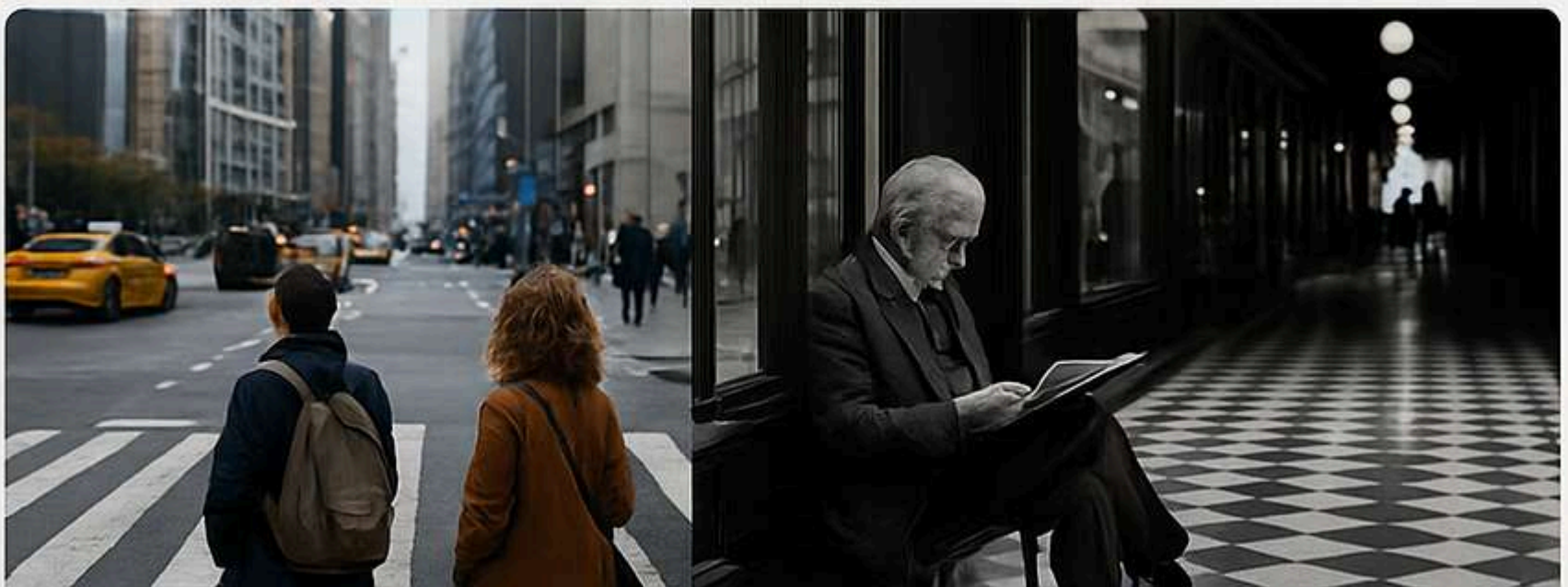
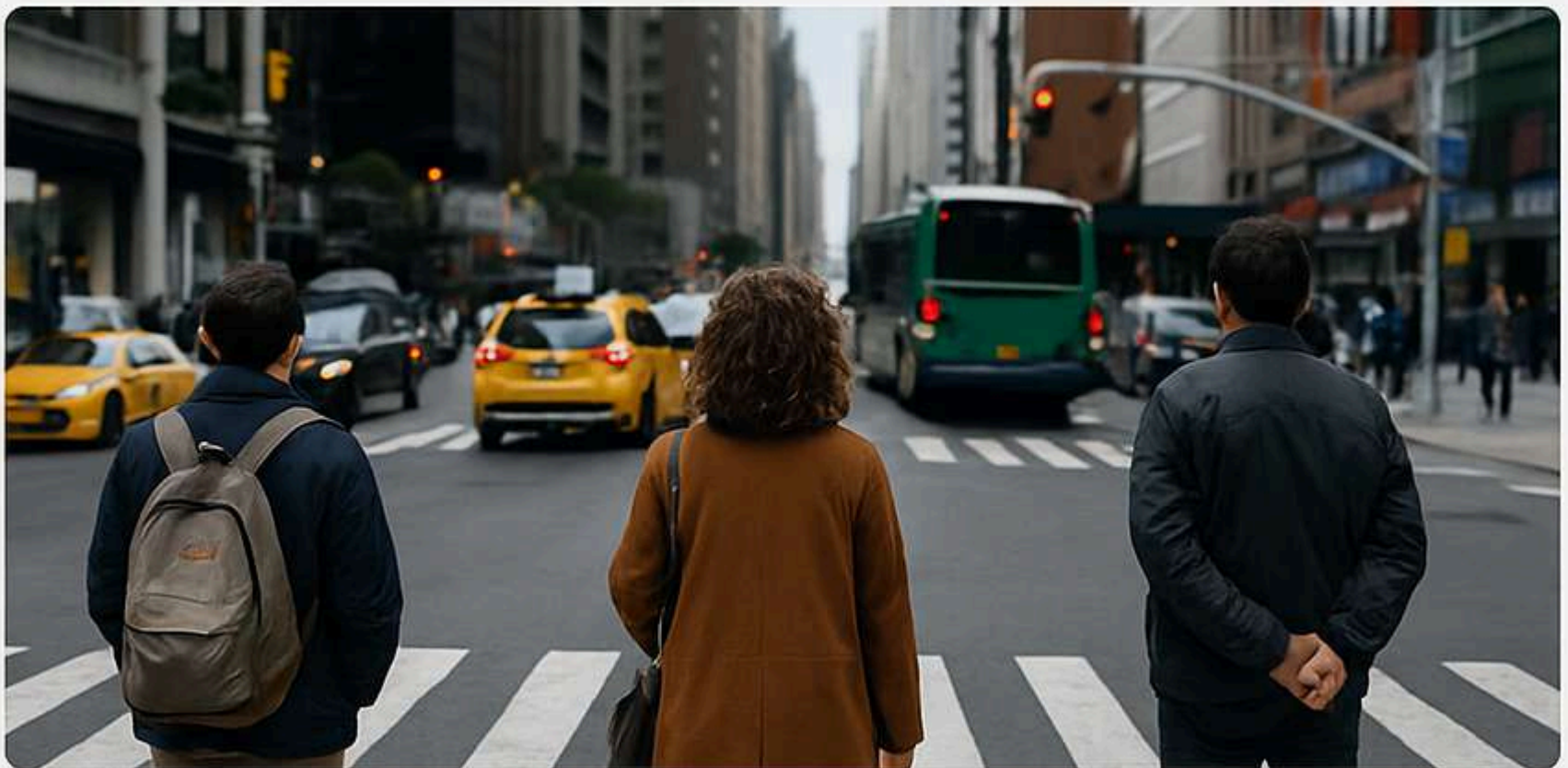


WHAT IS STREET PHOTOGRAPHY?

Street photography is a genre of photography that captures candid moments of life in public spaces. It focuses on everyday people, interactions, environments, and the unexpected beauty of the real world — **without staging or artificial setups.**

At its core, street photography is both artistic and documentary. It seeks to freeze moments that would otherwise pass unnoticed, turning them into timeless stories told through a single frame.



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY QUALITIES



- **Unposed and spontaneous:**
Moments are natural, not directed.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY QUALITIES



Shot in public

**Streets,
sidewalks**



Parks

**Subways,
markets, etc.**



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY QUALITIES



People-centered:

Though not always, people are often the heart of the scene.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY QUALITIES

Narrative-rich:



- A good photo often tells a story or sparks emotion or curiosity.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

KEY QUALITIES

Observational



- The photographer acts as a quiet observer of life unfolding.

PURPOSE OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

To document real urban life
as it naturally unfolds.

