



Photography Styles Defined: Best Approaches Methods and Techniques



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Introduction

Having a particular style of photography can truly highlight you amongst the crowd. The world of photography is vast and has much to explore. If you are not defining your style in that vast world, you will always have trouble making an identity out of it. A defined photography style can help you communicate with your audience much better and more engagingly. Also, working on a particular photography style gives you more room to improve and become an expert in that particular style. That's why we will dive deep into different photography styles and help you determine which style is meant for you. Once you find that out, your photography journey and goal become clearer. Let's get started then.

What is the Definition of Photography Style?

When we say photography style, people always mix it with the genre. In reality, style is different from genre.

Photography styles simply refer to the outlook of the tone based on editing, technology, or approach. For instance, minimalistic photography, macro photography, black and white photography, etc.

In short, styles mean the definitive touch you add to a basic photography genre. You can add your unique touch in various ways, which include composition, lighting, color, editing, and subject matter.

So, how you compose a photo, how you use the lighting, or even how you edit the picture can determine your personal photography style. Every photo you click can have a unique style, but developing a particular style can create your identity.

The Historical Facts about Photography - The Photography History

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Photography has been an art form since the 1800's. Even though it wasn't as modern as today's photography, the journey of this concept started during that period. It all started with a heliographic engraving done on a metal plate by the artist Nicephone Niepce.

Since then, there has been an immense revolution in photography, and we have ended up with what we have right now. Let's unfold some more exciting historical facts about photography during this period of evolution.

- 1839 - The invention of the daguerreotype process made it possible to create permanent images for the first time.
- 1884 - For the first time, photographic film ideas came into existence.

- 1889 - The first celluloid photographic films were introduced.
- 1920s - Candid photography became a thing with the development of 35mm film.
- 1948 - Edwin Herbart Land introduced the world with its first Polaroid camera.
- 1975 - The digital camera was first invented by Eastman Kodak in America.

After this invention, the whole photography landscape changed, opening a new realm for all photographers worldwide.

From there on, many new technologies started to be implemented with digital cameras. This gave the photographers the perfect weapon to create art with a click.

What are the Different Types of Photography Styles?

While the photography genre can be quite limited, the types of photography styles are very vast because you are not limited to anything when it comes to the styles.

Here's a breakdown of the different photography styles and their best versions.

1. Best Natural Photography Styles



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Capturing nature as it is defines natural photography. Natural photography is about showcasing nature through your lens the way you see it. And the best ways to do that are:

- **Nature Photography**

Whether you want to capture animals or the mountains is up to your preferences. Nature photography takes you into nature and allows you to capture the wonders of nature. You get to share how you see nature with your lens.

This photography form is all about what you have around you naturally. You don't have control over how the lighting is going to be or how the weather will be in the picture. It's all about presenting nature's beauty with its unpredictability.

- **Landscape Photography**

Unlike nature photography, landscape photography is about presenting the world's vastness. It's more into capturing the sceneries and beauty of the world with mountains, deserts, forests, rivers, and beautiful vistas.

Having the right gear to bring the best results here is important. You need to present the landscape so that it emits beauty right from the first glance.

- **Macro Photography**


Presenting small things in a big manner with close-up shots is the basic concept of macro photography. Macro photography can create a larger-than-life appeal to the smallest things.

It's usually done with insects, small birds, flowers, plants, and fruits. You are not capturing a scene here; you are showing the intricate details of these small things.

- **Astrophotography**

Astrophotography is about exploring and revealing the true beauty of a night sky with photos. You get to unveil the mysteries of the night sky and present it to your audience with all its glory and beauty.

The photos usually include starscapes, light paintings with long exposure, and a time-lapse of the sky with the movement of the stars and the Earth.



Creative Artistic Photography Styles

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2. Creative Artistic Photography Styles

Some styles of photography are meant for those creative minds who have a knack for art and beauty, even in the simplest of things. This photography style creatively and artistically presents everyday life in a way that soothes the eye of the audience. The best ways to express this are:

- **Fine Art Photography**

Making your photographs look like art is the heart and soul of fine art photography. Fine art photography's heart is about how artistically you can present your subject to the world.

It can be a scenery of a landscape like Ansel Adam does. Or it can be mesmerizing portraits the way Sally Mann does. Any subject can be captured and turned into fine art with the right kind of composition, lighting, and editing.

- **Light Painting Photography**

Turning light into a painting brush is the essence of light painting photography. Here, the camera is set to a certain exposure setting that acts like the canvas of the painting. Then, you simply paint your creativity using a light source in front of the camera while the shutter stays open.

