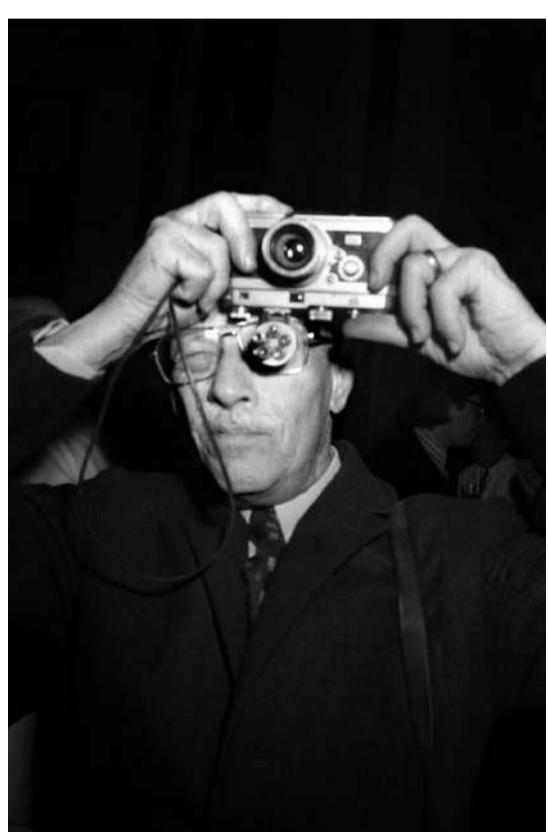


Lightroom process



Instead of a perfectly symmetrical composition, I have given the building an irregular shape, which adds layers and dimension to the building. At the same time, a special upward angle was used, based on what I learned from the photographer Berenice. This angle not only gives the perspective a positive effect, but also emphasizes the size of the building. The contrasting colors of the clouds and the sky in the photograph create a mysterious and serious atmosphere. The color palette uses black and white as a way of highlighting the darkness and lightness, resulting in an interesting and

Documentary Photography



**Willy Ronis
(1910-2009)**



Willy is a French photographer who has been described as "the photographer of Paris par excellence" by Oxford Companion to the Photograph. As a documentary photographer and journalist, Willy does not travel the world, but rather spends his time in the old cities of Paris and Provence, capturing moments of life in the streets. At the same time, his work is in black and white, and his subjects are relatively light-hearted, mostly depicting the good side of life. According to him, most of his photographs are a momentary burst, where all the focus is on the moment.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/27/arts/design/willy-ronis-paris.html>

<https://121clicks.com/inspirations/willy-ronis-inspiration-from-masters-of-photography>



This is one of Willy's most iconic photographs, capturing a young French boy running through the streets of Paris with a baguette in his hand. The slight panning of the camera combined with the slow shutter speed creates a sense of movement in the image, giving it life and vibrancy.



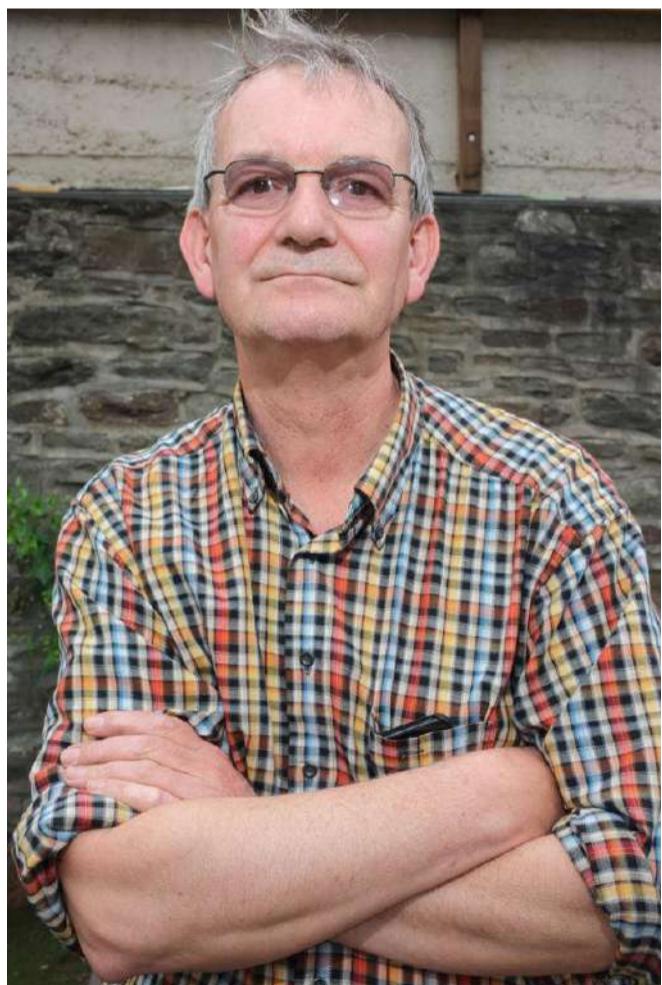
This photograph captures a couple looking out over Paris together, the foggy background giving the photograph a mysterious atmosphere that is attractive and romantic. The image is richly layered and conveys the feeling of France very well.



This photograph shows the winegrowers of Gironde, despite the dirt on their shirts and under their fingernails, looking happy to enjoy the fruits of their labor. It conveys pure and simple joy, as well as the French pleasure of life, demonstrating Willy's trademark humanism.

What have I learned?

Willy's work reminds me that documentary images do not always have to be technically excellent, dense subjects or complex emotions are perfect, what matters is the emotion contained within. At the same time, the approach to capture should be used to minimize the presence of the photographer.



Martin Parr (1952-)



Martin Parr is one of Britain's most influential contemporary photographers and was elected President of Magnum Photos in 2014. His work is a departure from the cool and stark black and white style of photography of the time, using extremely vibrant colors. Martin continues to explore the possibilities of ordinary objects that can be found everywhere, turning the most trivial subjects into tools for exploring human character and lifestyles. In his photographs, there is a strong visual impact that allows the viewer to feel a sense of absurdity, as well as some criticism. At the same time, as someone who has experienced changes in the photographic medium from film and digital to mobile phones, and from black and white to cooler, he has always believed that the core of photography should still be the ability to tell a story.

<https://www.famousphotographers.net/martin-parr>



This photo shows the messy details of life that we always overlook. Through Martin's photography and disposal of rubbish, the viewer can feel the interest in it, as well as the irony of not protecting the environment and people's indifferent attitudes.

This photograph uses a close-up approach to capture a woman sunbathing. The strong contrast of red and blue creates an effect that is appealing to the eye and works well. The composition is rule of thirds, with the figure placed in the middle for emphasis.

Martin captures the scene of two children eating ice cream, their dirty mouths bringing a relaxed and humorous perspective. The same-colored clothes and the standing position provide coordination to the photograph. The saturated colors are not mundane, but rather appropriate and provide a good visual effect.

What have I learned?

I realised that documentary photography is not only about black and white, but highly saturated colors can still be used to great effect. It is also important to be aware of the unassuming subjects around me.

Saul Leiter (1923-2013)



Saul was born in Pittsburgh, considered to be one of the early pioneers of cooler photography and one of the outstanding figures of post-war photography. However, he never had formal training in photography and worked more from his own knowledge. A special thing about him was his penchant for buying expired film to shoot, which gave him great surprises about cooler. He prefers to photograph ordinary people. At the same time, influenced by his friend Robert, he is not overly concerned with composition and sharpness, resulting in some of his photographs being out of focus. Looking at his work removes all distractions, gives a sense of purity and calm.

<https://www.howardgreenberg.com/artists/saul-leiter>



Observing this photograph, it can be seen that rule of thirds approach is used, with the subject being a dog in the middle of the frame, pointing out that documentary photography is not limited to the subject. The contrast between the background people and the dog brings a sense of humor and amusement to the photograph.

This is a photograph taken by Saul using expired film and has an overall greenish tint that provides a special visual experience. The silhouette of a man walking is shot from the fogged glass outwards, offering a new perspective.