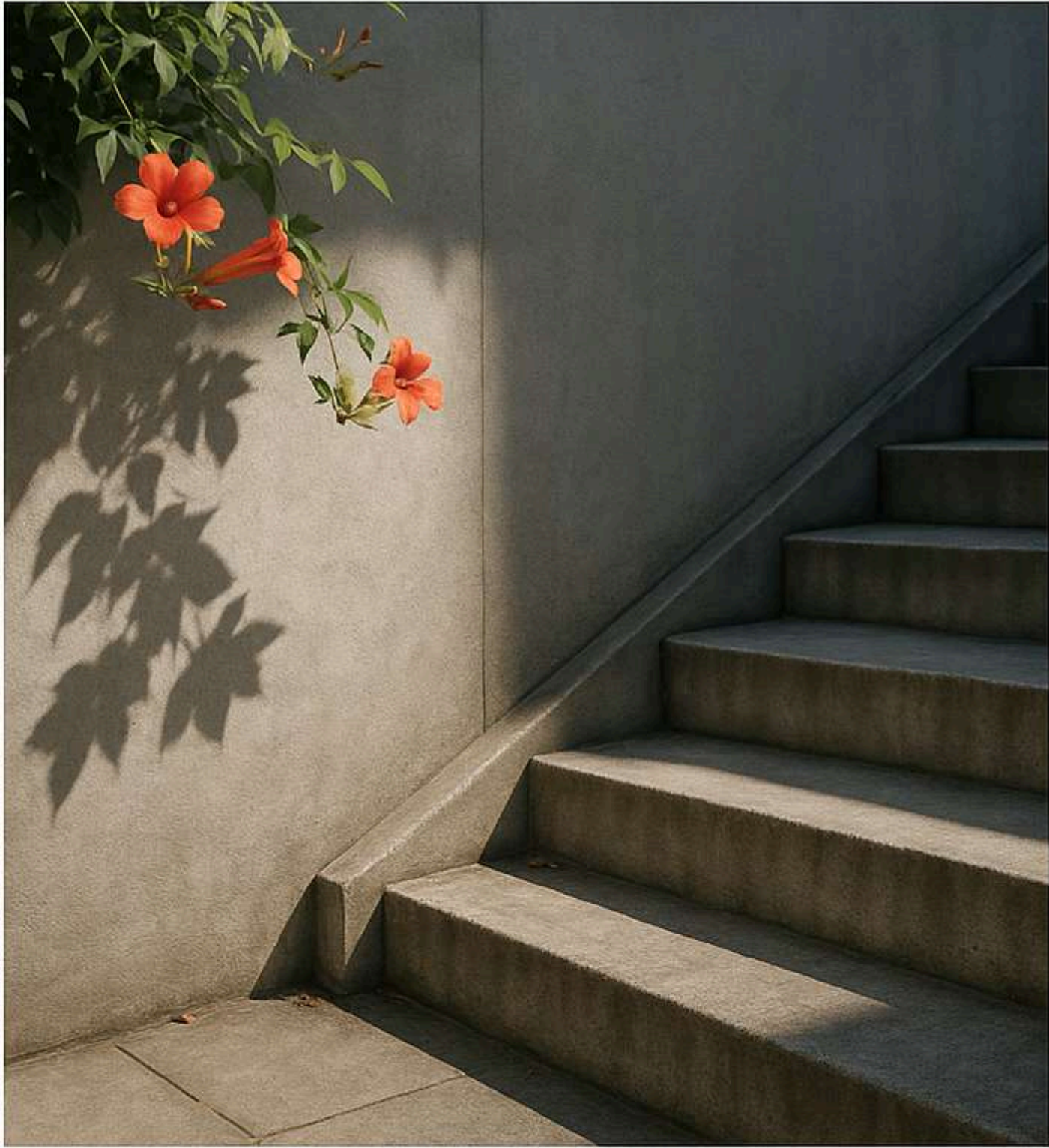


PURPOSE OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



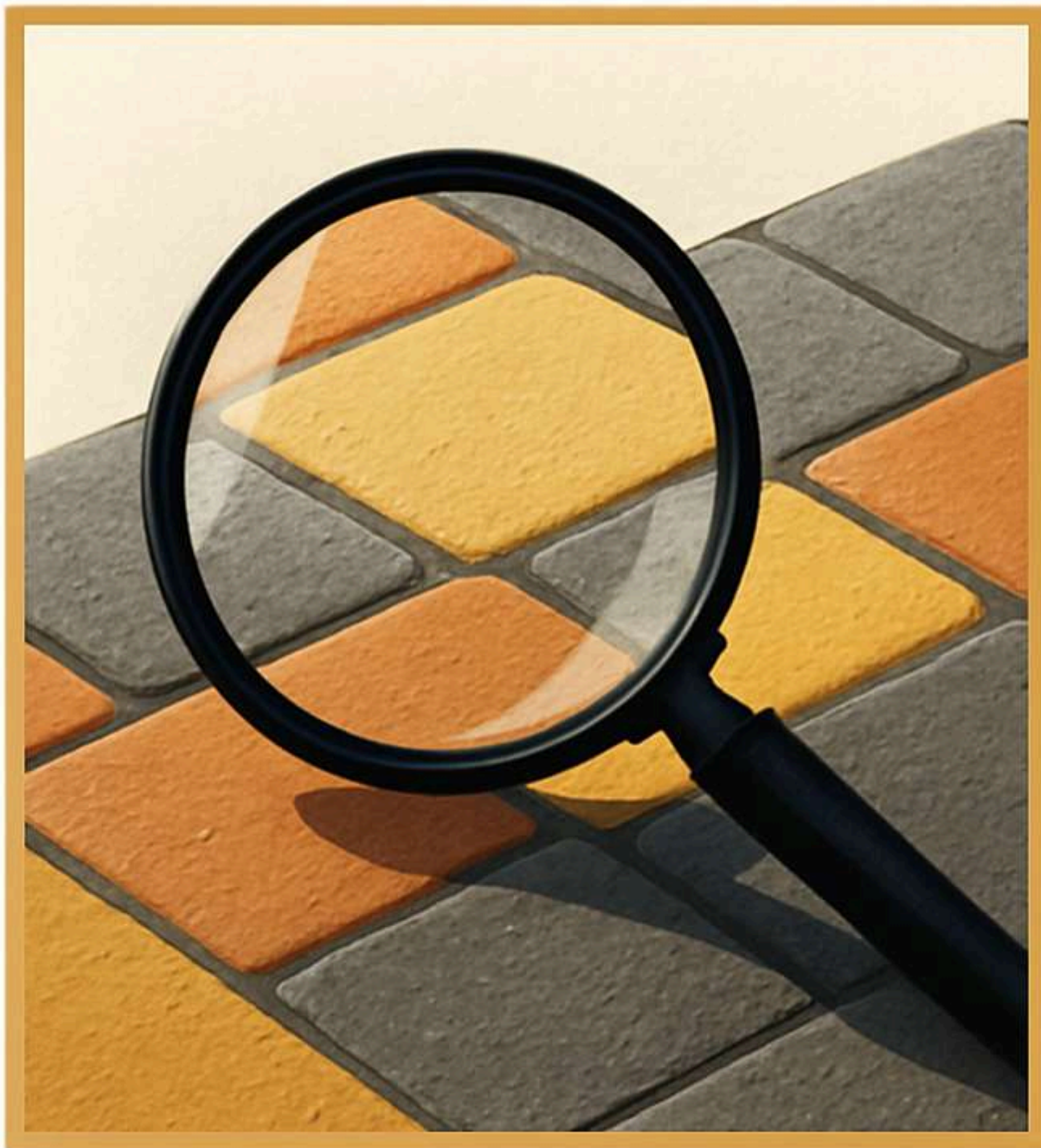
- To explore the human condition — our habits, emotions, and connections

PURPOSE OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



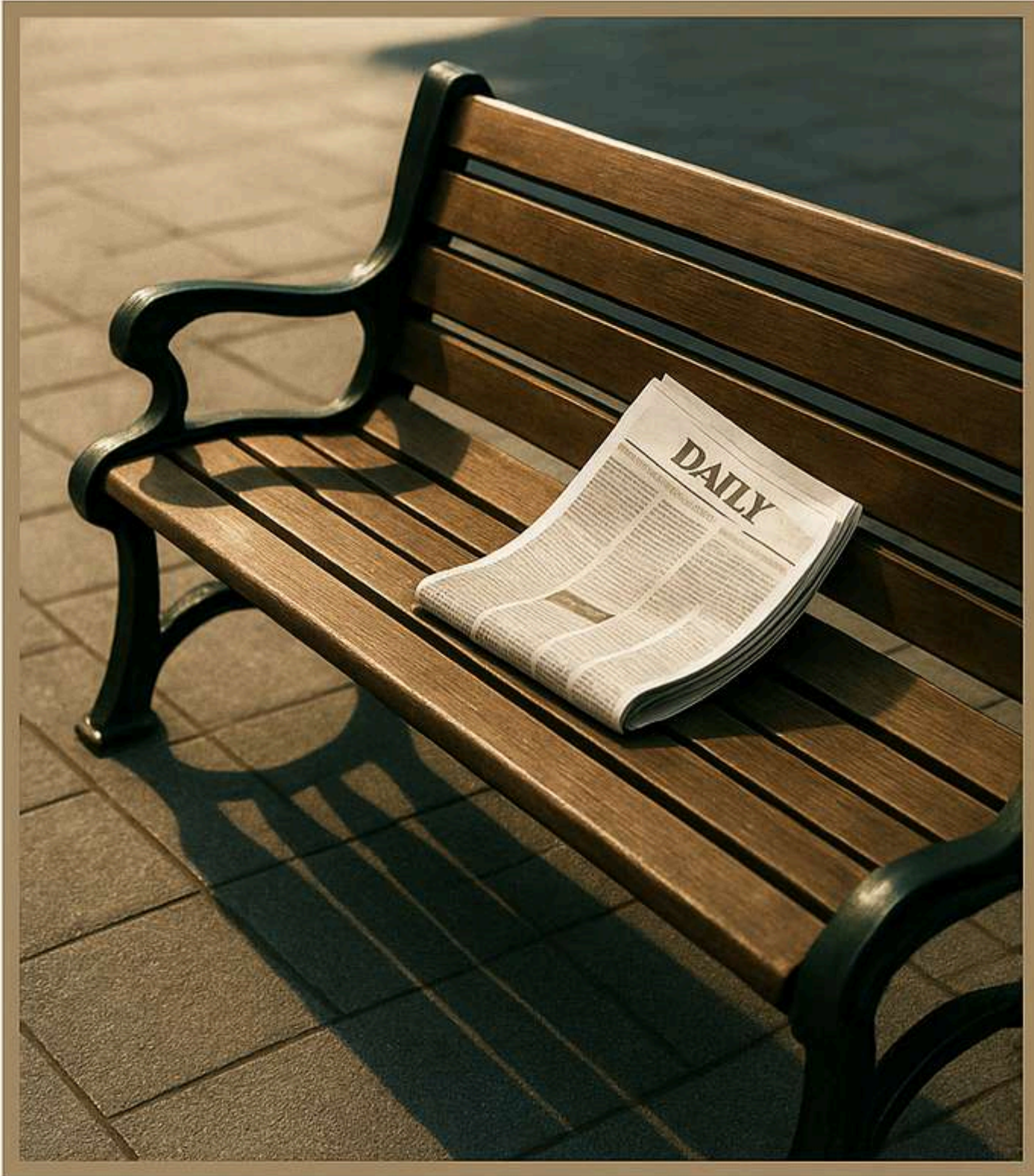
**To reveal unexpected
beauty in the ordinary.**

PURPOSE OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



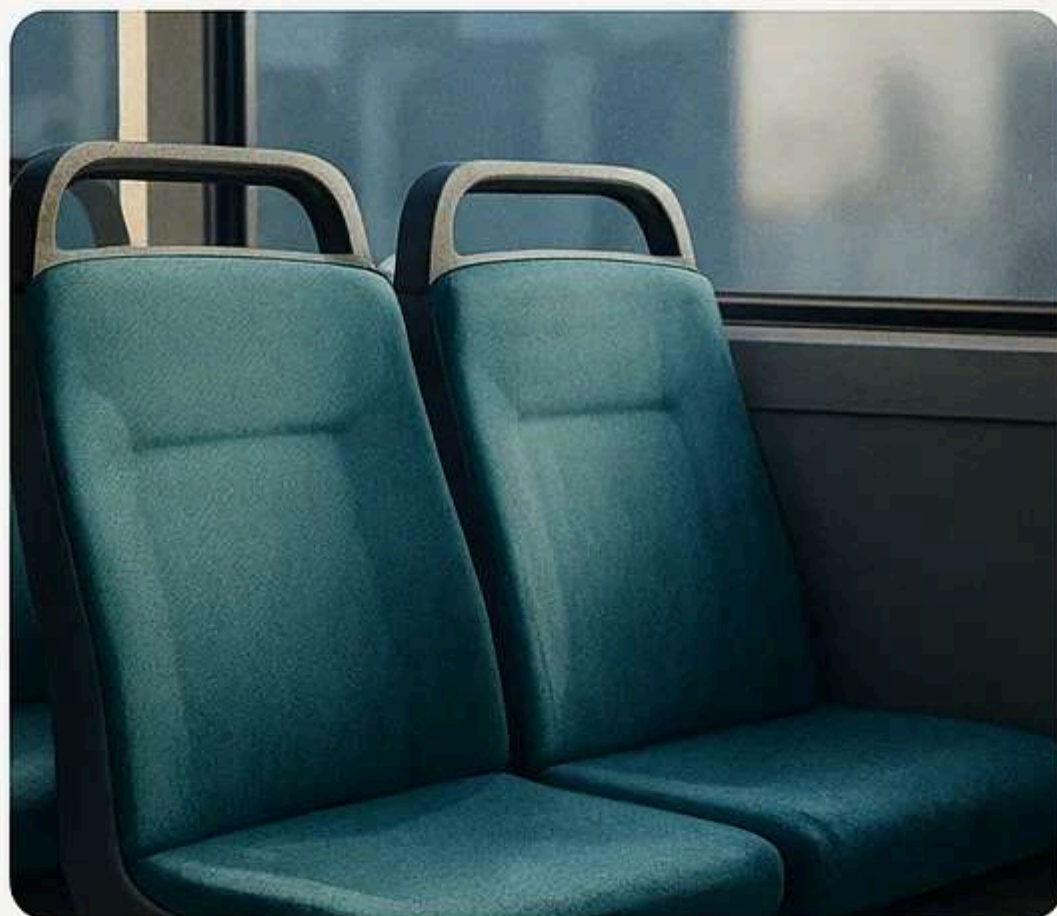
To challenge the viewer's
perspective and attention
to detail.