Create abstract swirls or ethereal trails to intrigue the viewers with your creativity and artistic excellence.

- **Black and White Photography**

When you remove the colors from an image, you are only left with the emotions in it. That's the core of black and white photography, which is meant to express the true emotions in a picture.

Black and white photography highlights a photo's contrasts and subtle tones to bring out the drama and raw beauty of your subject.

- **Still Life Photography**

Do you ever think of capturing a flower vase or a bowl full of fruits? Usually, people will consider these small stuff or simple things that don't have any artistic value to them.

But when you can put life into these little things using your photography composition, unique lighting ideas, and fine-editing skills. This style is all about presenting ordinary things as an artistic subject.

- **Double Exposure Photography**

Excite and intrigue the audience by creating a visual paradox with double exposure photography. It's a great way to combine two images into one and portray it meaningfully.

Simply put, it's the kind of photography where you decompose two realities into a new one. There are no boundaries here.

- **Surreal Photography**

Turning a photo that exceeds all reality and comes out like a dream is the base of surreal photography. It's the kind of photography where you present everyday stuff in such an unusual way that it seems like something that came from a dream world.

You can create such photographs with unique composition, advanced editing, and photomanipulation skills.

Abstract Photography

Making people think without solid context or ideas is the secret of creating the best abstract photography. This kind of photography is meant to force your viewers to change their perspective and see things differently.

Here, you manipulate the light, shapes, and textures to form emotions that convey a message. Not many will understand the message, but the ones who do will relate and value the art.

3. Best Cityscapes and Structures Photography Styles



3. Best Cityscapes and Structures

Photography Styles

Cityscapes are all about capturing man-made structures in the urban landscape. In this photography style, you try to make the buildings and urban structures look like art. There are several ways to portray cityscapes and mesmerize the audience. Here are the best ways to do so:

- **Aerial Photography**

Aerial photography is about creating the illusion that you are in the air. The photography features being on the rooftops of tall buildings and witnessing the city from a high vantage point.

It helps you show the city as if looking at a map. This kind of photography unveils the artistry of the city and unfolds its hidden geometries with a clear view.

- **Real Estate Photography**

While aerial photography is about art, real estate photography makes things more commercial. In real estate photography, you are simply trying to make a real estate look good and more engaging, which becomes convincing to viewers.

Here, you try to incorporate clean lines, appealing interiors, attractive lighting, and composition that can emphasize the spaciousness of the structure. Also, details matter a lot in this photography style.

- **Architecture Photography**

Show the architectural beauty of a structure, building, or place with all its glory through architectural photography. You focus on celebrating the beauty stuck within a structure's details, bold lines, and decorated walls.

With architecture photography, you need to know shapes, certain photography techniques, and in-depth lighting knowledge.

- **Drone or Birds Eye View Photography**

Showing a bird's perspective in seeing a city has been one of the most exciting factors of photography in recent years. You can create panoramas of a city that are simply breathtaking with drones and other gear.

It's not the kind of photography that you can do without any planning. You need to have a complete understanding of the city and its routes to get the best view through drone photography.

4. Work with People Photography Styles



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One of the most difficult subjects you will ever work with in photography is humans. It's never easy to capture the real beauty of a human with their emotions and expressions fluctuating every moment. Let's explore some of the most exciting styles of photographing people with your camera.

- **Headshot Photography**

Clicking headshot photos is about pictures taken in a commercial setting for a more formal purpose. These photographs don't have any artistic appeal to them or don't evoke emotion. They are all about presenting a person most formally.

People usually take headshot photographs to add to their resumes, websites, social media profiles, business purposes, passports, etc. There is nothing creative or artistic about it, and it's purely commercial.

- **Portrait Photography**

Portraying a person's true self where the picture reflects their soul and emotions and makes their face look like an art is portrait photography. It explores the expressions of a person to bring out their true self and make the audience feel something.

Portrait photography styles are all about how you can connect with your subject. Your goal here is to make them feel safe so that they don't have that hesitance in their face when capturing the photos.

- **Fashion Photography**

Unlike portrait photography, in fashion photography, you are the one who instructs the subject on how they should appear in front of the camera. There is nothing natural in fashion photography.

Fashion photography is more about the products than the person modeling them. This kind of photography requires a lot of expertise and knowledge to make the photos look commercially appealing.