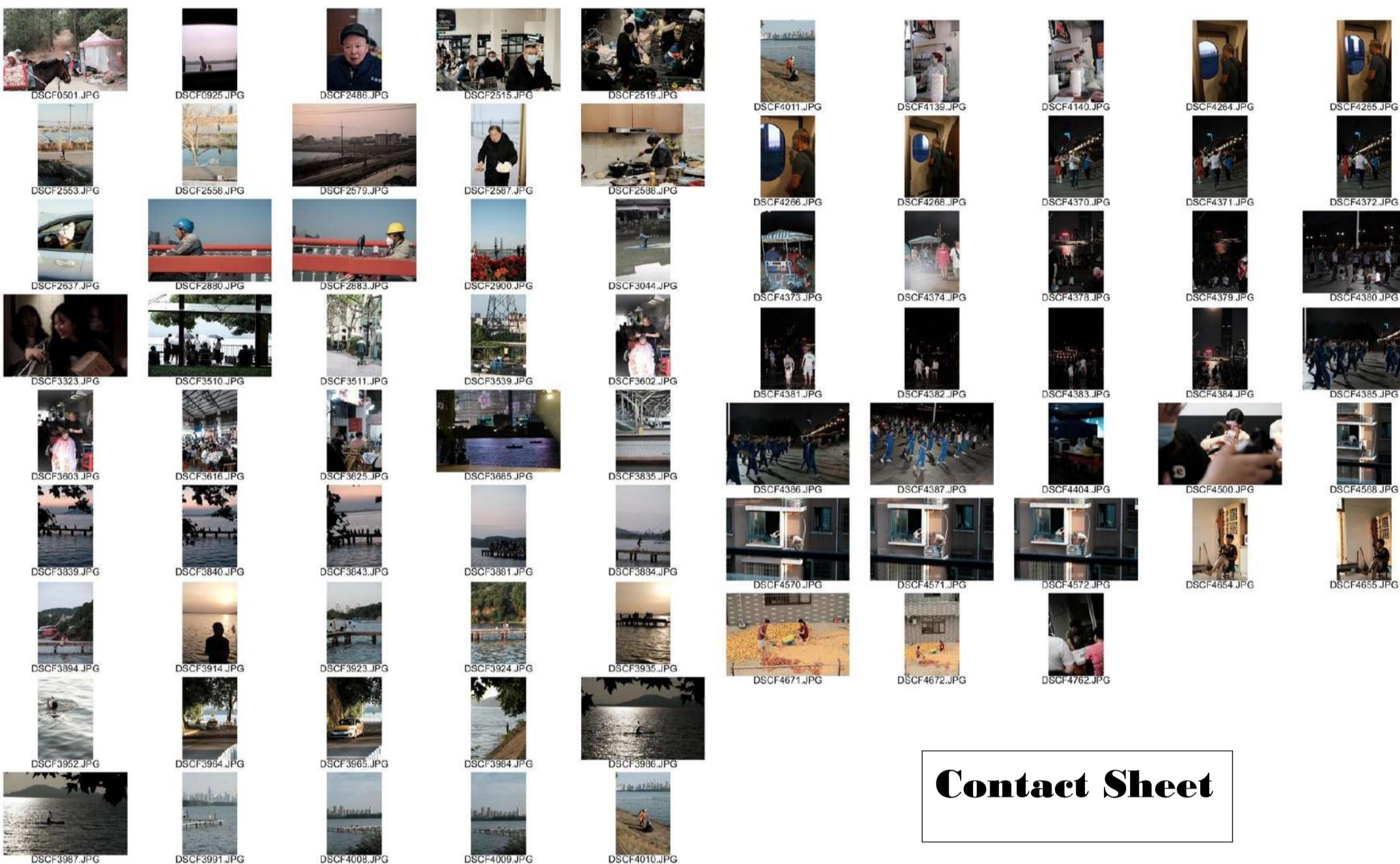
This photograph captures a barbershop in America at the time, where the reflection of the mirror works well to bring a sense of symmetry and balance to the photo. Also, the use of a foreground in the composition is a good choice.

What have I learned?

I learned that the subject matter of documentary photography is not too limited and that photographs are good even if they are blurred or imperfectly composed as long as they convey the story.

My shots

By studying the three photographers above, I learnt a lot of tips for taking documentary photographs. It focuses on recording and storytelling. To allow myself to capture more realistic moments, I chose a medium-length focal length of 16-80 for my lens. Also, unlike street photography, which only takes a few days to complete, documentary photography requires more time to accumulate and create good photos. Therefore, I will directly show all the photos I have taken during this year. Besides analyzing the photographs, I also tell the stories they contain.



Contact Sheet



Original images

Try 1

Try 2



B & W

Black & White Mix

Red	-20
Orange	-10
Yellow	0
Green	+20
Aqua	+35
Blue	+40
Purple	+30
Magenta	+10
Auto	

Whites	-20
Blacks	+20
Presence	
Texture	-10
Clarity	-10
Dehaze	0

Lightroom process

Two original images are shown above, I chose this one because I could feel the movement of the hands through the slow shutter speed, adding motion and vividness to the whole. I didn't change much about the composition, zooming in on the whole and placing the people in the middle for emphasis. In Lightroom, I changed it to brown to convey a sense of history and to coordinate better to stop the clutter of too many colors. In addition, the darkness of the background contrasts with the lightness of the subject to draw the viewer's attention.

This photograph captures a street barber shaving a customer's head. This is a traditional Chinese street barber shop, which originated in Beijing in 1924, but as the times have progressed it has become less common and can only be seen in the old streets. Also, it can be noted that the client is an old man, as young people are now reluctant to have their hair cut in such a humble shop. After the shoot, I interviewed the barber, he said he had been in the job for over 30 years, but that soon he would not be working any more, and before that he wanted to find someone to continue the technique, but now there was no one willing to learn it. In the middle of our conversation, he even cried, as he considered himself a man out of time and fearing that the technique would disappear into history.



Original images

Layers Channels Paths

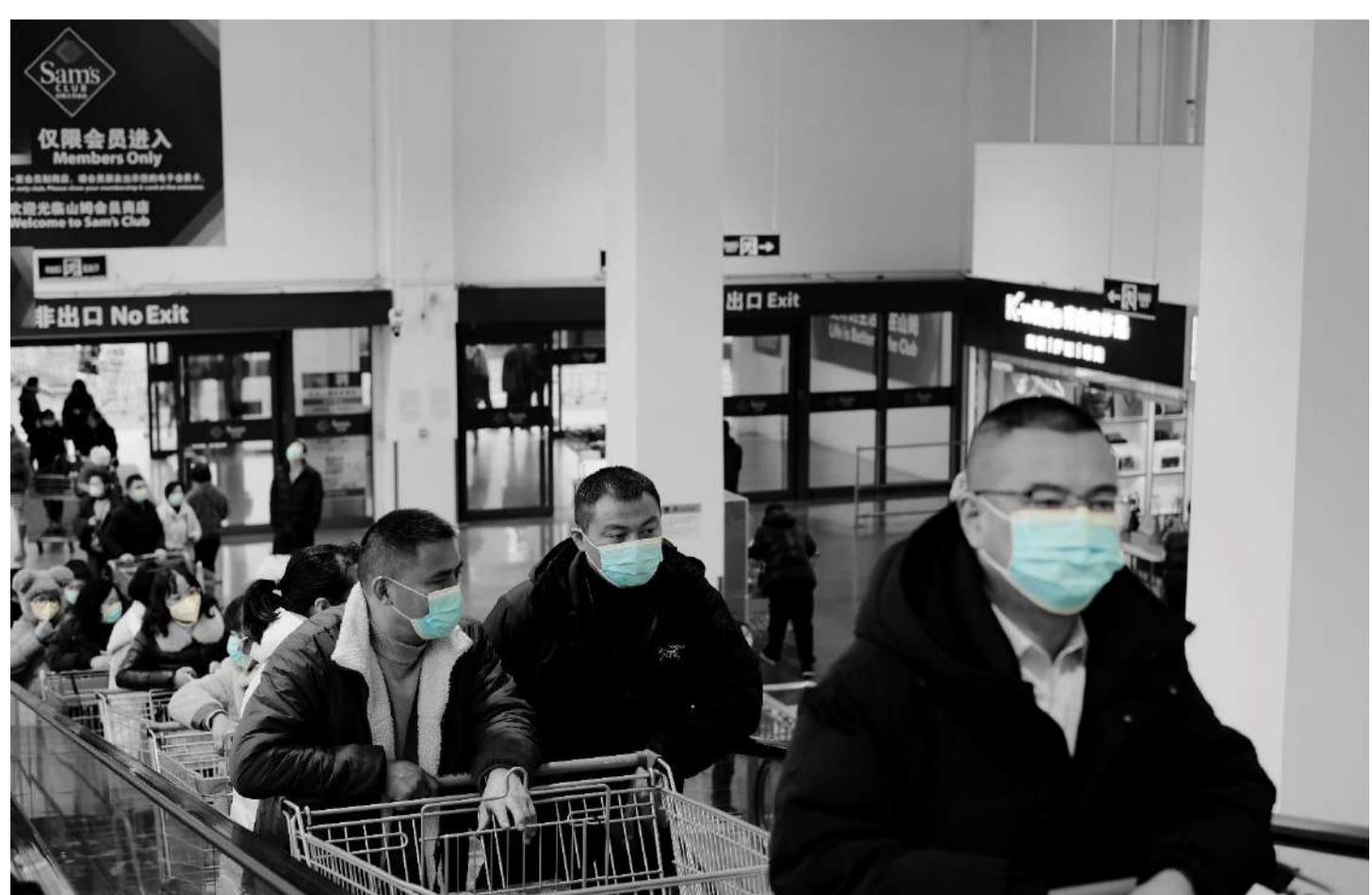
Kind: Normal Opacity: 100%

Lock: Fill: 100%

Hue/Saturation 1

Background

Photoshop process



The photographs capture people going to the supermarket to buy things in my hometown before the New Year. This is the most important festival of the year for China and many people who work in other cities return home to spend time with their families.

I was torn between choosing which of the original images above would be my final photo, the left would convey more of the epidemic environment and the right would show more of the crowded people. In the end, with the aim of documentary photography being to record history, I chose the left one and used a Photoshop technique to emphasize this by keeping only the color of the masks. The rest of the final image is in black and white, showing only the blue masks. This contrast in color gives a stronger visual impact. The composition uses leading lines to show the queue of people guiding the viewer from right to left, enhancing the depth of the photograph.



Original image



Try 1



Try 2



Lightroom process

The composition of this photo is tilted, I tried the usual composition on the Try 2 but it didn't work as well in comparison. Also, the photo was taken at night when I had the flash on, resulting in a lot of noise, which made the final image unclear. However, from studying photographer Saul's photos I understood that none of this completely determines the quality of a documentary photo, so I still chose it as my final result. The shadow in a photograph has many benefits, such as its directionality to balance the image and add spaciousness, as well as its ability to render the atmosphere and convey the hilarity of the people. In the lightroom color palette, I mainly increased the brightness and saturated the blue, which reduced the depression of the original photo and brought a feeling of vitality to the whole. The photo captures retired elderly people dancing in a square in the evening, which is very popular in China, but unusual for foreign countries. This is mainly due to the fact that China has a culture that likes to be lively and congregate, and the high level of ageing has further led to this situation. There are many different voices in society about this, with some saying that it helps the elderly to exercise and make them less lonely, and others saying that the loud music played is bad for the cityscape and undermines the rights of others to use the square. However, I found that there was no reluctance in this square and many children even joined in the dancing. In order to find out what people thought, I asked some people and they told me that there were specific rules for the square and that the elderly only danced on even-numbered weeks and did not bother others. And one old lady told me that they would soon be competing with other local squares and she had been practicing hard recently.