PURPOSE OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

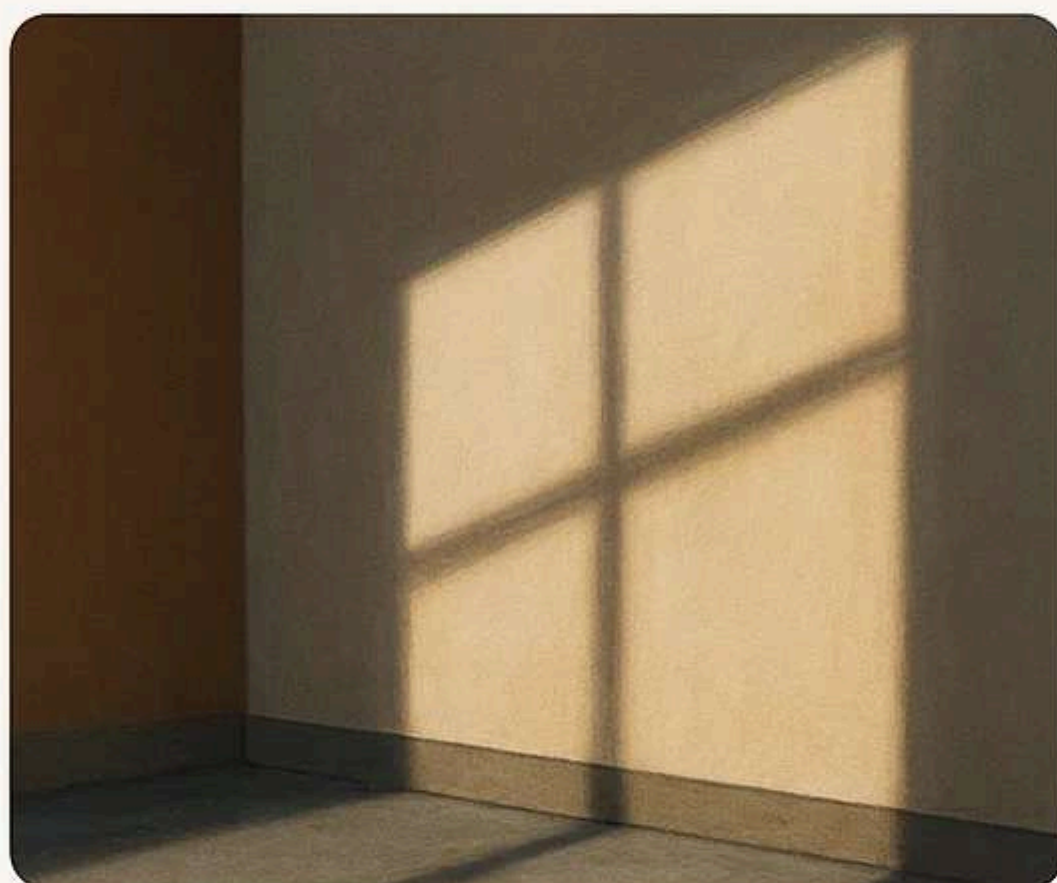


To tell silent stories —
ones we often walk past
without noticing

What It Might Capture



A brief smile between
strangers on a bus



Harsh sunlight casting
dramatic shadows on a wall

WHAT IT MIGHT CAPTURE



**A street artist
in the middle of
a performance**

**Children chasing
pigeons across
a plaza**



**Reflections of
people in puddles
or windows**

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Candid & Unposed



Definition: The subjects are captured naturally, without being asked to pose or act differently.

Why It Matters: It reveals authentic expressions, gestures, and life as it really happens.

Tip: Wait patiently and blend in — let the moment come to you instead of interrupting it.

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

2. Set in Public Spaces

Where:

Streets, sidewalks, subways, markets, stations, parks – any place where public life unfolds.



No need for a studio:

The street is your set, and life is your cast.

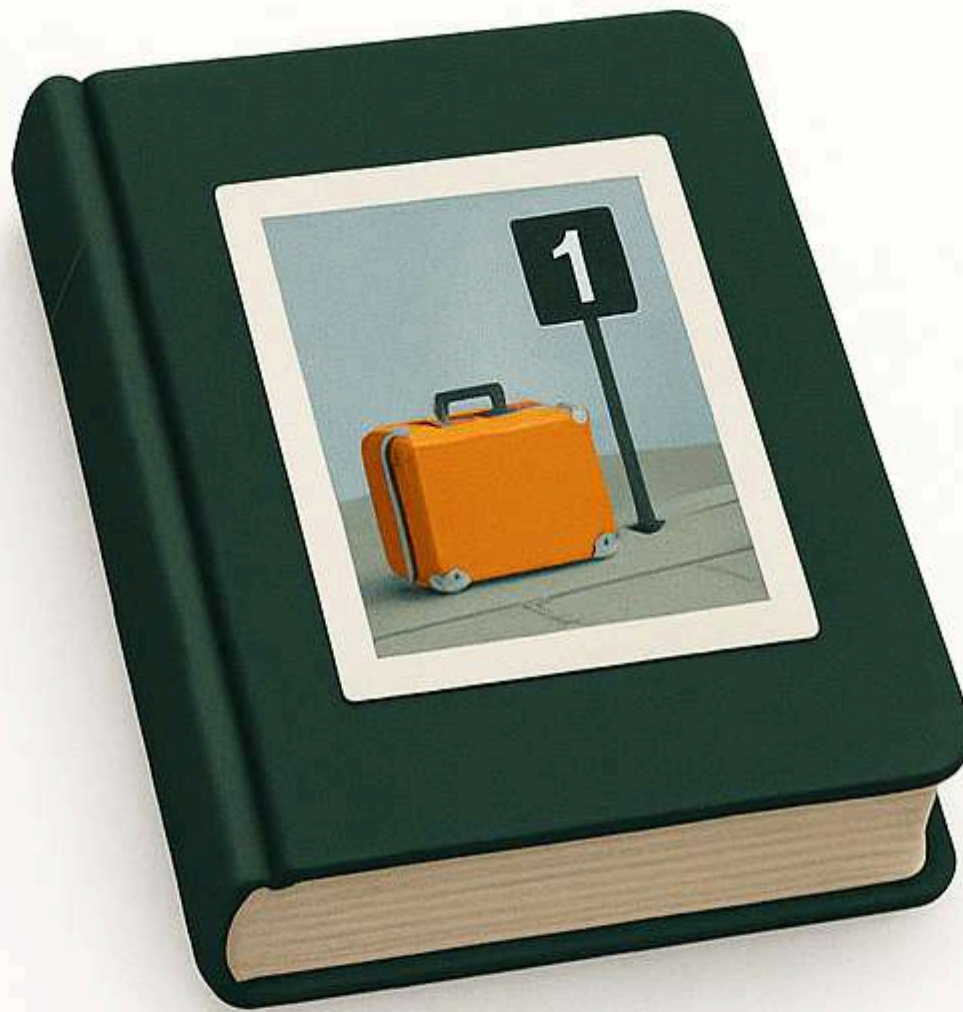
What to Look For:

- Crowds
- Solitude
- Traffic
- Urban textures
- Signs
- People interacting



CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

3. Narrative-Driven



- Every photo tells a story: Whether it's about emotion, contrast, irony, humor, loneliness, or social commentary
- Even a single frame can raise questions like: What just happened?
What will happen next?
- Your role: Be a visual storyteller — capture moments that make people pause and wonder.

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

4. FOCUS ON THE HUMAN CONDITION



What's that?: It means capturing how people live, move, behave, and interact with the world.

Includes: Emotions (joy, anger, surprise)

- Social behaviors
- Everyday struggles or beauty

Goal: Show what it means to be human, without filters.

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

5. REAL LIFE, NOT ARRANGED



- No staging, no directing — you don't ask people to "do that again"
- It's about observation, not interference
- Think of it like visual journalism with an artistic eye

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

6. Artistic Composition Still Matters



- Though spontaneous, great street photography still uses composition principles:
 - Rule of thirds
 - Framing and symmetry
 - Light and shadow

The best photographers mix chance with craft.

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

7. Black & White or Color — Both Work



Black & White:

Timeless, focuses on emotion, contrast, and composition



Color:

Captures vibrancy, mood, and urban palettes (like neon lights, signs, etc.)

Choice depends on style and story — some moments scream for color, others for black and white

CORE CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

8. Unobtrusive & Respectful

Good street photographers try to blend in and not disrupt the scene.



Ethical practice includes:

- Not exploiting others
- Being sensitive to context (especially in vulnerable situations)
- Avoiding confrontation



ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA – THE TOOL THAT FITS YOU BEST

Any camera works – DSLR, mirrorless, compact, or even your phone. What matters most is portability, speed, and how confidently you can use it.



DSLR

High quality, but large and noticeable



MIRRORLESS

Lightweight, silent, perfect for streets



COMPACT

Discreet and fast on the go



SMARTPHONE

Powerful and incredibly unintrusive

 **Tip:** Choose the camera you'll always bring with you. Comfort and speed matter most.

ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

LENS – YOUR STREET EYE

Your lens shapes the look, feel, and closeness of your shot.



35 mm – Classic for street. Natural, slightly wide, intimate



50mm – More compression, good for isolating subjects



28mm or wider – Great for capturing broader scenes



Zooms (24–70mm) – Flexible but bulkier and slower



Tip: A small, fast prime lens (like 35mm f/2) is ideal for sharpness, light, and stealth.

ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA SETTINGS – BE READY, NOT SLOW

Street moments are fast, Settings must be predictable and quick to adjust.