- **Sports Photography**

Capturing moments in sports is the base of sports photography. This photography can be candid moments of a game. Or it can be set up photoshoots where you click photos of a product or sports gear.

In sports photography, it's crucial to be quick with the camera, especially if you capture the moments from a game. Being able to capture the drama of a game is what makes up a highly regarded sports photographer.

- **Documentary Photography**

Photographs of people living their regular life is the best way to showcase human lives through photos. Documentary photography dives into people in their most natural habitats.

If you are into photojournalism, then this is the perfect genre for you to explore. There is nothing curated in this photography style, and it's all-natural. You can consider it nature photography of humans.

5. Best Lifestyle Photography Styles



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5. Best Lifestyle Photography Styles

Lifestyle photography is simply the moments that make up everyday life. It's a way to celebrate life and the joy of being alive in certain moments. Two styles in lifestyle photography are most prominent and have the best impact on people.

- **Street Photography**

No planning, staging, or script, capturing everything happening on the streets is the true meaning of street photography. It's about portraying the things you see when you walk out on the streets.

The raw energy of the street and the random human interactions give it artistic value. Having a keen eye on events and quick reflexes to capture them makes you a successful street photographer who can instantly tell and sell a street's story.

- **Wedding Photography**

Celebrating a special day and capturing all the memories for later on is what makes wedding photography such a crucial style. Wedding photography is not just about clicking pictures of the event. It takes people on a journey where the wedding story unfolds through pictures.

Wedding photography styles have a mixture of staged moments and candid photos. While staged moments showcase the elegance of the wedding, the candid photos portray the event's emotion.

6. Best Commercial Photography Styles



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6. Best Commercial Photography Styles

Photography is a profession for many people, and commercial photography is the best way to earn money. It's where you create art that also sells and has monetary value. The most common commercial photography styles out there are:

- **Product Photography**

Showcasing the features and benefits of a product in the most appealing way makes product photography a key marketing tool for businesses. Making the products look enticing in the photos is the secret to successful product photography.

This style requires a lot of technical precision, a creative approach, and advanced lighting knowledge. You have to make a simple product look irresistible in the photos. That's how you can convince people.

- **Food Photography**

There's not much difference between food styling photography and product photography. What you are essentially trying to achieve here is to make the food look mouth-watering and appealing.

Making the simplest of food look delicious and expensive is the true challenge of food photography. You will need to use advanced compositions, exciting colors, and proper lighting to make the food look aesthetically pleasing, or as they say, "Instagram worthy."

- **Event Photography**

Every event comes with its emotion, excitement, audience, and energy. Capturing all these things into photographs is the magic of event photography. A capable event photographer can incorporate all that and create a complete story out of an event.

Working on event photography requires you to be agile. You have to be at different places at the same time and capture everything that's happening throughout the event. The ability to work in candid conditions and capture genuineness will give you the edge in event photography.

How to Find Your Photography Style?

Finding a photography style that suits your personality and preferences is a journey. You cannot instantly decide it as if it's a fact.

Like any other journey, you must explore the styles to find which one is right for you. If you want to embark on that journey, here are some expert tips we can leave for you:

- Explore the different photography genres to see which interests and comforts you the most. Find the best style for photography based on your preferences.
- After exploring different genres and collecting pictures, look at your work and judge them yourself. See which ones draw you the most, analyze your work, and come to a conclusion.
- Look at the work of some highly capable photographers for inspiration. Study their work and try to incorporate their approach in your work. Don't copy them; take inspiration and implement them.
- Share the photos you take, and ask for feedback on them. Taking feedback on different kinds of photography styles will help you find which style you are good at.
- Don't get all tangled up with equipment. Force yourself into situations to be as creative as possible with limitations. This way, you can focus on the style more than the gears.

How to Develop Your Photography Style?

Once you have found the photography style you want to follow, it's time to develop your unique style. Just going with all the rules will not set you apart from the rest. Your unique style will do that. And here's how to define your photography style.



1. Start with an editing inspiration.

The first step to developing your style is to follow your inspiration. Look at the images from highly qualified photographers in your chosen style and see their editing patterns. Take inspiration from their style and how they approach editing.

2. Practice a certain editing style.

Next, you have to practically implement the knowledge or ideas you got from the inspiration into your photos. It's all about trial and error here. Unleash your creativity in this step, develop editing styles you like in your photos, and then keep practicing them.

3. Work on regular photography projects.

Just working on a single project can't help you diversify your style. You need to be able to make your style work in various projects. That's why you should keep working on new projects every day and implement the style you have in mind to create your signature style.

