

Photographing People- Advanced Techniques for Honest Environmental Portraits.

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Introduction;

(Warning: I belong to the **"Loyal Order of Slide Dinosaurs"** (LOSD) or Kodachromus Rex, if you please. So no rude digi-comments please or I might have to get huffy and defensive.

More and more as I've continued to evolve my shooting style I have found myself gravitating towards photographing people, both professionally and for personal work. I still enjoy landscape and still life too but I think I'm better with people.

What follows is a summary of my technique and procedures with a few pointers towards the end. If it has any value it won't matter much whether you are analogue or digital.

I accept that there are situations that preclude these techniques that I discuss such as, photojournalism involving confrontation and certain types of documentary of current events. We are discussing how to achieve better results in the discipline of photographing Human Interest situations that may intrigue you but where, up till now, you may have been reluctant to approach.

I am taking for granted that participants are reasonably familiar with their chosen equipment whether 35mm or other. If I have not explained a term completely, feel free to ask or e-mail me.

I have had the good fortune to be associated with some pretty talented individuals over the years but I am not yet capable of defining all the terms of the topic. I still expect to learn something new with every new discussion.

In my experience, photography is cyclical, people tend to pick it up and put it down as other factors in their lives ascend or decline or because we see it as a coping tool in this ever changing world. I see young people enjoying it and I've seen many continue well in to the upper decades with fulfillment. That's one of photography's qualities. Anyway here goes...

Generally I work in my subject's environment. If I had to define different types of photographers, I would say there are two broad categories: Conceptual, those producing the majority of work within a studio or controlled space and Perceptual. I fall into the latter group. I enter upon people's spaces. I try to get them doing the activity that likely caused me to want to