- S** Shutter Priority (S/Tv) – You freeze movement
- A** Aperture Priority (A/Av) – You control depth of field
- M** Manual Mode – Full control for confident users
- ISO** Auto ISO – Great for shifting light conditions
- ⚡** Fast shutter speed (1/250+) – Avoids motion blur
- 🔑** Tip: Pre-set exposure and use zone focusing for faster shooting.

ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

ACCESSORIES – STAY READY

These lightweight tools can make all the difference:

- **Spare battery** – For long walks and long shoots
- **Extra SD card** – Never run out of space
- **Lens cloth** – Clean off rain, dust, fingerprints
- **Neck or wrist strap** – Keeps gear safe and accessible
- **Compact sling bag** – Carry light, stay mobile

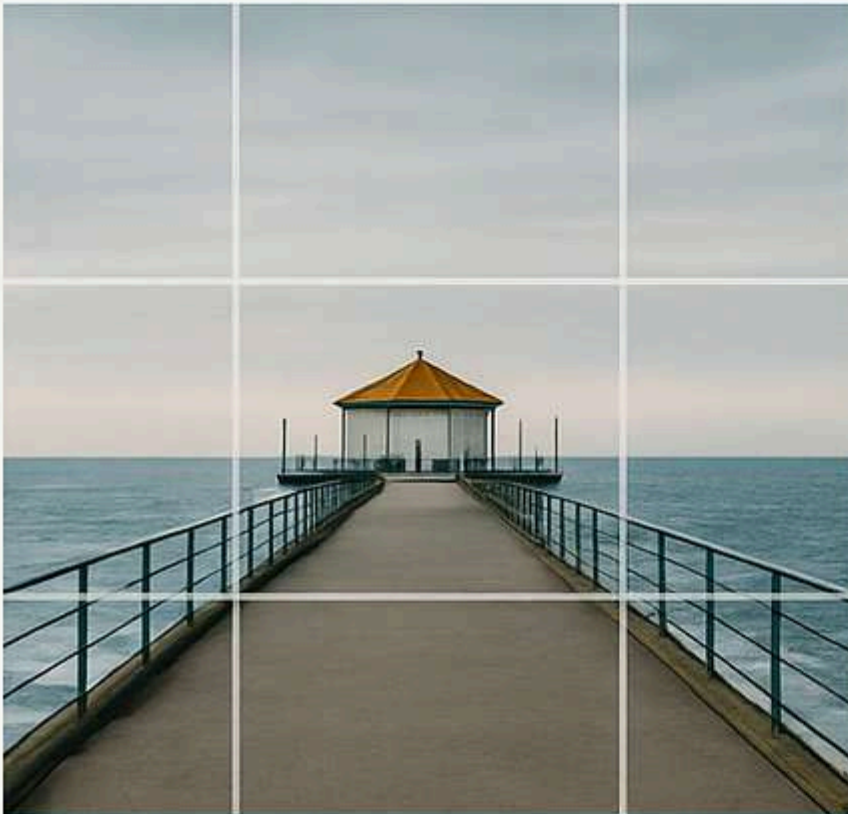
Tip: Keep it simple. Avoid bulky gear that slows you down.



TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES

How to Frame Powerful Street Shots



Rule of Thirds

Align key subjects at grid intersections for balanced framing



Leading Lines

Use roads, railings, and shadows to draw attention toward the subject



Framing

Frame people inside doorways, windows, or arches to add focus and depth

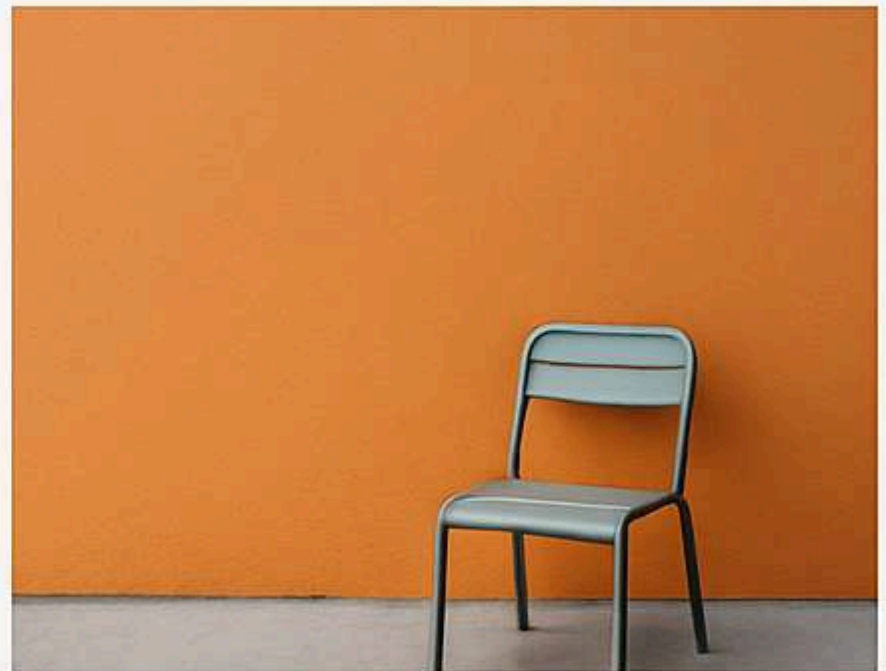
TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES

How to Frame Powerful Street Shots

Negative Space

Emphasize isolation or emotion by leaving areas empty around your subject



Reflections

Shoot through puddles, windows, or mirrors for visual intrigue



Contrast / Juxtaposition

Show opposites (e.g., old vs. young, luxury vs. poverty) in one scene



TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MOVEMENT & TIMING

Be Ready for Fleeting Moments



- Zone Focusing – Pre-focus at a certain distance for quick shooting without autofocus



- Shoot from the Hip – Capture candid moments without lifting the camera to your eye

TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MOVEMENT & TIMING



Be Ready for Fleeting Moments

- **Anticipate, Don't Chase**
Watch body language and light —
predict the moment before it happens
- **Burst Mode**
Use continuous shooting to capture
fast-moving actions with precision

TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MASTERING LIGHT

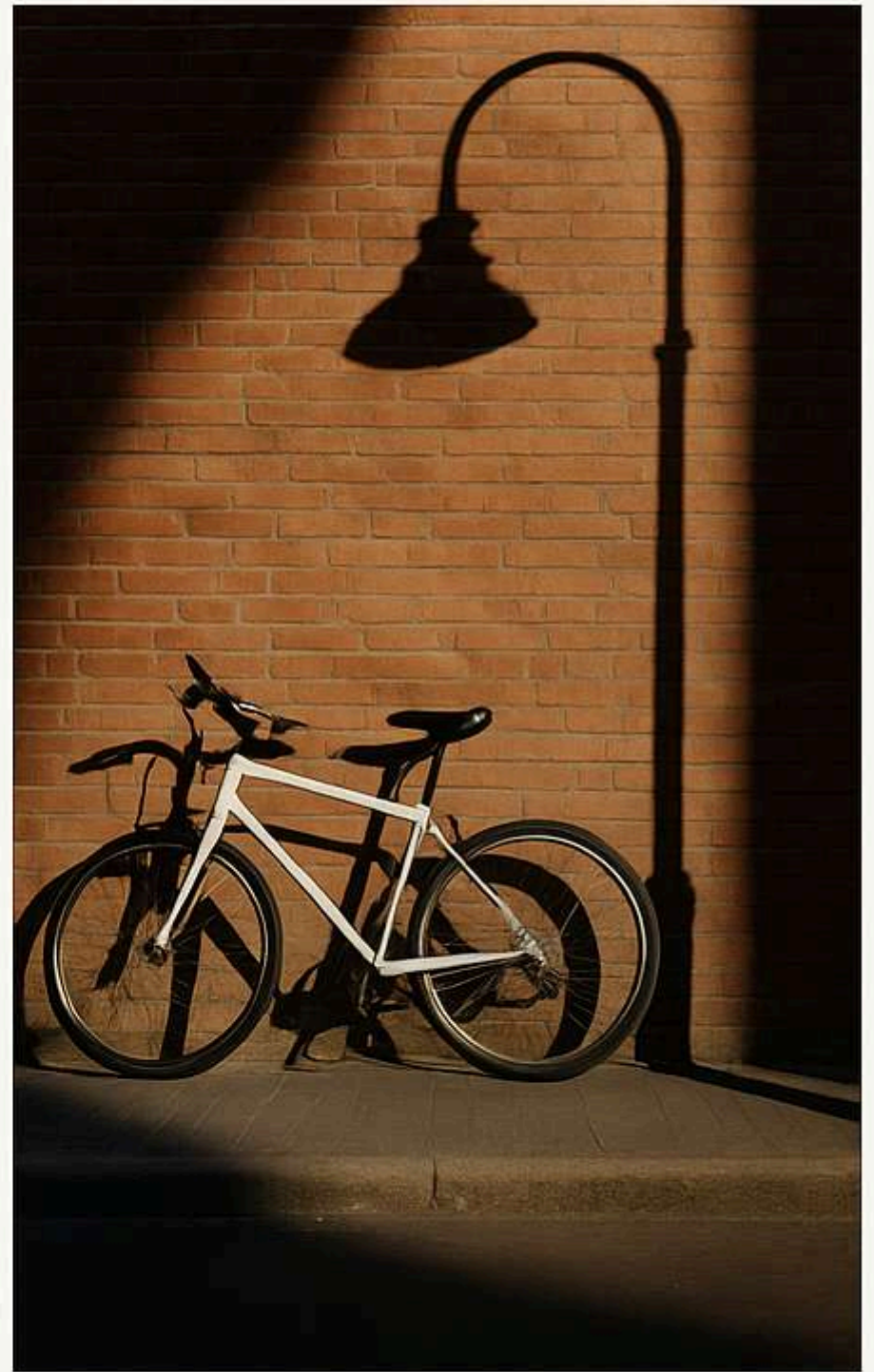
Use Light as a Creative Tool

- **Harsh Light**

Look for bold shadows, silhouettes, and contrast-rich compositions

- **Golden Hour**

Shoot during sunrise or sunset for soft, warm tones and atmosphere



TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MASTERING LIGHT

Use Light as a Creative Tool

- **Blue Hour & Night**

Use neon lights, signs, and street lamps for cinematic mood



- **Backlighting**

Shoot toward the light to create rim-lit subjects or silhouettes

TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MINDSET & OBSERVATION

Train Yourself to See Differently

- Be patient – wait for the scene to unfold



- Move slowly – scan deliberately, don't rush

TECHNIQUES & TIPS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

MINDSET & OBSERVATION

Train Yourself to See Differently



Think like a hunter –
look for patterns,
gestures, and emotions



Be curious – ask:
What's happening here?
What's unique about
this moment?