Original image



Try 1



Try 2



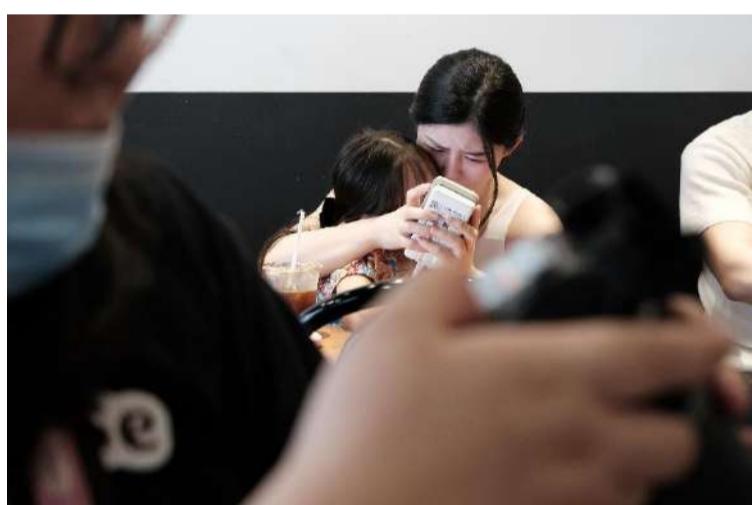
Try 3



Lightroom process

The square composition of this photograph makes the whole more concise and clearer, and also helps to focus the viewer's eyes. Symmetry was made with people of the same clothing color on the left and right to give the photo a sense of balance. For the Lightroom color palette, I enhanced the saturation of the reds and oranges to bring out the vintage feel of the image.

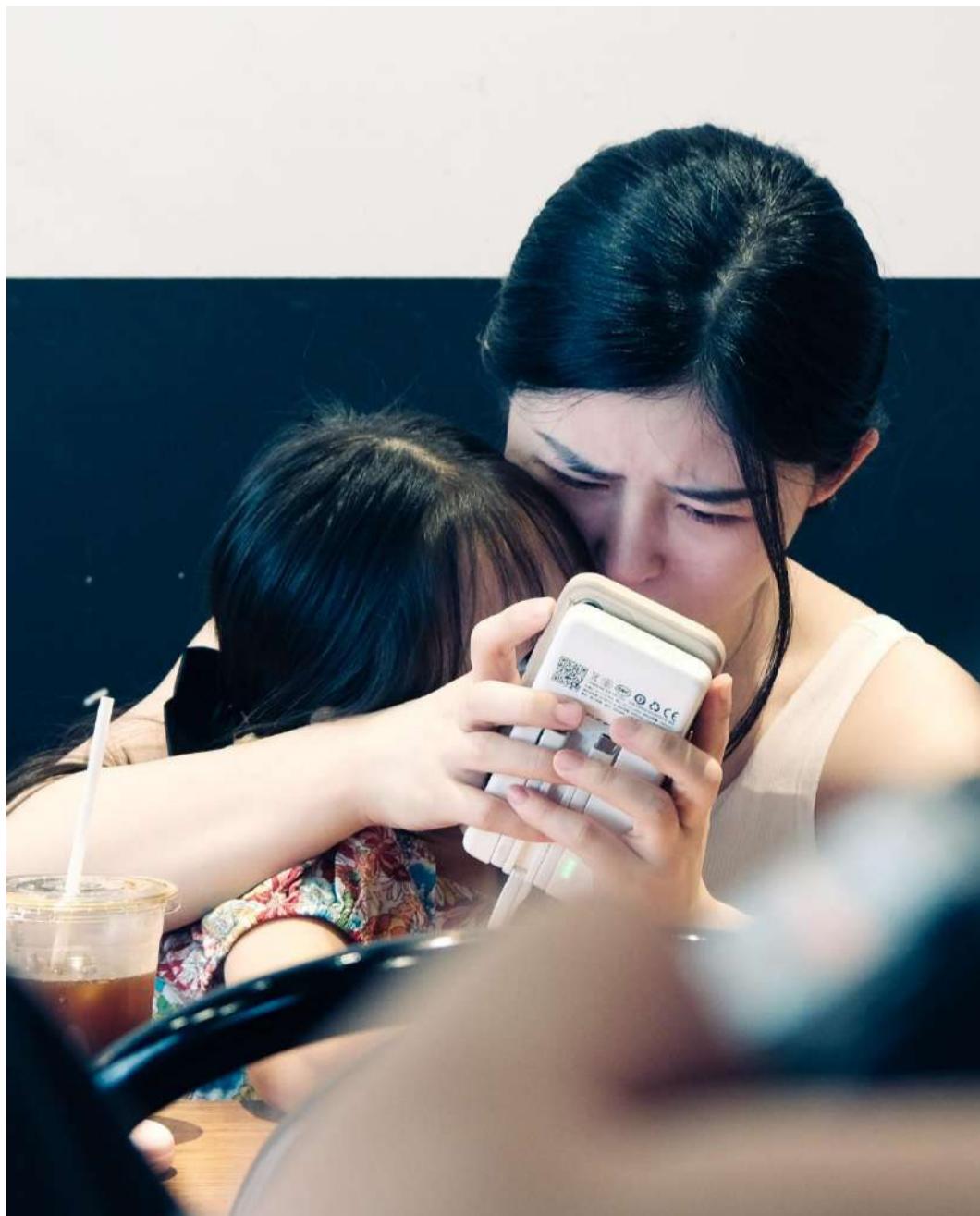
The photograph shows people working in my hometown during the summer, as they are putting the bumper crop of corn through a machine to turn it into kernels. This is a common occurrence there, and it is quite often to see corn piled up in front of the locals' houses. The overall saturation has also been increased with reference to the feel of the photographer Martin's photos, giving them a more vibrant color that allows the viewer's attention to be drawn to them at first glance.



Original image



Try 1



Lightroom process

From my studies with photographer Willy, I have learned the importance of capturing the smallest moments in life and have kept this idea in mind while shooting. I was in a coffee shop when I suddenly noticed a young lady crying with a baby in her arms and immediately grabbed my camera to capture it. Although you can't see her whole face in the picture, you can observe her furrowed brow. Perhaps she was trying to hold back the tears, wanting to remain steady in front of her child.

In contrast to my Try 1, I still chose to keep the blurred foreground, not only to be able to use it to emphasize the subject, but also to add perspective to the image. For the Lightroom color palette, I chose to go for a cooler color that would create a sad atmosphere for the whole.



Original image



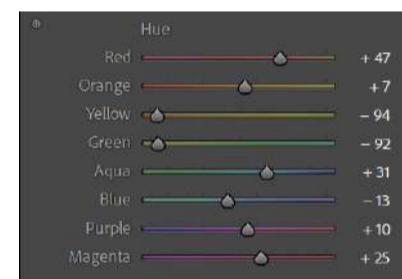
Try 1



Try 2



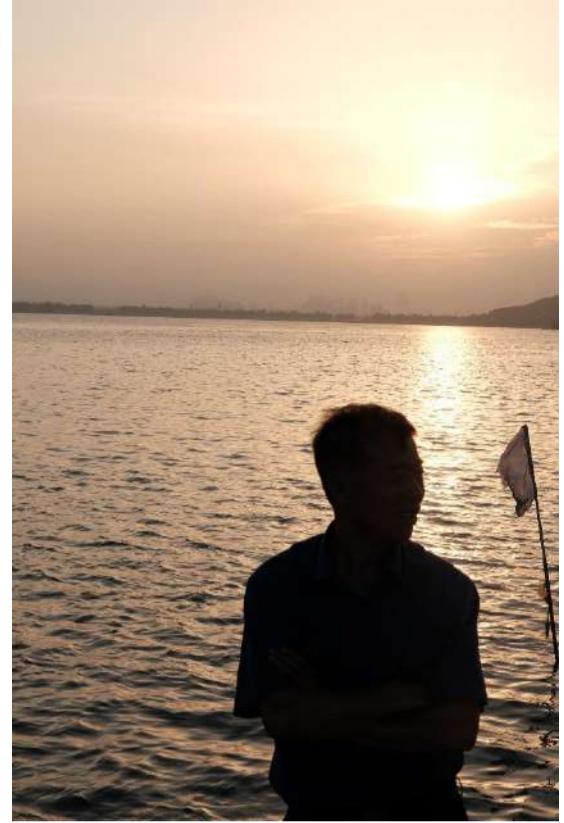
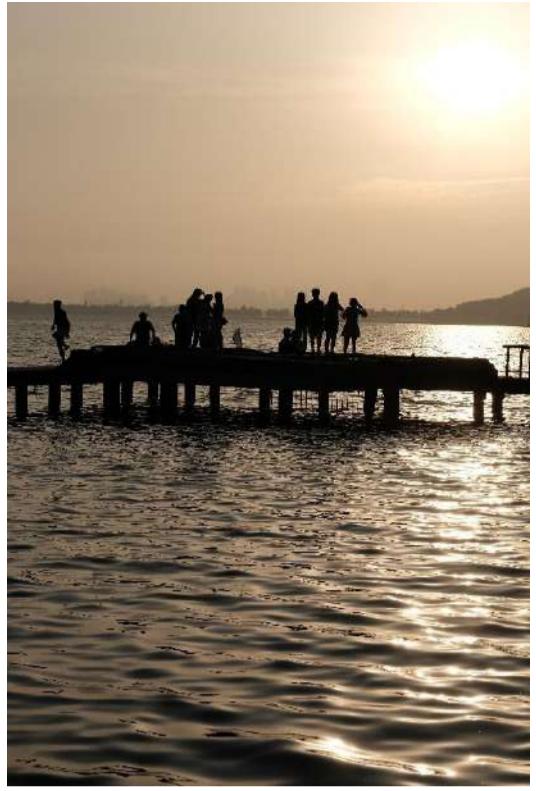
Try 3



Lightroom process

This photo was taken at a train station in Wuhan, where every passenger leaving the station is first tested for viruses, which helps to keep people as safe as possible. The photograph captures the medical staff working at night, who are very hard-working and often sit for the whole day repeating the same actions. It was also the hottest time of the summer and they had to wear heavy protective clothing.

