



Overview

Storytelling / Narrative Photography is an art form that captures moments while conveying emotions and narratives. It transforms ordinary scenes into compelling stories, allowing viewers to connect deeply with the images presented.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the importance of narrative in photography.
- Learn how to compose images that evoke emotions.
- Develop technical skills for capturing storytelling moments.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

The Art Of Storytelling Photography	How To Find Your Photography Style	
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Before You Shoot

- Identify a theme or story you want to convey through your images.
- Scout locations that enhance the narrative you intend to tell.
- Gather props or subjects that will help illustrate your story.
- Plan your shooting schedule to capture moments in the best light.
- Consider your audience and what emotions you want to evoke.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture a series of three images that tell a story about a day in the life of a local artist. Use settings f/4.0, 1/125s, ISO 400 in aperture priority mode.
2. Photograph a family gathering, focusing on interactions and emotions. Use settings f/2.8, 1/60s, ISO 800 in manual mode.
3. Document a community event, capturing the essence of the atmosphere and participants. Use settings f/5.6, 1/250s, ISO 200 in shutter priority mode.
4. Create a photo essay about a local market, highlighting the vendors and their products. Use settings f/3.5, 1/125s, ISO 400 in aperture priority mode.
5. Photograph a story of resilience by capturing a subject in their environment. Use settings f/2.8, 1/200s, ISO 1000 in manual mode.
6. Capture a moment of connection between two people, focusing on their expressions. Use settings f/2.0, 1/80s, ISO 640 in shutter priority mode.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a multimedia storytelling project that combines photography with audio or video elements.
- Develop a themed portfolio of storytelling images that explore a specific topic or issue in depth.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do plan your shots ahead to ensure you capture the narrative effectively.
- ✓ Do engage with your subjects to elicit genuine emotions.
- ✓ Do experiment with different compositions to find the most impactful storytelling angle.
- ✓ Do review your images in post-processing to enhance the narrative through editing.
- ✓ Do seek feedback from peers to refine your storytelling techniques.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on posed shots; candid moments often tell the best stories.
- ✗ Don't ignore the background; it can enhance or detract from your narrative.
- ✗ Don't be afraid to break the rules of composition if it serves the story.
- ✗ Don't overlook the importance of lighting; it can dramatically affect the mood of your images.
- ✗ Don't rush your shooting process; take the time to observe and connect with the story.

Reflection Questions

- What emotions did you aim to evoke through your storytelling images?
- How did your choice of composition affect the narrative?
- What challenges did you face while trying to tell a story through photography?
- In what ways did you engage with your subjects to enhance the narrative?
- How did the technical settings you chose influence the final outcome of your images?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use a wide aperture (f/2.8) to create a shallow depth of field, isolating your subject from the background.
- Set your shutter speed to 1/250s to freeze motion during dynamic storytelling moments.
- Adjust your ISO to 800 in low-light situations to maintain image clarity without excessive noise.
- Utilize single-point autofocus to ensure your subject remains sharp in the frame.
- Set your white balance to 'daylight' for outdoor scenes to maintain natural colors.

Creative:

- Incorporate leading lines in your composition to draw the viewer's eye towards the focal point of the story.
- Experiment with different perspectives, such as low angles or bird's-eye views, to provide unique storytelling angles.
- Use natural light to enhance the mood of your images; golden hour can add warmth and emotion.
- Capture candid moments to tell authentic stories that resonate with viewers.
- Create a series of images that work together to tell a cohesive narrative, rather than relying on a single shot.