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR THE STREET



- ✓ Dress simply — blend into the environment
- ✓ Keep your camera out and ready
- ✓ Pre-set your exposure when lighting changes

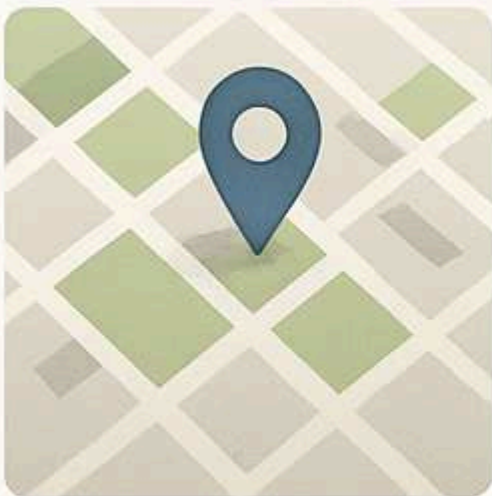
PRACTICAL TIPS FOR THE STREET



- Keep both eyes open while shooting
- Learn from mistakes — not every photo needs to be perfect
- Edit ruthlessly — select only your strongest shots

LEGAL & ETHICAL NOTE IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

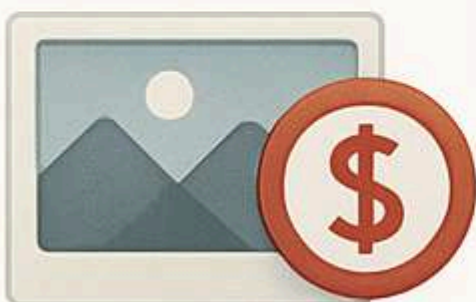
WHAT'S LEGALLY ALLOWED?



In most countries, you can photograph people and scenes in public places — streets, parks, stations, markets — without asking for permission



Public spaces = no expectation of privacy



You can take the photo — but that doesn't always mean you can publish or sell it freely

LEGAL & ETHICAL NOTES IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO



Enter or photograph
on private property
without permission

Shoot inside restrooms,
hospitals, schools, or
other sensitive spaces



Use telephoto lenses to
invade someone's
privacy from afar

Share images that
expose or shame
vulnerable people



ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Respect Human Dignity



- Don't exploit suffering or misrepresent someone's reality
- Avoid posting photos that could humiliate, endanger, or stereotype your subject



ETHICAL GUIDELINES

*Ask Permission
(When It's Right)*



- For street portraits or intimate shots where a person is clearly the focus
- Especially in quiet, spiritual, or culturally sensitive areas

ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Be Discreet

Don't provoke
or harass
anyone



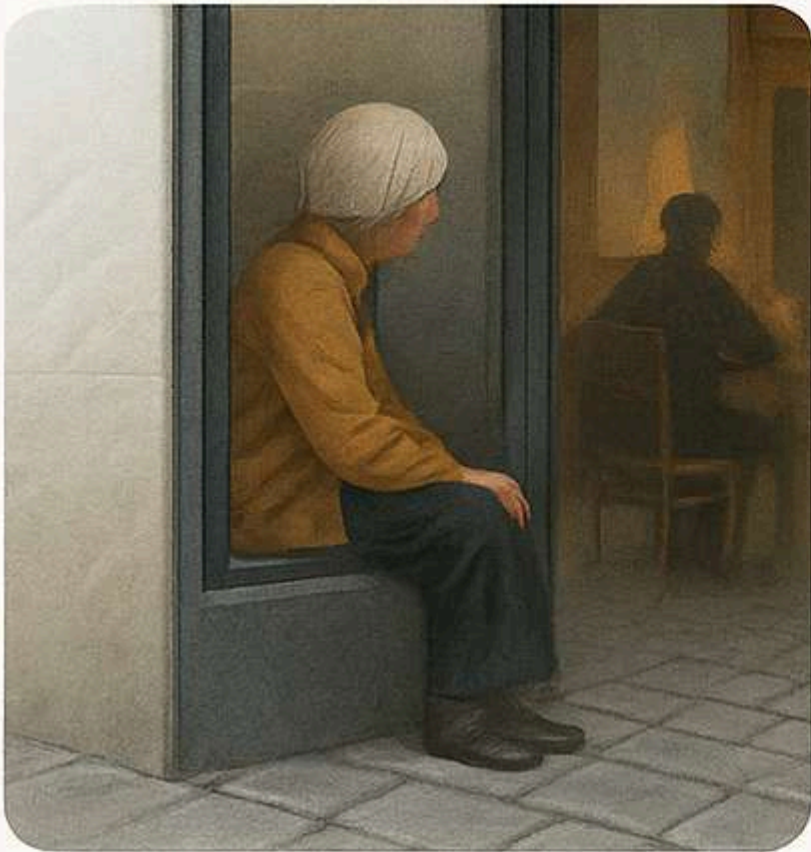
Lower your
camera if
someone
looks
uncomfortable



ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Avoid Vulnerable Subjects

- Children, unhoused individuals, people in distress, or those in vulnerable conditions



- Ethics matter more than likes or attention



IF YOU'RE CONFRONTED



Stay calm,
be polite



Explain it's for art,
documentary, or
personal work



Show the image
if asked — offer to
delete it if
appropriate



Never escalate —
no photo is worth
a fight

WHERE TO SHOOT

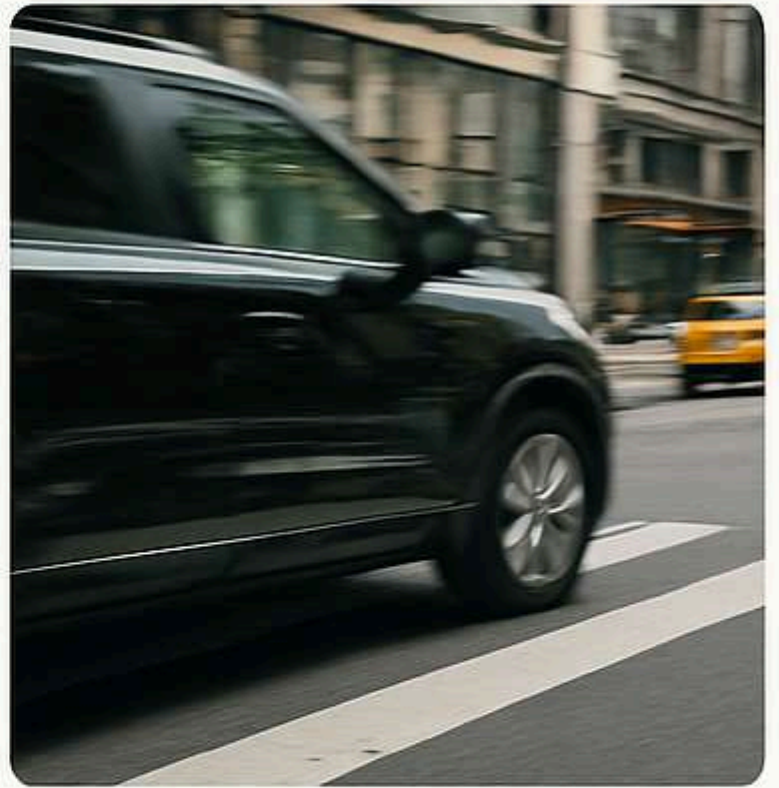
BUSY STREETS & INTERSECTIONS

Why it works: Full of motion, energy, and people.



Capture motion, crosswalk patterns, or human flow

- Look for layered movement, reflections, and contrast



Let the world pass by – the moment will reveal itself

WHERE TO SHOOT

MARKETS & STREET FAIRS

Why it works: Colorful, lively, expressive environments.



- Gesture, conversation, and facial expressions abound

- Rich textures: fruits, fabric, smoke, stalls



- Great for capturing culture and chaos

WHERE TO SHOOT



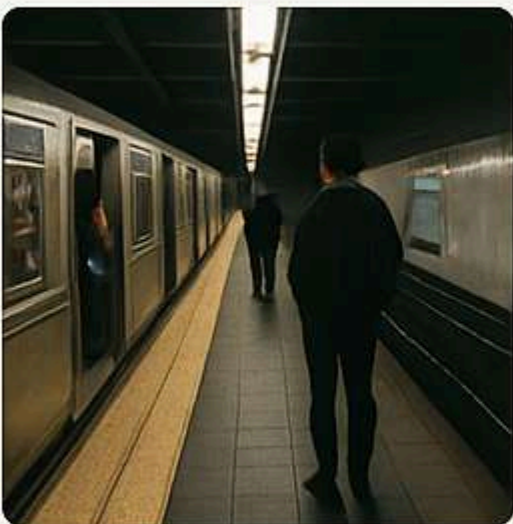
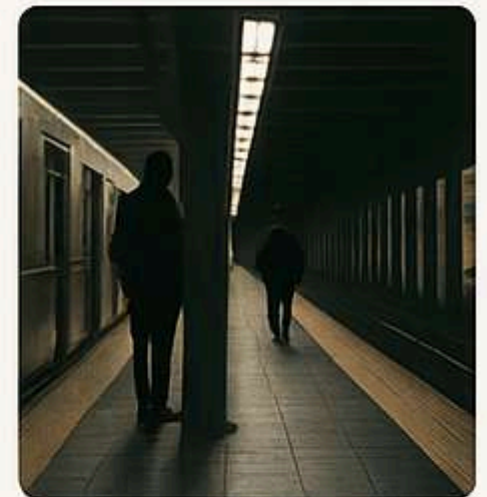
PUBLIC TRANSPORT AREAS

Why it works: People waiting, moving, or isolated.



- Visual storytelling of crowds vs solitude

Use symmetry, reflections, and geometry

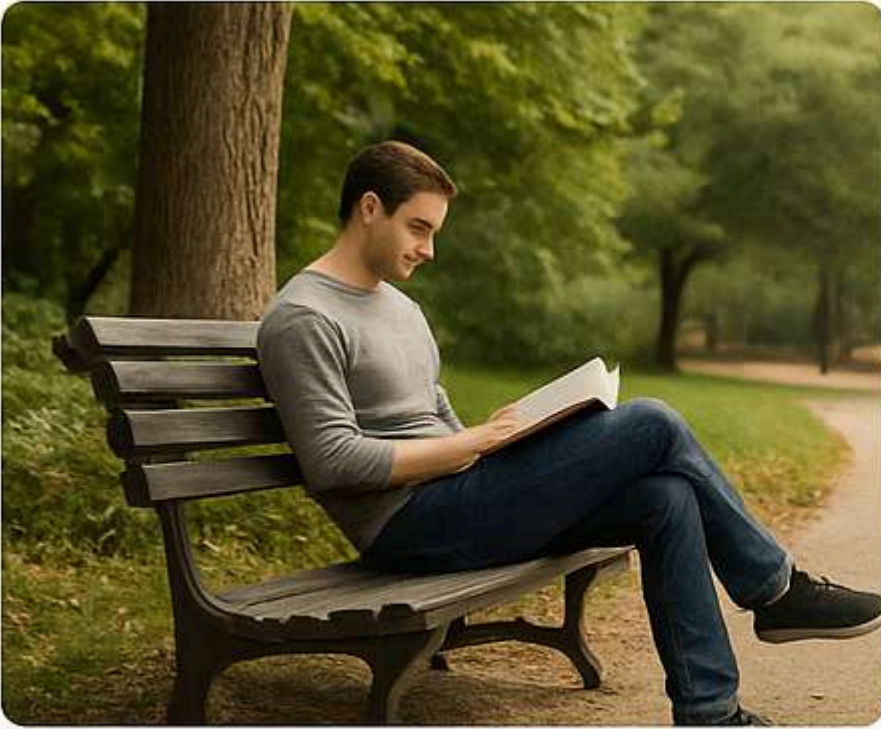


- Moody, introspective moments are common

WHERE TO SHOOT

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Why it works: Slower pace, gentler emotion.