The photos use contrasting colors and brightness to give the images dimension and layers. For the Lightroom color mixing, I chose to lower the background color to provide a late-night and a serious feel. At the same time, I enhanced the white color to make the medical staff more visible and to convey their sanctity. The paramedics in the front of the image are brighter than those in the back, which not only emphasizes the subject but also provides a sense of space. The composition uses the rule of thirds, placing the figure in the middle of the frame to draw the viewer's attention.



Original images



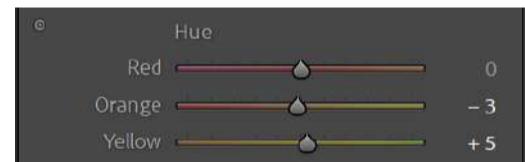
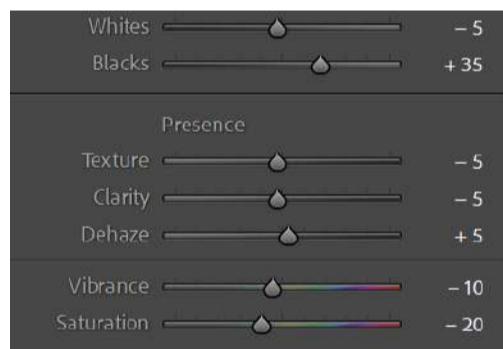
Try 1



Try 2



Try 3



Lightroom process



This photograph was taken at the Lingbo Bridge in Wuhan, which was built in the 1930s. Formerly intended as an open-air swimming pool for university teaching, it is now a famous attraction. The original images above were taken when I went there at 6am to watch the sunrise, capturing silhouettes of people walking after the sun had risen. This photo was chosen because the poses of the people are more varied and add a sense of story to the picture. The high contrast of the shadows in the photograph filters out many of the busy elements, making the subject more prominent and visually impactful. The ideographic approach possessed tends towards abstraction, placing more emphasis on engaging the viewer's subjective consciousness, giving them more different angles of perception and interpretation. Meanwhile, the presentation focuses on the use of lines to enhance the visual effect of the subject. In terms of color palette, I increased the tones to present a reddish outcome, allowing the photographs to become more special. I experimented with many different approaches to composition, but due to the wish to include more of the water's grain and light, I ended up with a longer composition. In addition to this, I used negative space in the composition to allow the weight of the viewer's eye to shift unconsciously to the main element in the picture and to balance the proportions of the image well.



Original imag



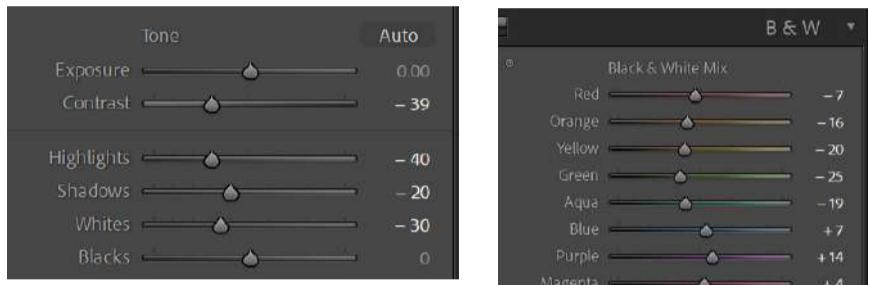
Try 1



Try 2



Lightroom process



Because of the large population in China, most people live in apartments, and this photograph documents a worker as he repairs an air conditioner on a high floor. It can be noted that the thing holding him in place is just a very thin piece of rope. Another notable thing in the image is the owner of the house poking his head out of the window to look at him, further heightening the atmosphere of danger.

Essential to the photo is the presence of light and shadow, which accentuates the overall sense of space and dimension, adding layers and texture to the image. For Lightroom, I adjusted the colors to black and white, removing other colors to allow the focus to move to other elements of the image, such as the lines, shapes and textures of the building. At the same time, the black and white also helps to render to enhance the emotion and mood, creating a sense of seriousness. I chose this over the other compositions I tried because it shows more of the building and allows the viewer to visually understand that the floors are high. At the same time, the contrast between the tall buildings and the small figure shows the risky situation even more.

Conclusion

During this project I gained a lot of new knowledge and insight by analyzing the work of other photographers and my own shots. In architectural photography, I have learned the importance of line and structure and the need to keep this in mind when taking my own photographs. At the same time, I have further developed my skills in Lightroom. In documentary photography, not only did I get great photos, I also learnt more about Chinese history and culture and deeply appreciated the society. In addition, I studied the skill of retaining a color with Photoshop to provide specialness to the photographs. I have improved my photography through this study and it will be very helpful for my future shoots!

Minimalism

key words:

- Negative Space: refers to the area around the subject in a photograph
- Balance: refers to the harmonious look of a photograph through color, proportion, symmetry, etc.
- Viewpoint: Photographers take pictures from different angles and compositions with different effects
- Contrast: refers to the powerful comparison given to a photograph by color or shading

Photographer's introduction and work analysis

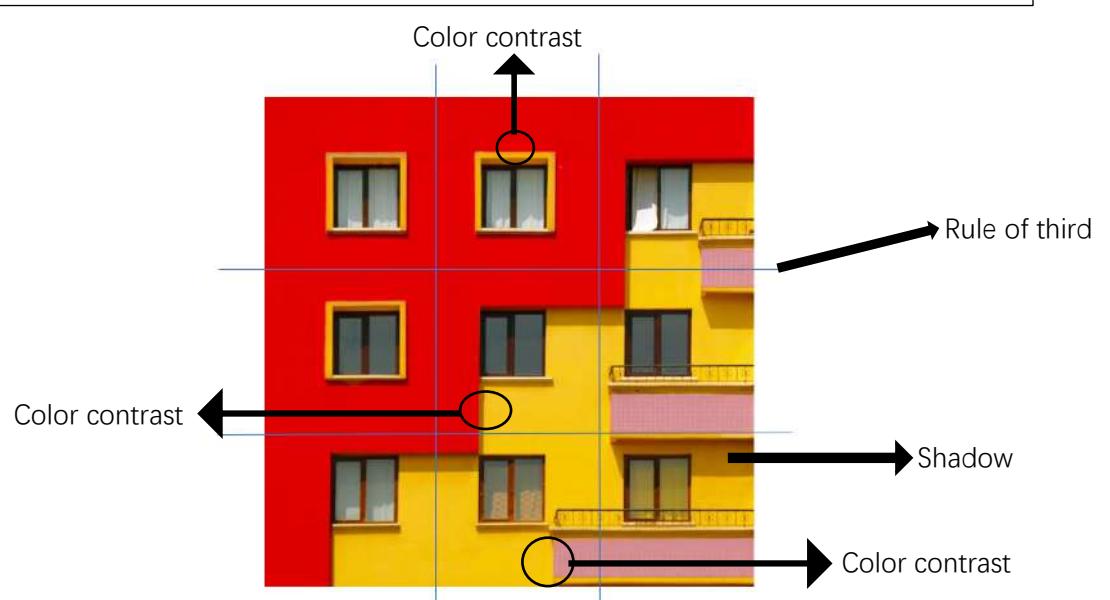


Yener Torun was born in Turha, Turkey in 1982 and became known for sharing his photography on Instagram in 2014, mainly photographing architecture. His work stands out through its minimalist structures, modernist geometry, vibrant colors and quirky architecture. In recent years his work has been discovered by more and more people, his following has grown along with it and he has been highlighted in many mainstream media.

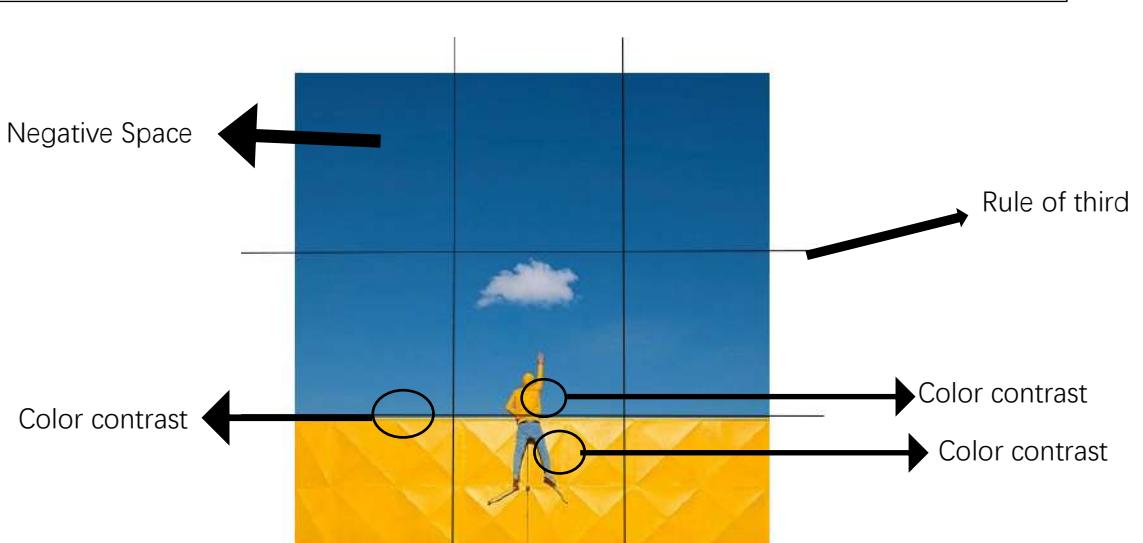
<https://www.yenertorun.net/about>



The image uses rule of third, while shooting from the viewpoint of the sloping side of the building, to create a sense of alignment of the buildings from large to small. Also highlighted in the image are the rainbow-colored buildings, which contrast with the blue sky in the negative space, allowing the viewer to focus on the subject.



