

# Ensure your photography is streets ahead

Multi-award winning fine art photographer Simon Ellingworth on the allure of the street – and why teaching is as joyful as making his own images

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*Simon Ellingworth is an internationally recognised street photographer whose achievements include two Sony World Photography Awards.*

*A passionate educator, Ellingworth owns Amersham Studios, where he runs workshops to help beginner and experienced photographers hone their skills. He specialises in street photography, natural light portraiture and creative composition, and also leads photography workshops for the RPS.*

*Here, Ellingworth discusses why he is drawn to street photography and what to expect from his latest workshop series for the RPS, Compelling Street Photography – Ingredients for Success.*



Street photography is a kind of mindfulness that helps me get into a specific state of flow. Once I'm on the street, photographing, it's the only place I'm completely absorbed in the moment. The noise of the world disappears and I find myself observing the world in a way that I don't normally. I've not found many things in life that give me this sense of peace and quiet. It becomes all about serendipity, vision and skill. Even though you're constantly visiting the same places, you're attempting to reimagine the world through your camera.

As much as I love shooting street photography for myself, I'm equally passionate about helping people develop their photographic process. Whether it's my street photography, natural light portraiture, creative composition, or camera processing technique workshops, teaching others and witnessing their lightbulb moments is something I find just as joyful as photography.



My new six-week street photography workshop, Compelling Street Photography – Ingredients for Success, will be delivered online via Zoom, and focuses on how to create compelling street photography. It will teach participants the importance of taking the time to think about the different techniques and approaches they can implement in their street photography – such as utilising curiosity gaps and leaving things unsaid to give viewers the space to relay their own personal meaning to images – before venturing out to shoot.

I run a lot of one-day workshops. At the end, when we're all on really friendly terms with one another, you almost don't want the workshop to end because it feels like we're just getting started together. These six-week workshops will allow me to go on a deeper journey with people and will help me better understand their perspectives to improve their practice.



You can expect to be challenged by Compelling Street Photography – Ingredients for Success. I'll be asking participants to look for the most compelling street photography they can find. Not only will this help people to up their game, it will also introduce them to the approaches, techniques and styles we'll be focusing on each week.

While we can learn a lot from our own work it's important to widen our perspectives by viewing the images of others, as their ideas can become embedded in our creative process.



Through my own work I always aim to reimagine photography and I love sharing what I learn. I enjoy opening people's eyes to different aspects of photography. Photography can be beautifully simple, but you have to let go of preconceived ideas.

These online workshops allow people to interact in safe environments. After this six-week workshop is over, I hope participants will not only have improved their street photography skills but also gained a photographic community where they can share their ideas. Given Covid-19's impact, I think that's really important.

**Compelling Street Photography – Ingredients for Success begins online on Monday 7 February at 6.30pm. The six-week course costs £108 for RPS members. Find out [more](#)**

All photographs by [Simon Ellingworth](#)



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