

I have found that it is easy to overlook the obvious while looking for the hidden. Here are a few obvious ideas that I try to remember when “Shooting On The Street.”

Look For The Unusual. It’s all around us but sometimes hard to see.

Get In close. All too often the actual ‘subject’ of a street photograph gets lost in the activity. Get close to the subject, make the subject the primary object in your frame.

Look for interesting connections by being observant. Much of street photography, for me, is all about observing people, their actions and juxtapositions.

Shoot a lot. Shoot more frequently than you expect to shoot. You can weed ‘em out later.

Don’t worry about the light. Concentrate on the people, your composition and your safety.

Use a ‘normal’ sized camera. People seem to be concerned when I use my Canon, a large lens and flash. They sometimes go into a feeling shy mode and possibly even worried. To avoid this, some street photographers are using “point & shoot” gear.

Use a wide angle lens and shoot from the hip. It can bring us right into the midst of the action.

Participate. Some of the best street photographs I’ve seen are of people who are fully aware of the photographer. Sometimes I walk into the crowd where I would like to shoot and wait a bit until they get accustomed to my being there and/or I talk with some of the folks. Finally I pull up my camera and take a shot. I find that we are more likely to get a memorable photograph when we are a part of the scene and reacting to the emotions and drama that is being acted out around us.

Don’t dress like a “photographer”. It can lead to rejection. I try to dress normally in order to fit. If I can, I avoid carrying a camera bag to remain as inconspicuous as possible.

Be ready to shoot. Street photography is all about the moment, reacting to people and not to equipment

Be casual about the camera. I try to keep the camera away from my face as much as possible. I want my camera to be as inconspicuous as possible. However, I don’t want to hid the camera because that may be looked upon as suspicious.

Think positive. I can count on one hand the few people who have said no or reacted negatively to my taking their picture. It is a lot like selling. I normally get the reaction I expect.

Know the local customs or rules about street photography in the area where you are shooting.