

Light and shadow in photography



Light in photography

- Photography – capturing light
- No light – no photography

GOAL – learn how to manage and manipulate light to create beautiful photographs

Steps

- Understanding light
- Role of light in photography
- Techniques for using light in photograph
- Tips for using light in different situations
- How to use light and shadow to create space, make rythm and build up composition for a scene

Understanding light

- What is light?

"Form of energy that comes in waves."

- How does light create an image?

"When light waves enter the human eye or camera lens; brightness and colour are interpreted to create an image. It is perception of light waves that creates an image "

- What form can light come in?

"Natural and artificial"

Cartier – Bresson; Salerno



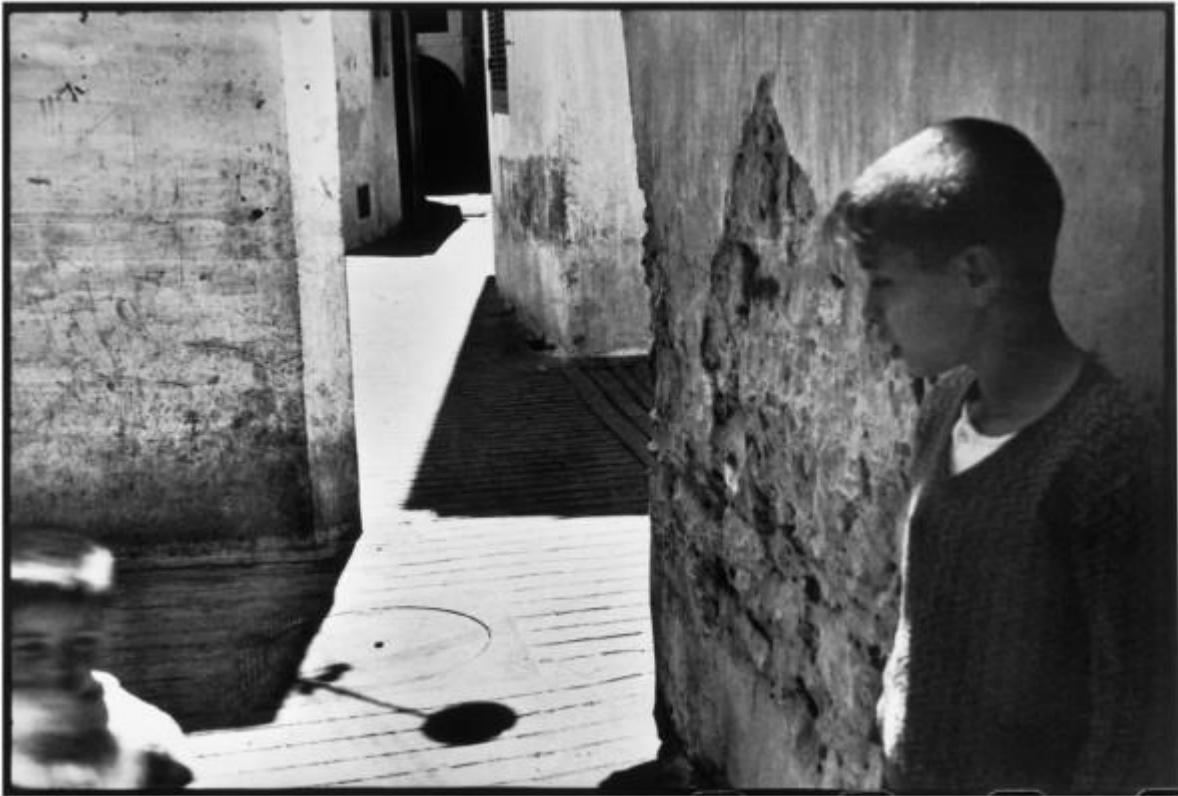
Brassai; Moriss column at night



Cartier – Bresson; Siphnos



Cartier- Bresson; Andalusia



The Decisive Moment



- Capturing of spontaneous moments
- Framing movement within the built environment's light and shadow
- Geometry and rhythm of dark and light parts
- "Hyerres"

How to "capture" the perfect moment?

- **Be patient**

- Cartier-Bresson roamed the streets in search of the decisive moment. When he arrived at a location that struck his imagination, he waited patiently for life to spring across his frame
- In your own work, once you find a setting that includes the shapes, lines and colours that you're looking for, wait for an interesting action to occur. You should either linger or return at different times of the day because the ideal moment might not come straight to you.

How to "capture" the perfect moment?

- **Stay low key**

- Across most of Cartier-Bresson's photographs, there's an evocative sense of quiet observation. Similar to a photojournalist, he would often keep out of the way and simply treat the camera as an extension of his eye. This was due to his understanding that the most appealing candid images are created when the subject is completely unaware they are being photographed.
- If you're shooting on the street or at an event, try and blend into the setting. Whether that means staying on the edge of the scene or by wearing clothes that don't draw attention, shooting without making a point of your presence is key to producing images that capture the moment.

How to "capture" the perfect moment?

- **Focus on geometry**

- Framing around natural geometry is one technique you should be using to enhance your images.
- Across the vast majority of Cartier-Bresson's images, vertical and horizontal lines intersect with curves and shadows, framing the subject and providing a natural focal point for the audience. Cartier-Bresson described geometry as his single greatest joy, suggesting that when everything appears in the correct order, the resulting image is an intellectual pleasure of structure and pattern.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and train yourself to recognise the obscure shapes that make up the world.
- Techniques like the **rule of thirds** and the **golden ratio** are useful guidelines you can use to create visually pleasing images. Once you combine these elements with the right subject, you'll have a striking photograph.

How to "capture" the perfect moment?

- **Avoid post-processing**
- Cartier-Bresson believed that post-processing his film should be a last resort. On the rare occasion that he did send his images to be cropped or altered.
- In part, this principle came from Cartier-Bresson's desire to directly engage only with his camera and the scene he had chosen.
- Post-processing is an important skill for present-day photographers.
- But it's great practice to try and capture the ideal image when you first press the shutter, rather than relying on Photoshop later.

Tošo Dabac; Dubrovnik



Tošo Dabac; Dubrovnik



Tošo Dabac; Split