The picture is square, where the nine windows can just be cut by the line of rule of third, and the shadows of the buildings are organized from top to bottom, all give the photo more balance. The large blocks of red and yellow in the photograph provide a strong contrast, creating a unique visual sensation. Also, it can be noticed that the picture uses a lot of color contrast, with the colors on both sides corresponding to each other, such as the yellow window frames in the red area and the pink balcony in the yellow area.



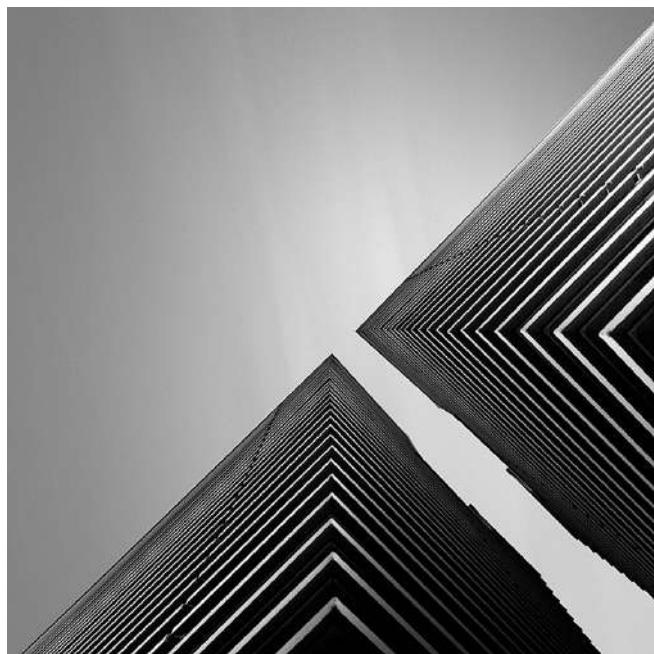
The photograph uses rule of third, putting the subject clouds and people in the middle, so that the viewer can focus on them more. The rule of third also divides the two main colors of yellow and blue, creating a balanced contrast. The yellow hoodie and blue pant are used to contrast and echo the colors above and below, creating a harmonious aesthetic.

Photographer's introduction and work analysis

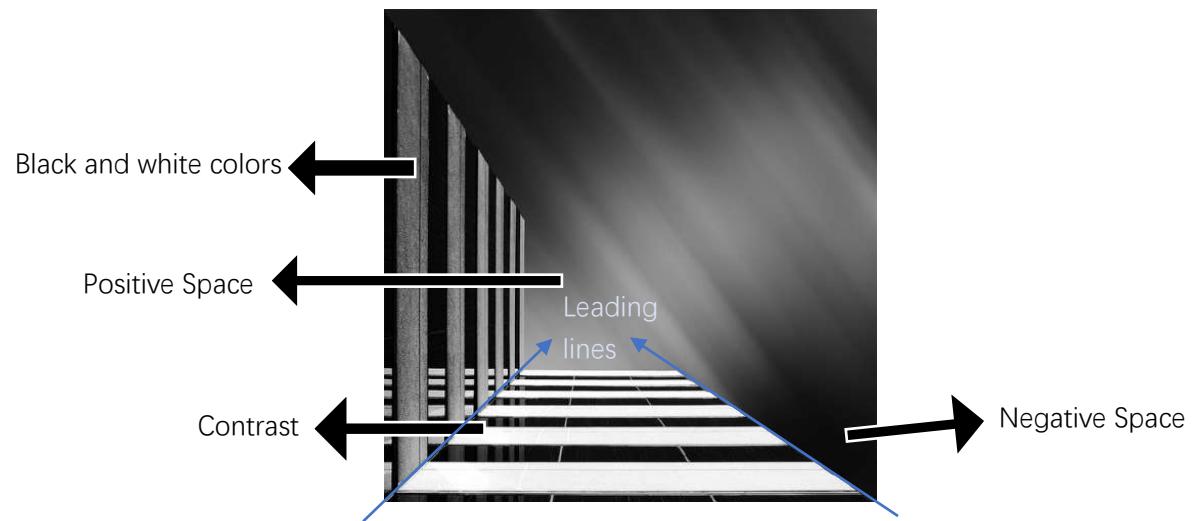


Kevin Saint Grey is a photographer from the United States who shoots subjects such as architecture, landscapes and still life. He only shoots in black and white and works with a minimum of color, shape, line and texture. Kevin believes that the most important aspect of composition is balance and he uses diagonal lines and geometric shapes to create interesting photographs that bring people into a quiet and mysterious atmosphere.

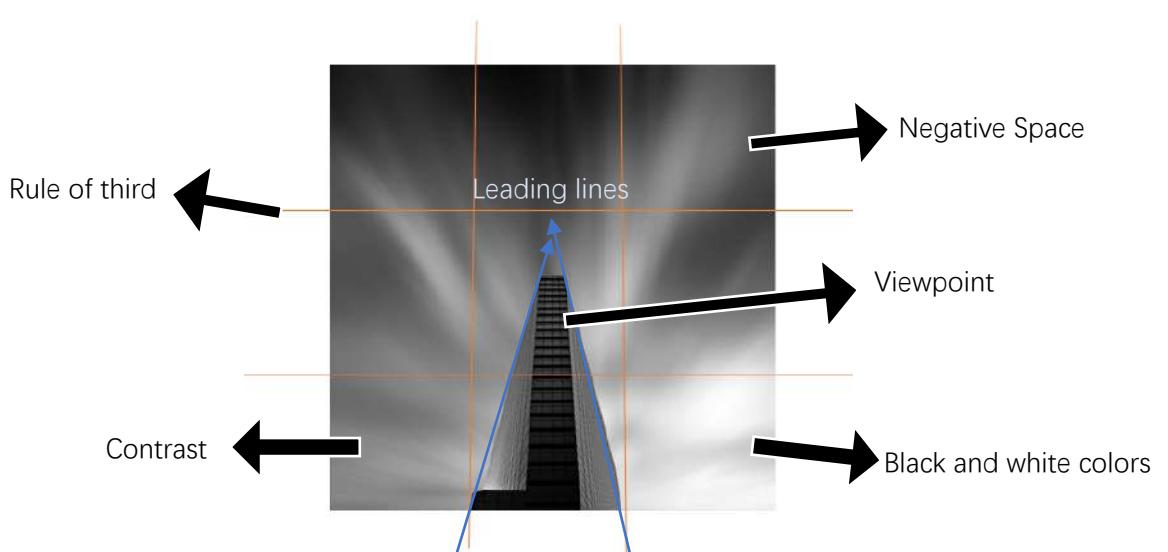
<https://sliceofsilence.com/blog/kevin-saint-grey-interview>



This photograph is in black and white, adding more tension by the angle of the top-down shot and the contrast between the color of the buildings and the sky. It also gives the viewer more imagination through the spacing of the sky between the sharp shaped buildings, bringing a calm but powerful feeling.



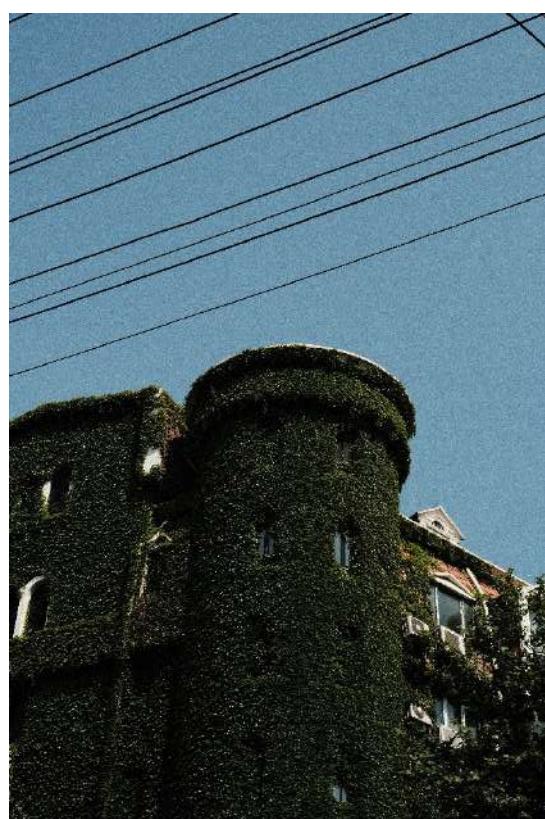
The colors of the picture are black and white, and the use of a dark foreground contrasted with the white floor on the ground creates an impactful visual experience. The framing uses leading lines to focus the viewer's eye on the positive space of the photograph, and the black and white floor on the right interacts with the reflection in the mirror on the left to enhance the interest of the image.



