

YE
3E

EYE-PHOTO MAGAZINE

15

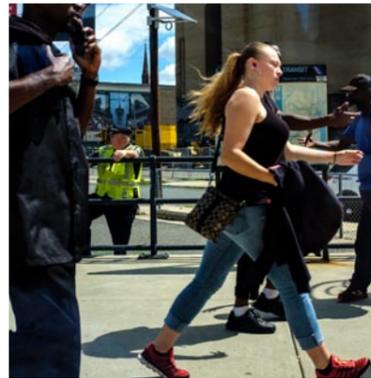
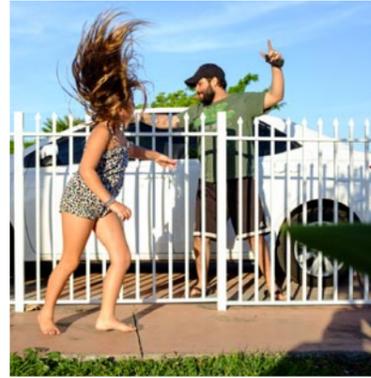
NOVEMBER, 2015



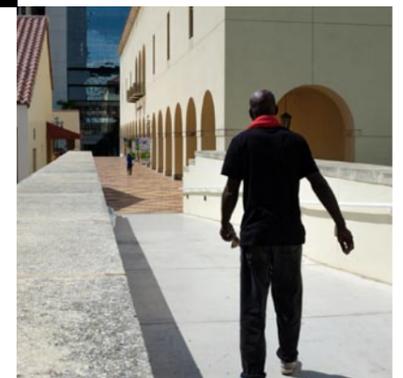
INTERVIEW WITH

CHRISTIAN ROBOTTI

PHOTOGRAPHER, FLORIDA,
USA



INTERVIEW # 15



Dear Friends and Readers!

Our next issue of featured photographer, the interview, takes us to Florida USA, where Christian Robotti is taking us on a journey through his fantastic and award winning photographs.

His vibrant colored and contrasty black and white captures are a homage to our zeitgeist.

Please join us on this fantastic journey.

Enjoy reading



Stefan Cimer
Founder and Editor



Please tell us a little bit about yourself to begin with.



I have a BFA in Photography with a Minor in Art History from Savannah College of Art & Design, with honors. My art, fashion, and street photography has been Internationally Published



