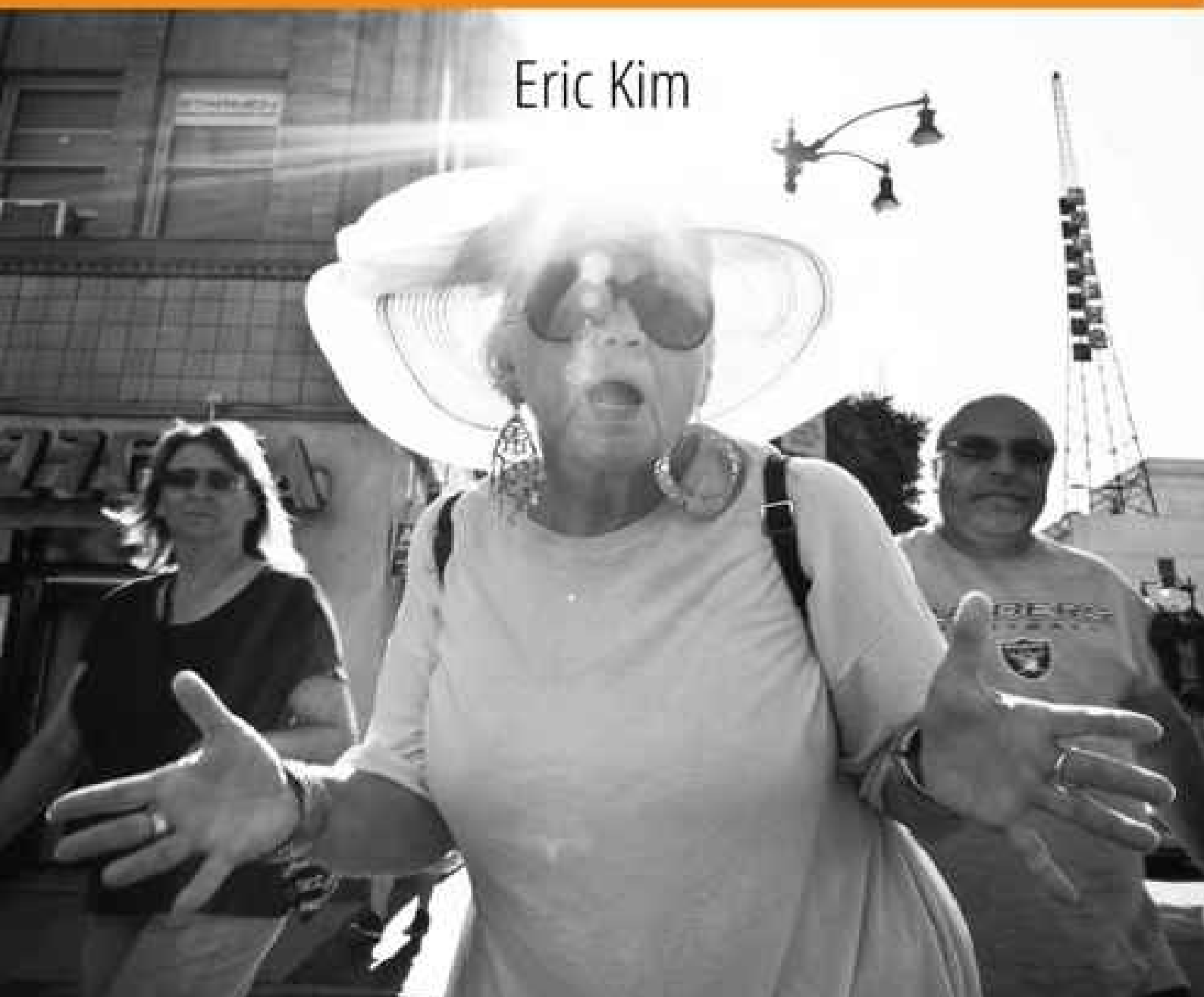


STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

50 WAYS TO CAPTURE BETTER
SHOTS OF ORDINARY LIFE

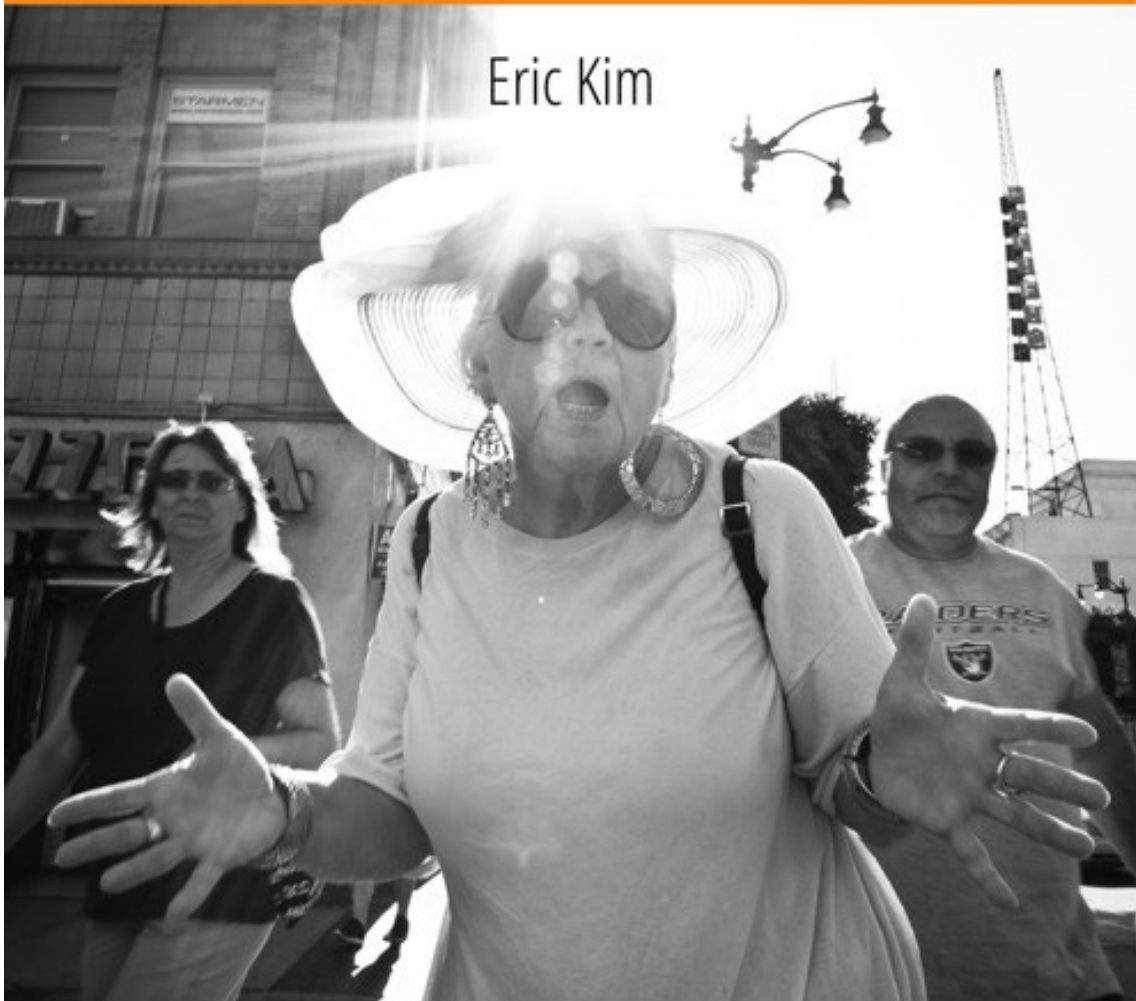
Eric Kim



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

50 WAYS TO CAPTURE BETTER
SHOTS OF ORDINARY LIFE

Eric Kim



Street Photography

55 Ways to Capture Better Shots of Ordinary Life



by Eric Kim

With contributions from:

Ludmilla Morais

Blake Andrews

Thomas Leuthard

Kramer O'Neill

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY by Eric Kim
erickimphotography.com

Text © 2015 DEXT AB.

Images © Eric Kim, except where otherwise noted; see rights page for more information.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form—whether written, electronic, recorded, or photocopied—without written permission of the publisher.

Although every precaution has been taken to verify the accuracy of the information contained herein, the author and publisher assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions. No liability is assumed for damages that may result from the use of information contained within.

Published by DEXT in Stockholm & New York. On the web at DEXT.mobi. Contact us at sales@DEXT.mobi.

Editor: Johan Steensland, Cemark

Consulting Editor: Julie Mazur Tribe

Proofreader: Alison Hagge

Cover Design & Layout: Tobias Hagberg

Kim, Eric, 1988

Library of Congress Catalog Number: 2013957591

Print edition ISBN: 9789186841546

E-pub edition ISBN: 9789186841621

Kindle edition ISBN: 9789186841560

PDF edition ISBN: 9789186841638

First edition

E-book authoring by Ionfox AB

Contents

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

Chapter 1: A first taste

The biggest challenge for budding street photographers is to overcome their fear of shooting in the streets. Use the tips in this chapter to learn how to conquer that fear.