Moments of
stillness, leisure,
or connection

Children playing,
couples walking,
dogs running



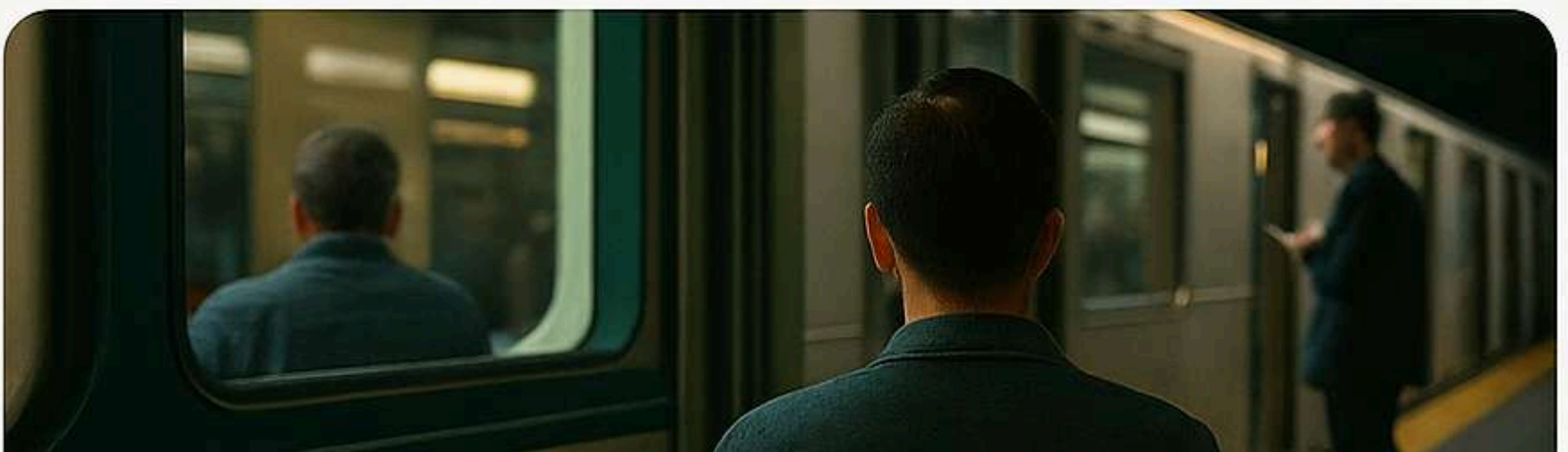
Use soft light
and open
compositions

WHERE TO SHOOT

CAFÉS, WINDOWS, & DOORWAYS

Why it works: Framed moments and soft layering.

- Glass, reflections, and backlight add complexity
- Capture people interacting through visual barriers
- Perfect for quiet storytelling



WHERE TO SHOOT

NIGHT STREETS & ALLEYS

Why it works: Dramatic lighting and color contrast.

- Use neon signs, backlights, and headlights
- Ideal for mood, mystery, and cinematic tone
- Shoot slow shutter for trails or depth



WHERE TO SHOOT

UNEXPECTED & OFFBEAT LOCATIONS

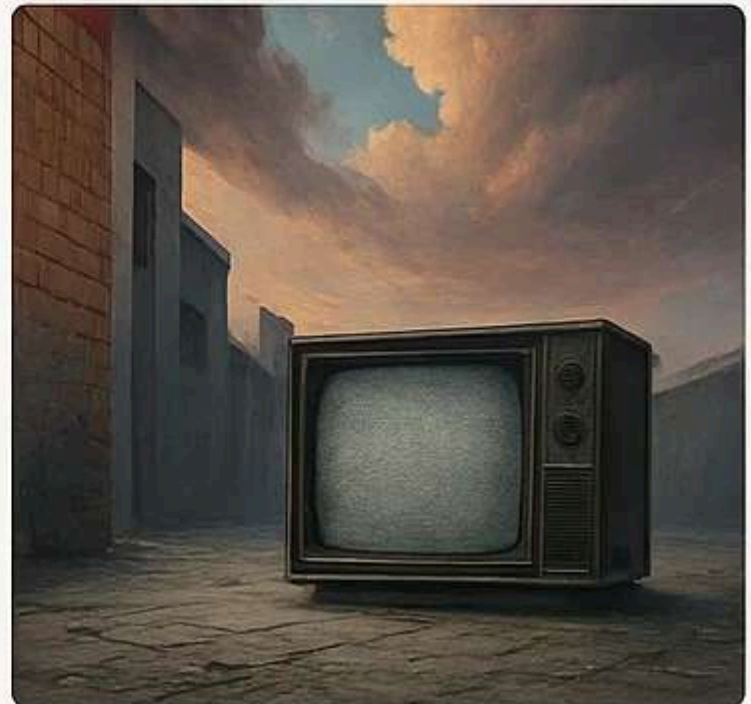
Why it works:

The ordinary becomes extraordinary.



- Back alleys, rooftops, parking lots — unique textures

- Raw, gritty, or surreal scenes challenge your vision



- Train your eye to see differently

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS



WHY DO A PROJECT?

- Develop a consistent style
- Train your eye for storytelling
- Organize your images into themes
- Stay motivated and intentional
- Prepare material for exhibitions, zines or social media

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

ONE STREET, ONE YEAR

Return to the same street repeatedly over time.



- Shows change through seasons, light, people
- Builds familiarity and deeper storytelling
- Encourages patient observation

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

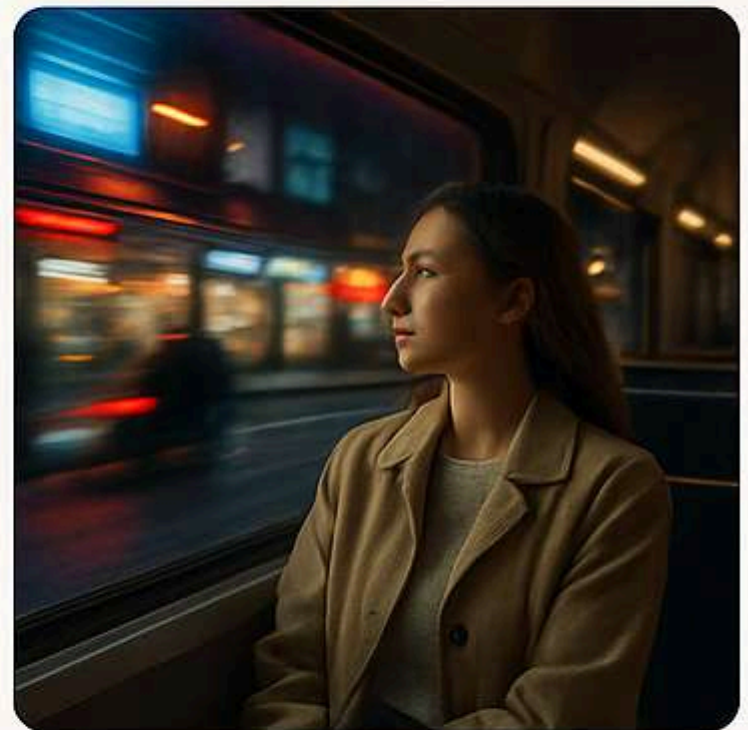
“Morning to Night”



- Captures mood shifts and daily routines



- Great contrast between morning calm and night energy
- Offers natural progression for visual storytelling



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

“THE STRANGER SERIES

Ask for street portraits – with permission.



Focus on expression, diversity,
human connection



Build confidence and
interaction skills



Can be paired with quotes
or mini-interviews

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

COLOR STORIES

Choose one color and find everywhere.



- Strengthens visual awareness and composition
- Creates bold, unified photo collections
- Works especially well in urban spaces

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

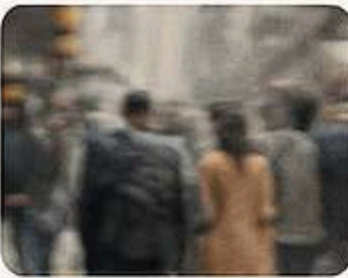
HIDDEN EMOTIONS



Capture unposed
emotional expressions



Focuses on gestures,
reactions, subtle facial
language



Works best in crowded
or high-tension environments



Deepens your timing and
storytelling instinct

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

“REFLECTIONS & SHADOWS”



Adds mystery, layering,
and creativity



Makes ordinary scenes
abstract or poetic



Use light and weather
intentionally

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

“FEET & GROUND STORIES”



- ✓ Captures a different angle of street life
- ✓ Focus on shoes, puddles, textures, lost items
- ✓ Great for rhythm and symbolism

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

MOTION + STILLNESS

Contrast movement with still elements.



- Use blur, long exposure, or layered scenes
- Symbolize energy vs calm
youth vs age
- Emphasizes contrast and timing

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

Creative Combos to Try



- “Red in the Rain” (Color + Weather)
- “One Station, 24 Hours” (Time + Place)
- “Feet of the City” (Ground + Emotion)

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT IS VISUAL STORYTELLING?



- A storytelling photo shows a real, candid moment that suggests a scene or emotion
- It includes a subject, environment, and a moment of action or tension
- It should hint at "what just happened?" or "what will happen next?"