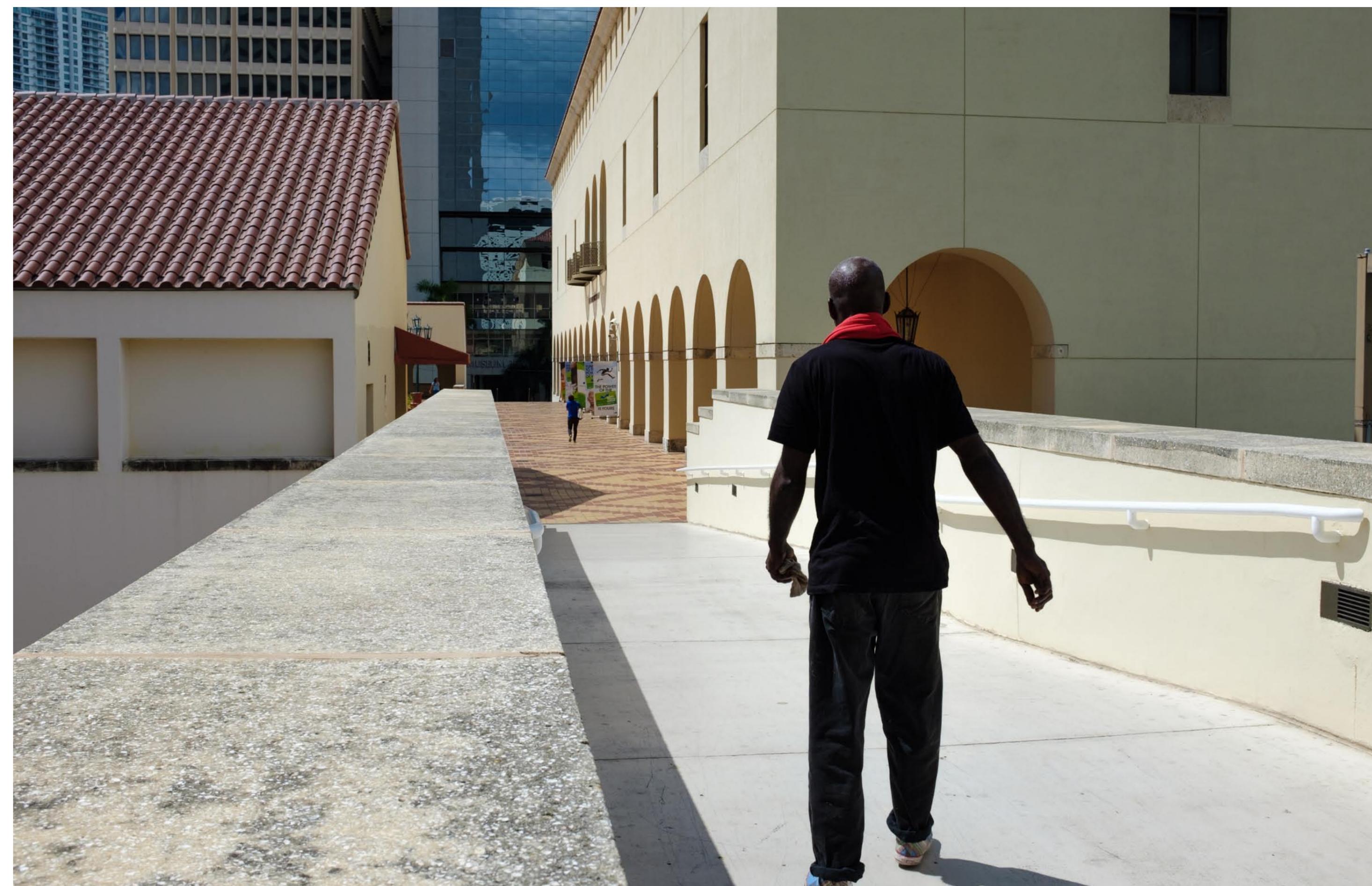
Could you share with us how you first became interested in street photography?

It probably started when I was 5. I used to watch my father develop b/w negatives and prints in his makeshift darkroom. When I was 15 he gave me his Konica film camera.



Your work is a vivid mix between almost every genre of photography from fine art, fashion, portrait up to street photography. I'm wondering is there a specific genre you personally prefer most.

Street Photography is what makes me the happiest. I consider it the most difficult, when executed correctly. It has a bit of all the other genres, packed into one discipline.



Your photographs have a real certain twist, where do you get your inspiration?

Life inspires me. The sound that rain makes when it hits your window. The smell of the salt air. Palm trees basking in the wind. The sound of life waking up as the streets begin to fill with energy.