1. Get close! Now take two steps closer.
2. Show respect
3. Ask for permission
4. Ignore those who call you weird
5. Conquer your fears
6. Learn to defuse tension
7. Practice instant responses

Chapter 2: Camera gear

One great thing about street photography is that it transcends technology and gear hype. Bring a small and simple camera with a wide-angle lens, and you will be fine.

8. Use a wide-angle prime lens
9. Carry a messenger bag
10. Smaller is better
11. Don't worry about the gear
12. Carry spare batteries and memory cards
13. Keep a shooting journal
14. Try shooting film

Guest Gallery: Ludmilla Morais

Chapter 3: The decisive moment

“The decisive moment” is a term coined by street photography pioneer Henri Cartier-Bresson. This chapter will explain what it is all about, and how to capture that split second of genius and inspiration.

15. [Wander and explore](#)
16. [Search your backyard](#)
17. [Always bring your camera](#)
18. [Look for beauty in the mundane](#)
19. [Shoot as much as you can](#)
20. [Don't regret missed shots](#)

Guest Gallery: Blake Andrews

Chapter 4: Technique

Use the techniques in this chapter to challenge yourself as a storyteller, make the most of your equipment, and energize yourself when you feel uninspired.

21. Shoot a theme
22. Tell great stories
23. Get eye contact
24. Use zone focusing
25. Switch up your lenses
26. Experiment with different perspectives
27. Shoot from the hip
28. Shoot at night
29. Juxtapose elements

Chapter 5: Blending in

Learn how to blend into the environment and use your personality to make subjects feel more comfortable.

30. Go for the candid look
31. Smile!
32. Avoid eye contact—or make it?
33. Use an all-black camera
34. Pretend to shoot something else

Chapter 6: Styles

Your view of the world is unique, as are your personality and aesthetic sensibility. Here are some ideas for finding your personal style.

- 35. [Look for geometry, lines, and framing](#)
- 36. [Celebrate everyday life](#)
- 37. [Get in-your-face](#)
- 38. [Include multiple actors: harmony in chaos](#)
- 39. [Highlight formal elements](#)

Guest Gallery: Thomas Leuthard

Chapter 7: Processing

Decisions, decisions, decisions. This chapter will help you decide how to crop, when to work in color versus black-and-white, how to deal with imperfections, and how to compose your shots.

40. Develop your unique style
41. Know when to work in black and white
42. Know when to work in color
43. Accept imperfections
44. Crop for a better story
45. Show only your best work
46. Identify your “keepers”

Guest Gallery: Kramer O’Neill

Chapter 8: Getting online

As a street photographer, you will get to meet a lot of people, both in real life and virtually. Here are some tips to make the most of your online presence.

47. Get constructive criticism
48. Focus on a few
49. Give more than you take
50. Spend more time shooting

Appendix: Privacy laws around the world

Foreword



I have had the honor to accompany Eric Kim throughout his photographic journey—from his Los Angeles–based portfolio and countless photography initiatives, to his now global photography community, workshops, and travels. Eric has always been a teacher and lifelong learner at heart. When he realized how limited the resources were for aspiring photographers, he created a lively blog for discussion and sharing his knowledge. By doing that, he turned a solitary and competitive art form into a community of learners and teachers such as himself. Eric’s exuberant and giving personality is inextricably woven into his approach to photography and teaching — intentional, present, and honest. Eric never intended to be a professional artist or blogger. He simply does what he loves! And he strongly believes in sharing that passion and experience with others. This book demonstrates not only Eric’s extensive knowledge in street photography, but also his firm belief that with the right tools and dedication, you, too, can further develop your photographic abilities.

Cindy Nguyen,

Eric Kim’s First Student

Introduction



I remember when I shot my first street photograph. It was a sunny afternoon in Los Angeles. I had just finished class and was waiting for the bus, camera in hand.

Suddenly, I noticed a young man with round spectacles leaning against a pole, casually reading a book. In that split second I was overwhelmed by a thought: I had to take a photo of him! However, the mere thought of taking the man's photograph without his permission scared me. My heart was pounding. I slowly brought the camera to my eye.

And that was when it happened: the magic! The man shot a glance at me, and I clicked the shutter. Adrenaline flowing, I looked at my LCD screen and knew I had got the shot. I had captured something remarkable. It was this great moment that introduced me to street photography. This moment—this simple photograph unearthed in me a passion for documenting the unstaged beauty, intricacies, and humor of everyday life.

People often ask me, “Eric, what exactly is street photography?” Simply put, it is capturing the beauty in the mundane, and ordinary people doing everyday things. It is capturing a slice of life, unedited and raw. It is an affirmation of the world around us and all the things we are often too busy to notice.

If you have ever been interested in street photography or wanted to learn how to shoot images of strangers in public, this book is for you.

Eric Kim

“If your photos aren’t good enough, then you’re not close enough.” Robert Capa