This is a black and white photograph that uses a combination of triangulation and leading lines in its composition, focusing the eye on the central viewpoint through the shape of the building. A further highlight is the irregularly shaped clouds, the white clouds contrasting with both the black sky and the buildings, while the elevated angle of the shot brings the perception of clouds surrounding the buildings, both of which deliver a unique but powerful impact. The photographer achieves the effect of blurring the sky through long exposures, creating special textures that bring the viewer a new visual experience.

Brief

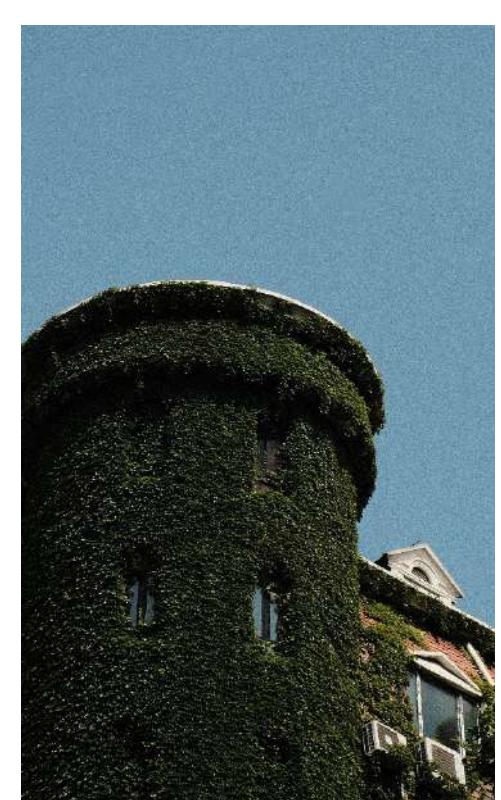
When I am out shooting, I will focus on the structure of the building to create a sense of scale and the contrast of saturated colors to achieve a minimalist effect. I expect my photographs to convey a story, which will allow the viewer to connect with the emotion of my photos. Composition is also an important point to remember when shooting, using large areas of negative space to create a mysterious and harmonious effect. I love the work of the two photographers above, Yener Torun and Kevin Saint Grey, so I will experiment with their style, using bright contrasting colors and black and white to make the subject stand out in order to create my own style.

