



The Essence of Photography: Seeing and Creativity

Bruce Barnbaum

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There is a lot more to photography than simply picking up a camera, pointing it toward something, and tripping the shutter. Achieving a great photograph requires thought and preparation, an understanding of the photographic process, and a firm grasp of how light and composition affect a photo. There must be personal involvement and personal expression. There must be experimentation, with the recognition that only a small percentage of experiments end successfully.

In this book, best-selling author and world-renowned photographer and teacher Bruce Barnbaum explores these seldom-discussed issues by drawing upon his personal experiences and observations from more than 40 years of photographing and teaching. In addition to photographs, Bruce also uses painting, music, and writing, as well as the sciences and even business, to provide pertinent examples of creative thinking. These examples serve as stepping-stones that will lead you to your own heightened ability to see and be creative.

Creativity is a topic that is almost wholly ignored in formal education because most instructors think that it cannot be taught or learned. To the contrary, Bruce has proven that photographic seeing and creativity can be taught, learned, and improved. This book expands on the ideas that are central to Bruce's method of teaching photography, which he has used in workshops for the past 41 years.

Included in the book are in-depth discussions on the following topics:

Defining your own unique rhythm and approach as a photographer How to translate the scene in front of you to the final photograph The differences and similarities between how an amateur and a professional approach photography The differences between realism and abstraction, and the possibilities and limitations of each Learning to expand your own seeing and creativity through classes, workshops, and associating with other photographers Why the rules of composition should be ignored How to follow your passion When to listen to the critics and when to ignore them The book is richly illustrated with over 90 photographs taken by Bruce as well as other photographers. Seeing and creativity are difficult to teach, but not impossible. This very different, perhaps groundbreaking book is sure to inspire photographers of all skill levels—from beginners to seasoned professionals—to think deeply about the issues involved in creating successful photographs.

The Essence of Photography: Seeing and Creativity Details

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Author : Bruce Barnbaum

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James says

Like sitting at the feet of a master

Everything Bruce Barnbaum writes is worth reading and thinking about for a long time. This is no exception, whether you practice landscape photography or any other kind.

Richard says

Not a how to book, but something much more important. All about photographic vision. A very good read.

Sam Shingleton says

An excellent book on photography! Though much of the author's work is done with a view camera, the book relates to any photographer. It is not so much a how to but a why that he answers.

Sharon Huether says

I won this Free book form Goodreads-First reads. One of the things the author stressed was to "Find your own rhythm" Photograph to please yourself or others. Try new techniques. This is a wonderful book for the beginner as well as the advances photographer. Light and composition are very important in photography. Use your digital camera as well as other cameras. A cell phone camera is good too since they are very quick. The book has outstanding illustrations to inspire the photographer in black and white as well as color.

Carolyn says

I won this book on Goodreads. I first glanced through this book just looking at the pictures but was drawn into chapter after chapter. It takes photography to a higher level of art form. I love landscapes and was amazed at the ability the author took to obtain the photos I was able to enjoy at home. I must agree to his statements regarding patience along with persistent effort in taking photographs. The black and white photos emphasized how important light and shadow are in this art. Thank you for sharing.

Tonino Filipovic says

Compared to Barnbaum's The Art of Photography, this book wouldn't deserve more than 4 out of 5.

However, this is still one of the best books on photography, easily readable, and although it contains many topics already addressed in The Art of Photography, it's still worth reading and contemplating about the content.

Christen says

Such a beautiful book. While the pictures are amazing, what Bruce Barnbaum writes about is equally important. While he does discuss the basics to taking a good photograph, he really elaborates on personal connection and personal expression. Every photo is really revealing the photographer and what makes the photographer tick. Each photo is saying something through the lens of the photographer. While a photo can be technically well done, does it evoke a feeling or a connection which is the most important.

Mattie says

Having read the Art of Photography by the same author/photographer, once I saw this out, I wanted to read it. I've given it 4 stars. Really, I think it's a 3/3.5 for content, but Barnbaum's fabulous photos bump it up to the 4. I think I was expecting some more insight that I didn't already have, which I didn't get. I did, however, find my already existing thoughts & approach validated.

Kme_17 says

I got this one as a first read. This is a very beautiful book. The photography is awesome. It also has great tips for photography. It was also very easy to read. Great for those interested in photography.

Mark says

Beautiful photos. Strong personal perspectives on creativity and photography based on 40 years of walking that path.