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

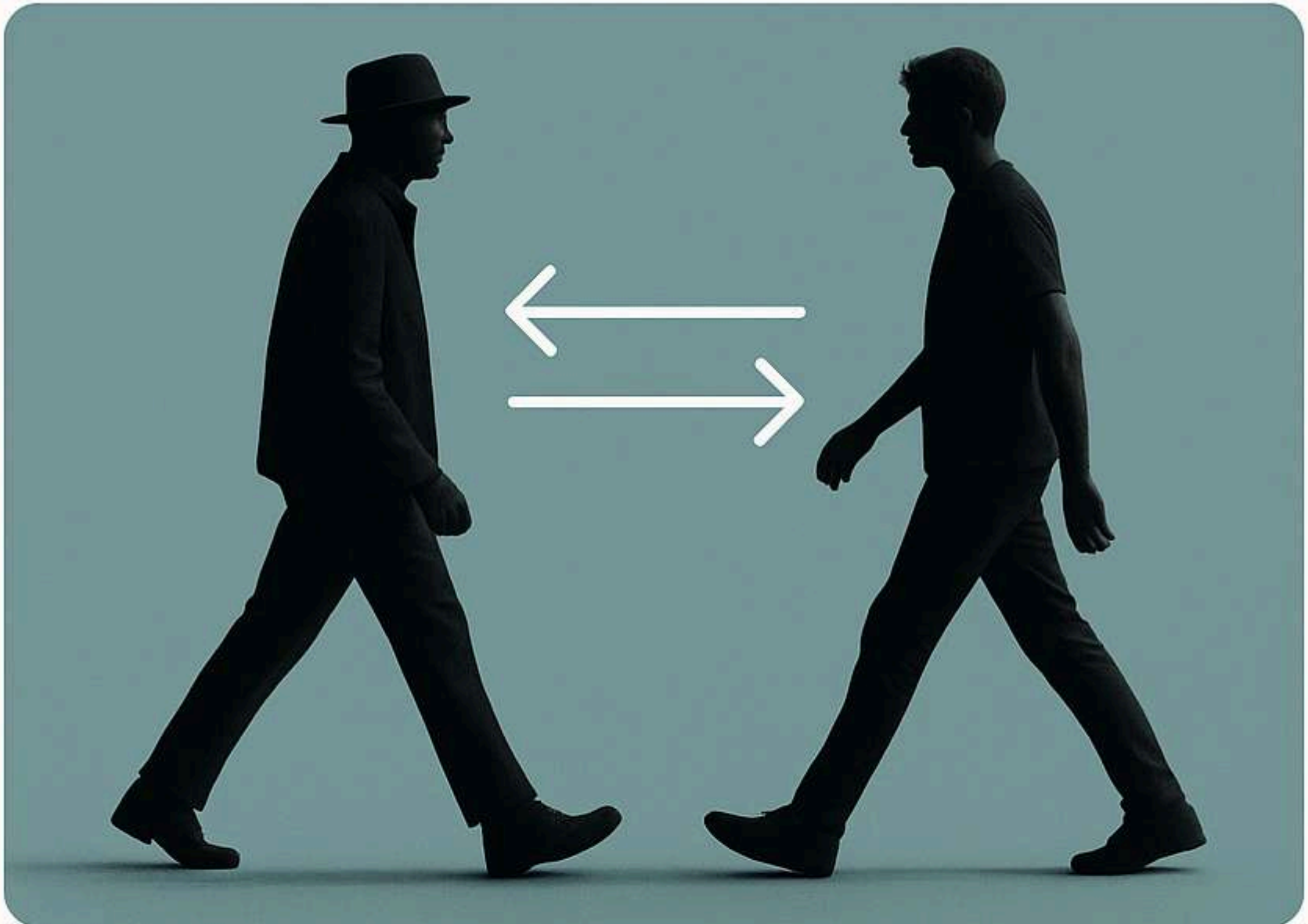
EMOTION



- Look for strong facial expressions, gestures, or posture
- Focus on feelings like joy, stress, fear, love, or curiosity
- These emotions create instant human connection

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

INTERACTION



- Capture people interacting with each other or their surroundings
- Watch for eye contact, shared actions, or tension between figures
- Look for reactions, movement, or connection

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTEXT



- Use environment to ground your story – show where and when it happens
- Include signs, shadows, weather, textures, and backgrounds
- These details add realism, time, and setting to your narrative

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



CONTRAST & JUXTAPOSITION

- Combine elements that feel opposite or surprising
- Look for irony or visual tension: old vs. young, rich vs. poor, calm vs. chaos
- These contrasts create visual dialogue

STORYTELLING IN STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

SYMBOLISM & METAPHOR



- Find shapes, objects, or light that represent deeper meaning
- Look for signs, shadows, birds, cracks, or layered reflections
- Let your image “say more” than what’s literal

HOW TO CAPTURE THE STORY

- Observe patiently — don't rush the shot
- Frame with layers: foreground, subject, and background
- Compose with purpose to guide the viewer's eye
- Try a photo series to show development across frames



STORIES YOU CAN TELL



- Struggle or survival

Joy in
everyday life



Urban isolation

Humor and irony



Cultural or social
rituals

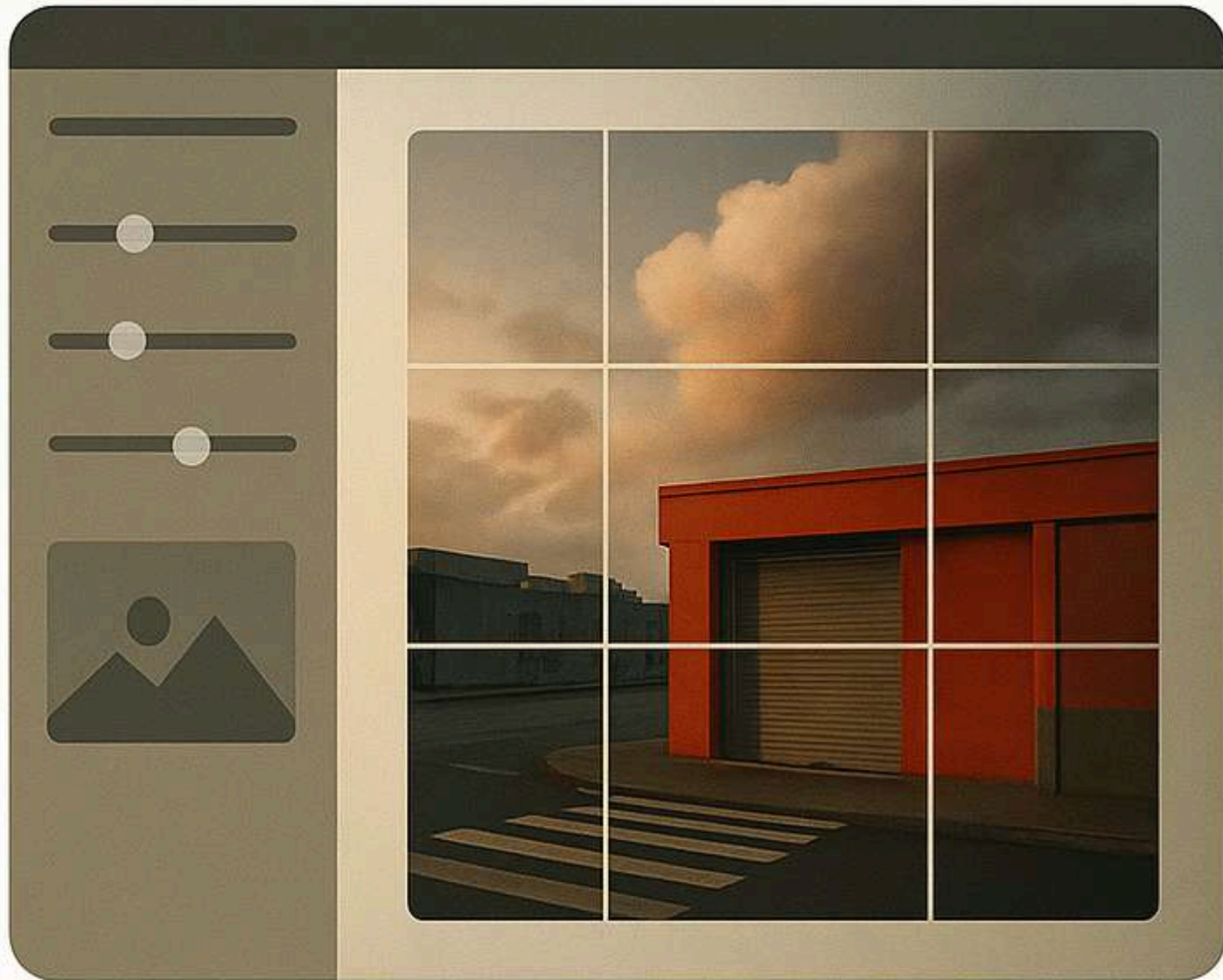
EDITING & POST-PROCESSING

WHAT IS POST-PROCESSING?



- The process of adjusting your photo after capture
- Includes crop, exposure, contrast, color grading, and final export
- Refines your vision — not to fake reality, but to enhance the story

WHY EDIT STREET PHOTOS?



- Fix fast-shot technical issues
- Guide the viewer's attention
- Bring out mood and atmosphere
- Make a consistent series
- Reveal details hidden in shadows or highlights

ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS



CROP & STRAIGHTEN

- Trim the frame for clarity
- Fix tilted lines or perspectives

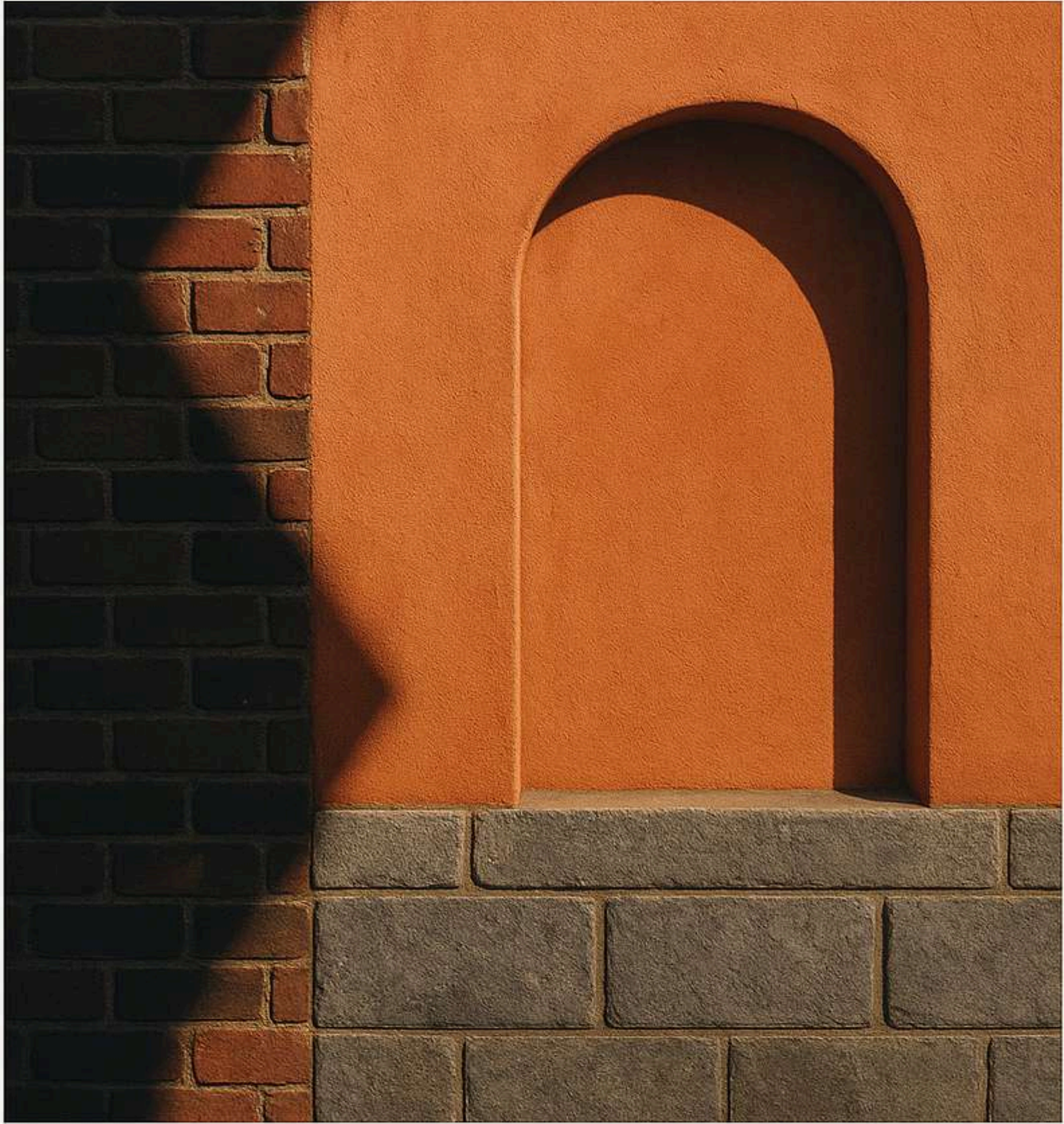
ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS



EXPOSURE & HIGHLIGHTS

- Adjust brightness and shadows
- Recover overexposed skies or dark faces

ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS



CONTRAST & CLARITY

- Make subjects and textures pop
- Add separation and visual impact

ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS

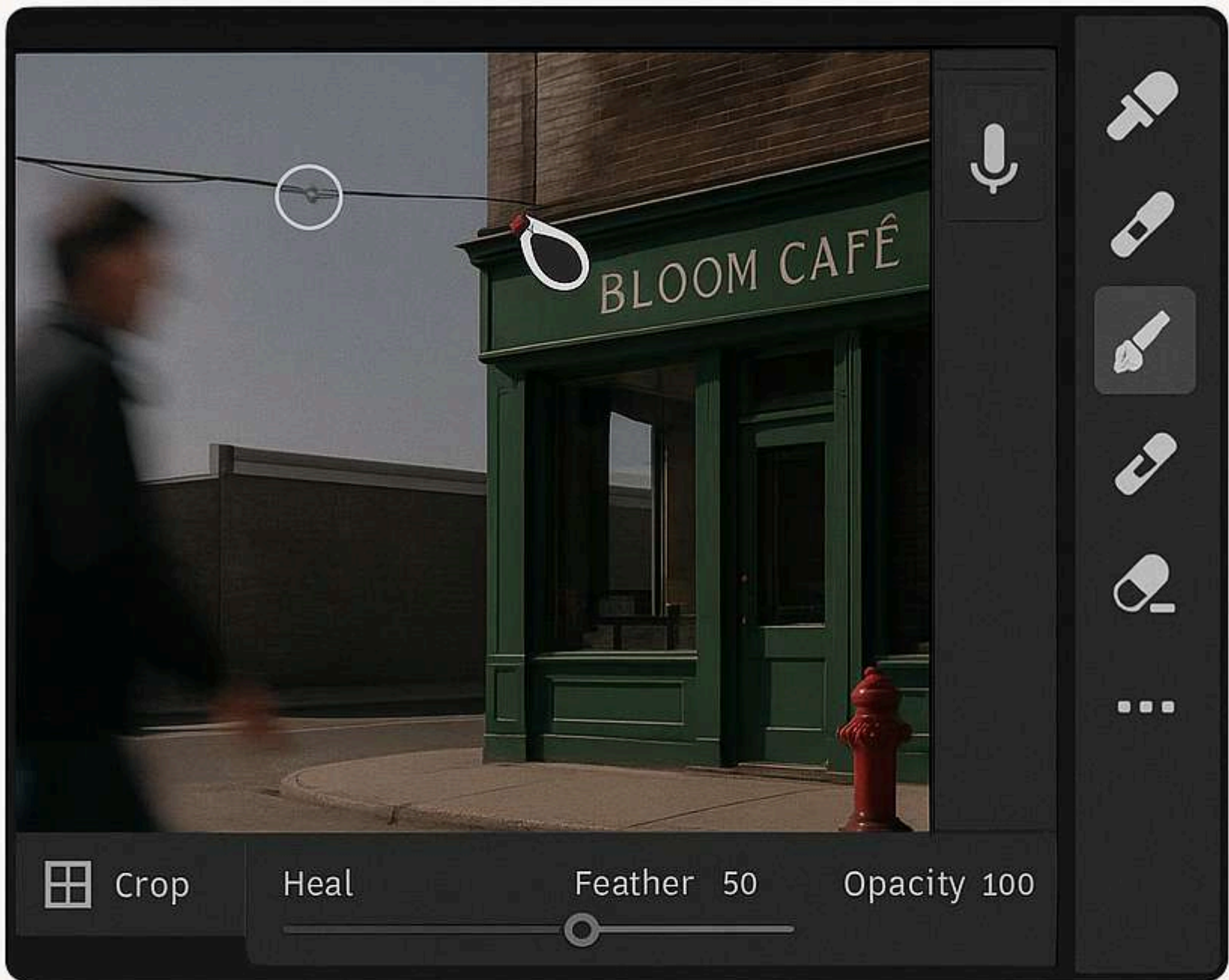
COLOR OR B&W

- Choose based on tone and message
- Use B&W for emotion or shape; color for mood or theme



ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS

REMOVE DISTRACTIONS



- Fix small spots or visual noise
- Don't remove meaningful real-life elements

ESSENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS

FINAL POLISH

- Apply light sharpening or vignetting
- Save/export at high quality



EDITING & POST-PROCESSING STYLE & CONSISTENCY

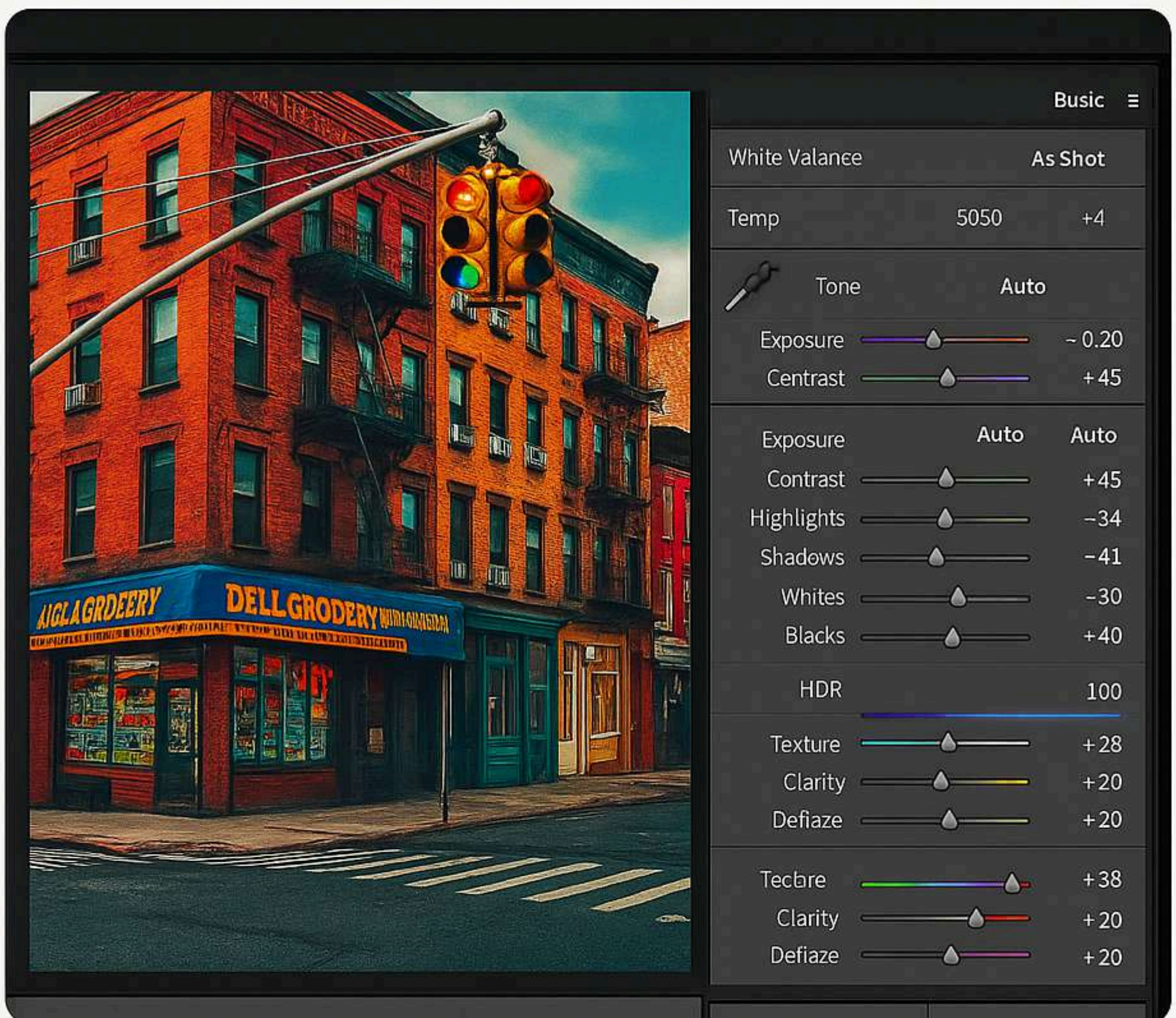
- Use consistent tones, crops, and color choices in a project
- Apply light presets to maintain your look
- Match editing with the subject's emotion and pace



EDITING & POST-PROCESSING

WHAT TO AVOID

- Over-editing or harsh HDR effects
- Filters that overpower your subject
- Erasing real elements that change the story
- Smoothing away natural detail



What you capture is more
than just an image — it's
a mirror of humanity and a
story of the moment.

So step outside, camera in hand.
The next story is already unfolding —
All you have to do is see it.