Products of experimental photoshop

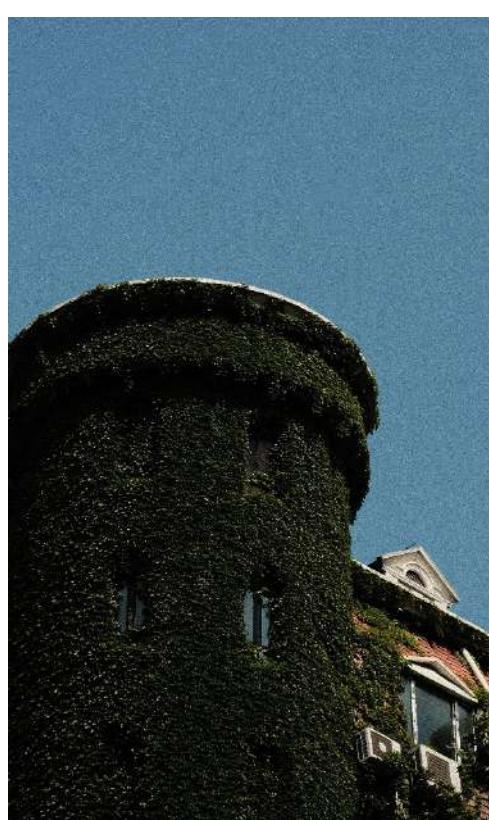
Original image



Adjusting composition



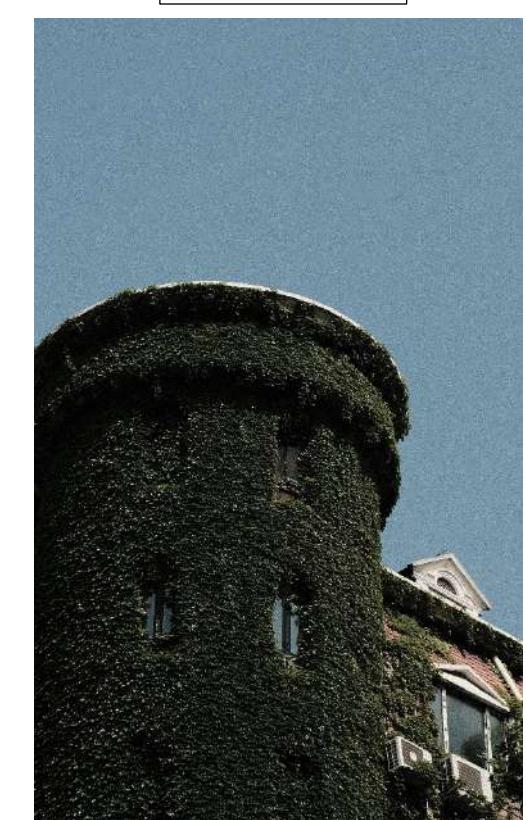
Clone stamp tool



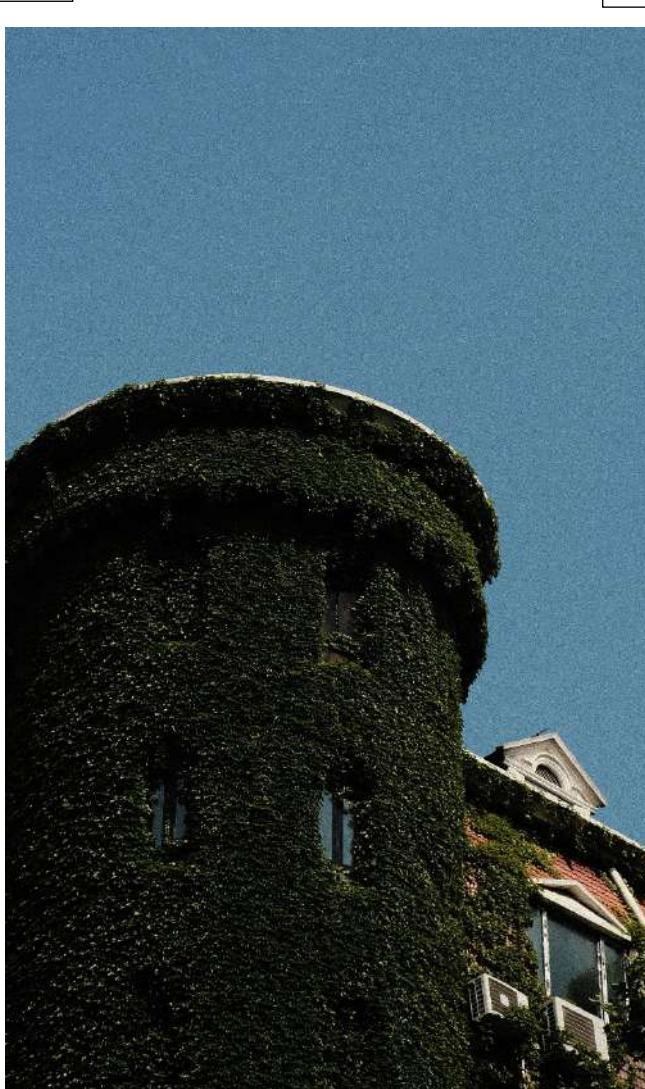
Brightness/Contrast



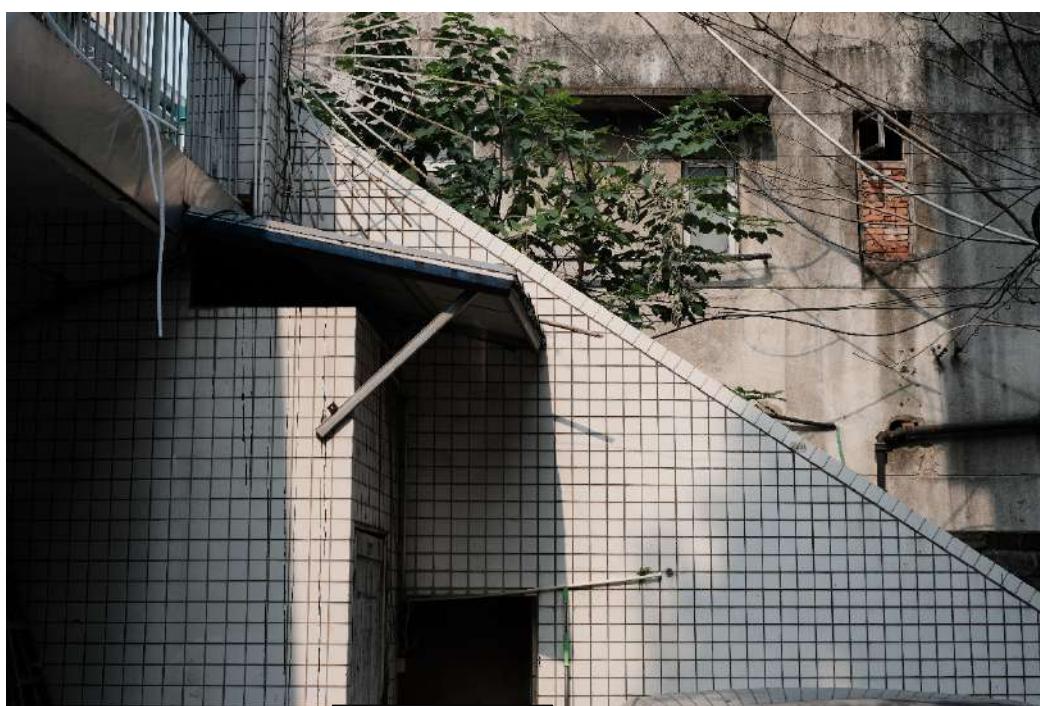
Black and white



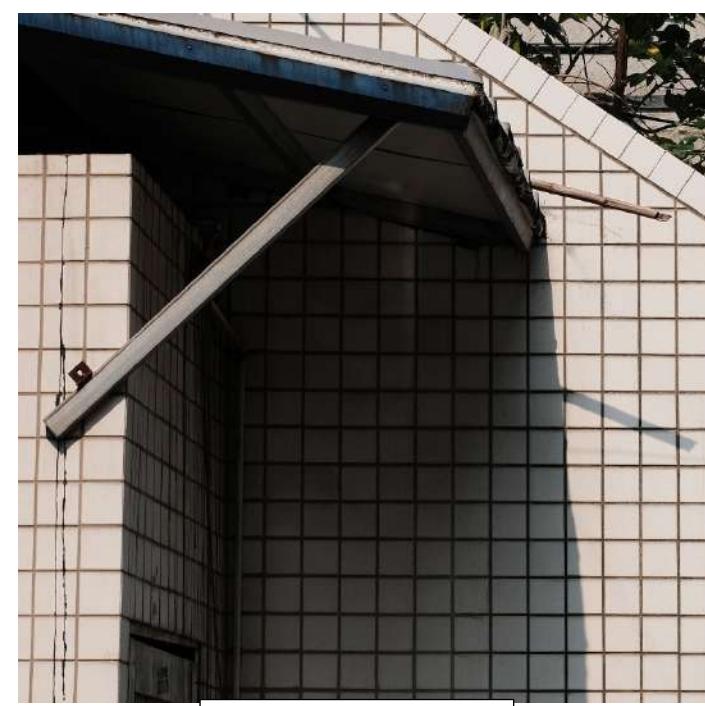
Vibrancy

**Final image**

This image is successful, using the classic chrome mode of the Fuji camera and then post-adjusted in Photoshop. The image was edited by adjusting the composition of the photo to give the viewer a more focused view and to reflect minimalism. The wires were removed from the original image using the clone stamp tool, which enhanced the negative space of the photo and emphasized the minimalism. It also removes the black spots caused by lens smudges, which should never happen and always make sure the lens is clean when shooting. Finally, the brightness was reduced for the picture and the contrast was increased, this step was to give a stronger comparison between the buildings and the sky, thus developing the minimalism better. Another highlight of the image is the green building covered with Boston Ivy, the numerous leaves forming a special texture that makes the photo even more unique.

Products of experimental photoshop

Original image



Adjusting composition



Levels



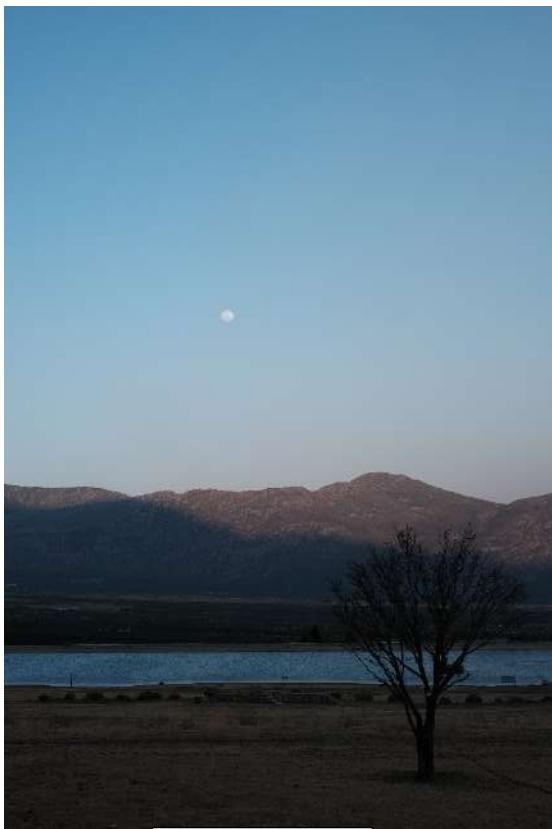
Black and white



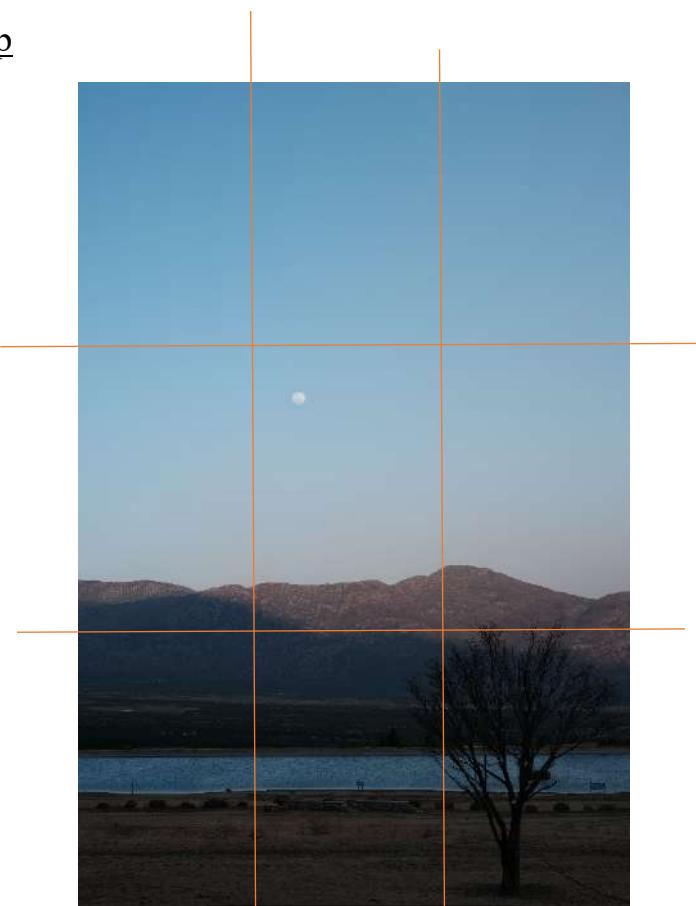
Brightness/Contrast

**Final image**

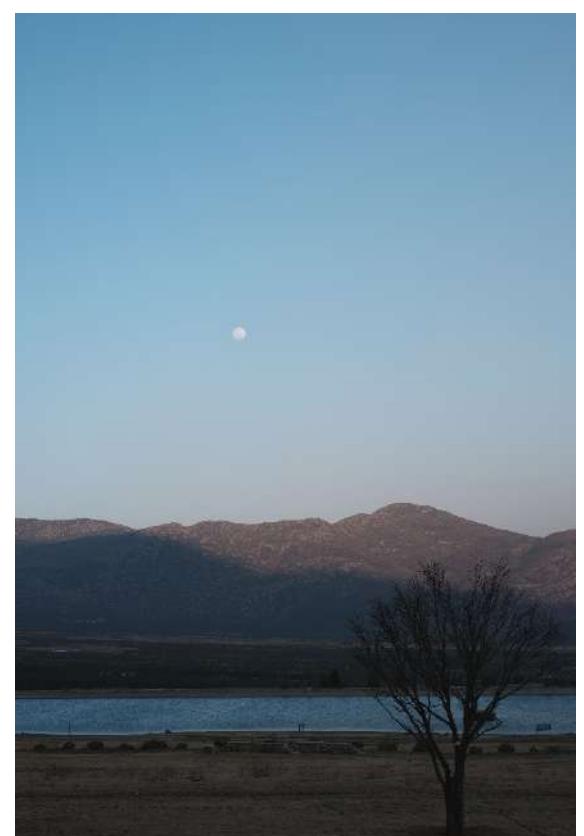
The photograph is successful, with the distinctive lattice architecture and contrasting shadows both well developed in minimalism. In Photoshop I first used the crop tool to cut it out of part of the original image to give the viewer a more focused view. Secondly, I adjusted it using levels to make it brighter and lighter, in order to lay the groundwork for the black and white. Finally, it was turned into black and white to enhance the contrast between the back foliage and the white building, as well as the change in color of the shadows to give the photo a stronger texture.