4. Avoid getting too influenced.

Don't confuse yourself with the variety of inspiration and influence around you. When you come across too many styles, you can easily get distracted from developing your style. Also, it can make you insecure about your abilities at times.

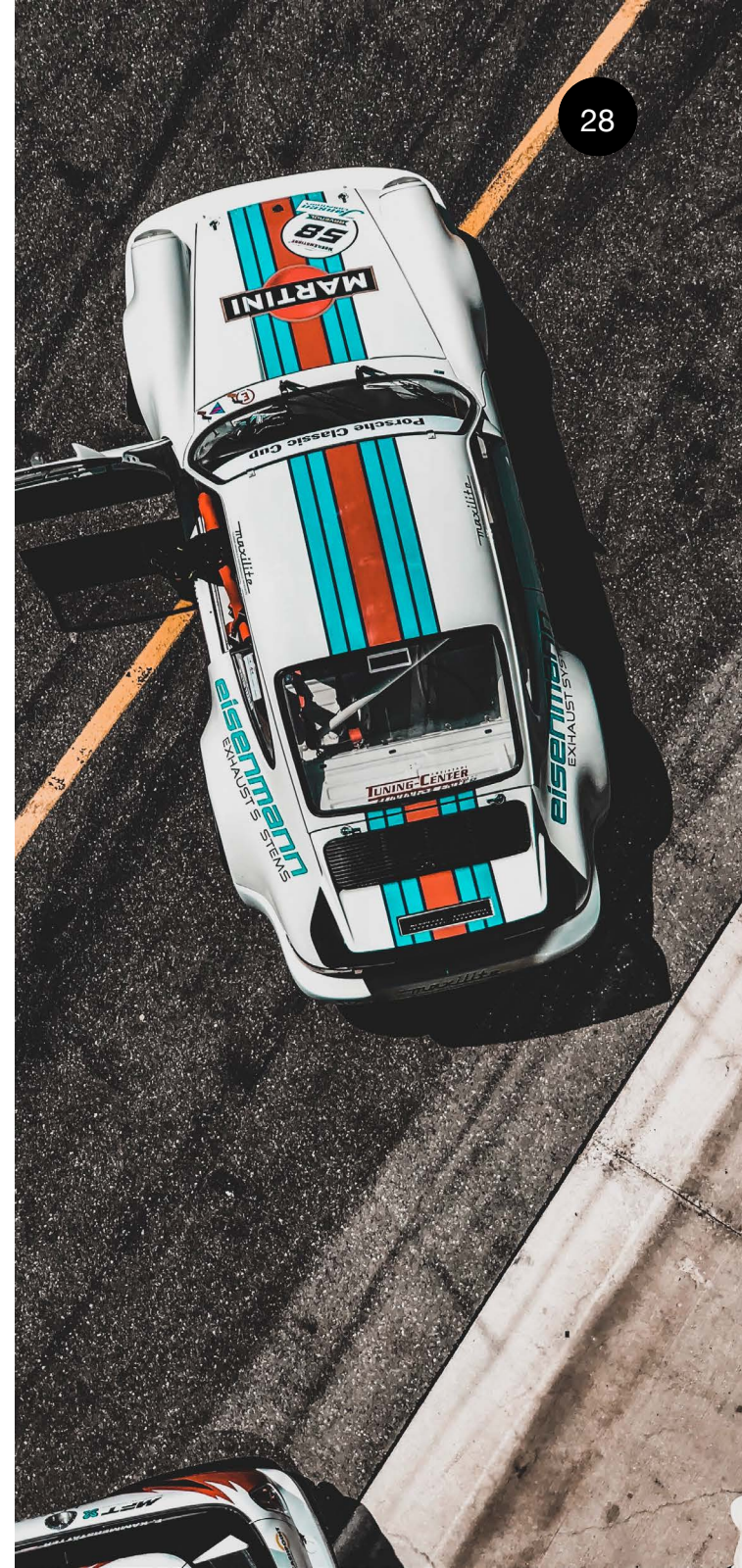
These 4 crucial tips can help you develop a unique style for your photography journey. Create your identity with your style to make a name for yourself in the photography world.

Conclusion

Now, with the knowledge you have gained here, you can embark on your photography journey with your unique style. Your photography style should always stem from your personality. So, if you feel like you are not enjoying photography, you probably need to switch up your style.

Finding a suitable style that excites you to capture and create photos is always an option that you can explore. Once you get that treasure, you are all set for life while enjoying your photography journey.

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