Products of experimental photoshop

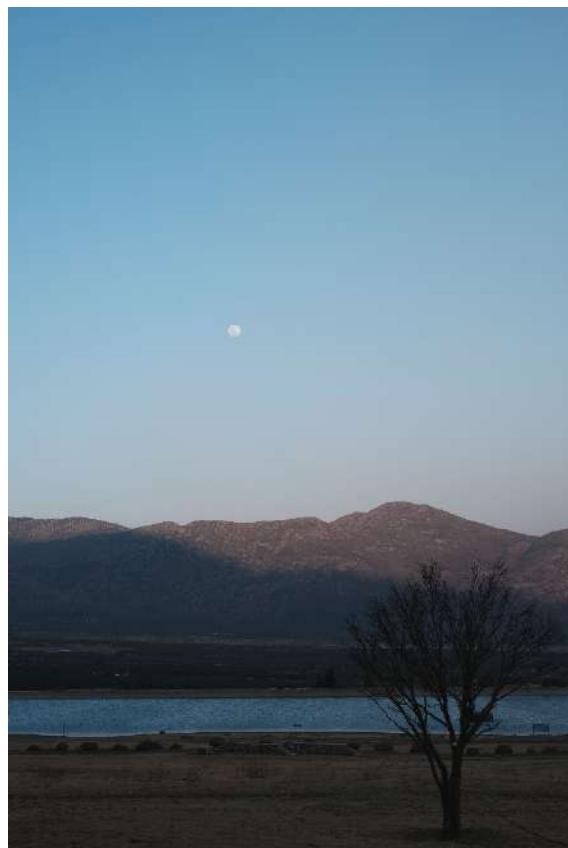
Original image



Adjusting composition



Levels



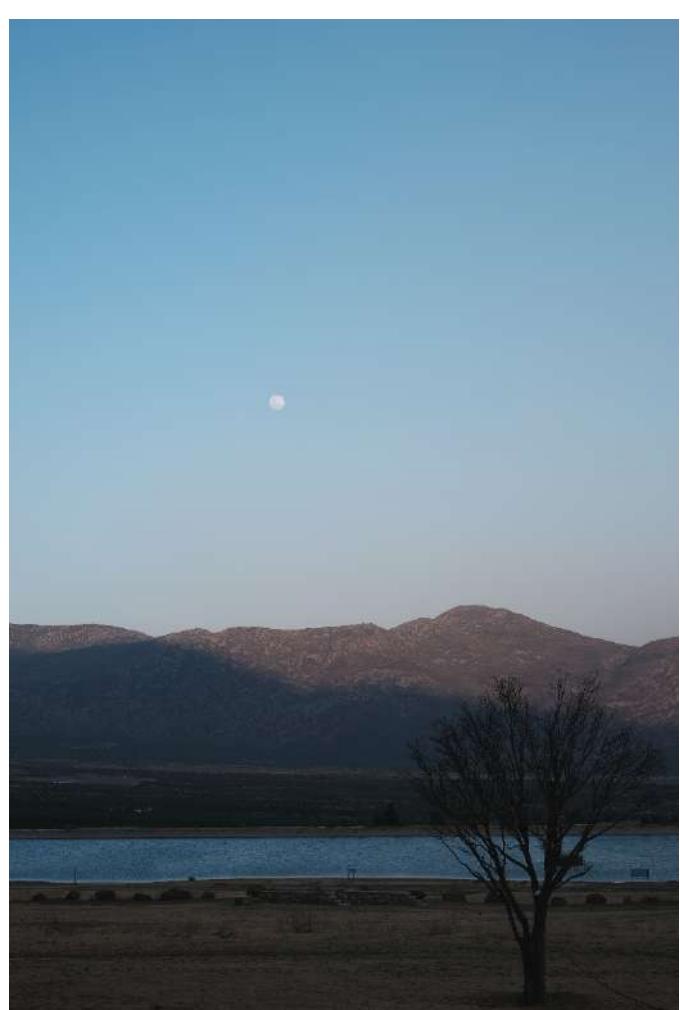
Brightness/Contrast



Black and white



Curves

**Final image**

This photograph is successful in that its large range of negative space is a great illustration of minimalism, bringing a sense of quiet and expansiveness. When I used Photoshop in post, the first thing I did was to adjust the composition of the image using the rule of thirds method. Next, I analyzed the photo and found that it was already good enough and only needed a little lightening in the darker areas, I first tried using levels, but found it would lighten the rest of it as well. So, I increased the contrast and reduced the brightness a little to achieve the final result. I also tried black and white, but it didn't work well, because the color in the photo is the most special thing, and when this advantage is gone the photo becomes normal. The colors of the sky and the lake are echoed to create a balanced effect and the shadows of the mountains give it much more contrast.

Products of experimental photoshop

Original image



Adjusting composition



Hue/Saturation



Brightness/Contrast



HDR exposure



Vibrancy

**Final image**

This is an image that I had been looking for a long time to include in the story, using the Fuji camera's Eterna mode, which gave me ideas for the color palette later on. The foreground masking and clean negative space in the photo are successful illustrations of minimalism. The original image was first composed in Photoshop by enlarging it to bring out the focus. Because I wanted my final photo to have an old-fashioned feel, I made adjustments in the hue to change its overall color from reddish to yellowish. Then noticed that the people's faces are a bit dark, so added the slight brightness, while reducing the contrast. I captured this photo in a traffic jam, in which a mother and daughter are walking along the roadside holding hands, and the action of the mother looking back at her daughter gives the photo a sense of storytelling and brings a special visual experience to the viewer.

Products of experimental photoshop

Original image



Adjusting composition



Black and white



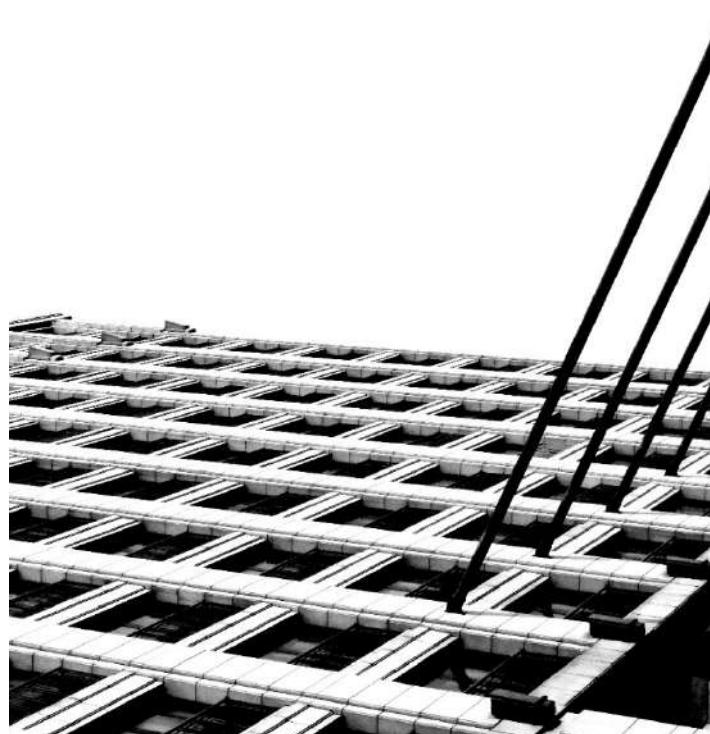
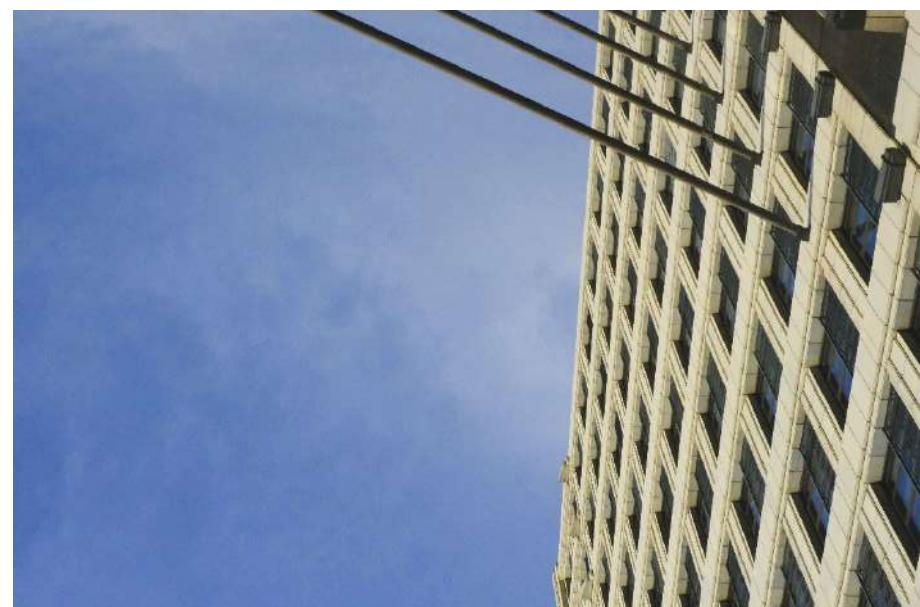
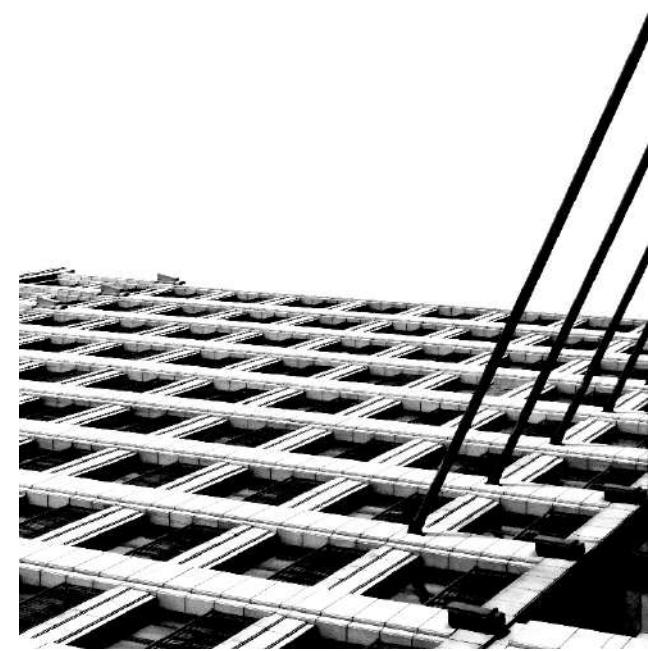
Brightness/Contrast



Vibrancy

**Final image**

This photo is a success, with the particular shapes created by the mirrors and mirrors reflecting off each other, and the circles of lines developing minimalism. When editing in Photoshop, I still chose to crop the photo first to bring it into focus, and secondly added a black and white effect to unify the colors of the photo to make it more harmonious. In order to add more contrast, I reduced the brightness and increased the contrast. Although this is not a very unusual photograph, the differences between the light and dark sides of the mirror are accentuated by post-adjustments, giving the photograph a minimalist quality in many ways.

Products of experimental photoshop**Final image**

The minimalism is well conveyed through the architecture of the building and the high exposure effect of the photographs. In Photoshop, composing the photo in rule of thirds and then rotating the orientation of the photo creates a more unique viewpoint for the image. Then comes the use of black and white effects and increasing the exposure, so that the negative blue space of the photo becomes white, creating a starker contrast with the building. With these adjustments, an otherwise ordinary image can be made distinctive and more focused for the viewer.