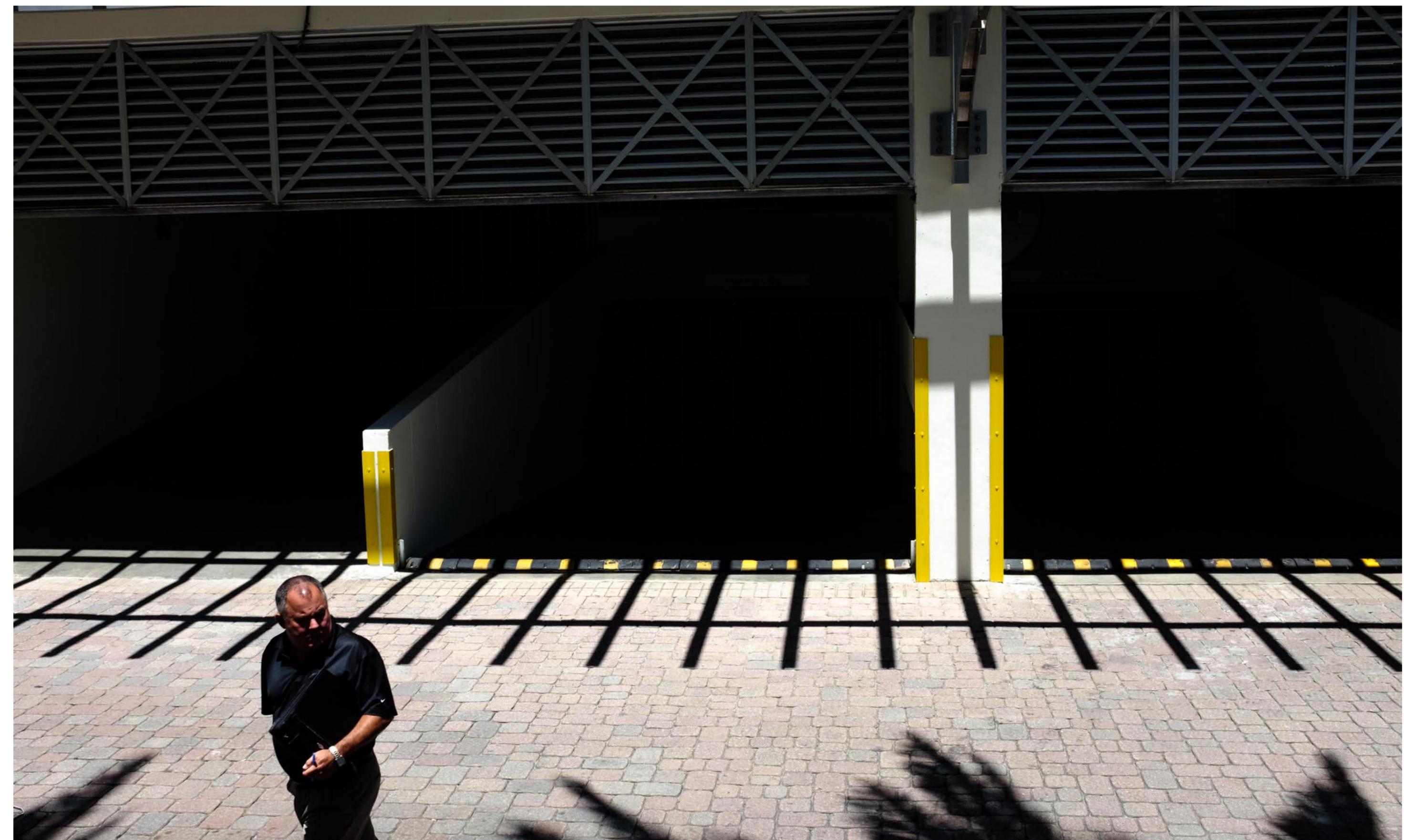
Have you been involved in arts in some other form than photography?

I started in theatre when I was in Jr. High. I then began to write poetry all through High School. I also enjoy painting and mixed-media.



What are the main differences in your opinion between being a professional or 'just' an enthusiastic photographer who is taking photos out of passion?

A "professional" has a couple of meanings. The first is a degree, such as a BFA. The second is if you are making more than 50% of your living with Photography.



I would like to talk a bit about street photography with you. Could you share with us how you first became interested in street photography?

Back in Art School, around 1997-98 I took a class called "The Picture Story" with a Magnum Photographer Keith Cardwell. Though it was a documentary class, I was introduced to greats such as, Andre Kertesz, Brassai, Atget, HCB, so on and so forth. I realized that the dedication, looseness, and surreal qualities of SP was something I respected and wanted to pursue.



How much does your equipment help you to execute your artistic visions and what kind of equipment are you using?

Well, I started shooting SP more seriously when I bought my first digital camera. It was an SLR; the Nikon D80. I then bought a Canon Mark II 5d. These cameras, because of their size taught me, or forced me the techniques I use today to try and stay as invisible as I can.

I am now using the FujiFilm x100s. which all the majority of the pictures you see here, are from. I had recently won the People's Choice Award from the Coral Gables Museum in Florida, one of the Judges was Maggie Steber, where the grand prize was a Leica D-Lux camera, so I am going to start using that and see if I like it.



Can you tell us about your work flow from the point you first step onto the scene (street) until you showcase the developed picture?

I like to become part of the environment, like a Heartbeat. I walk around, observing, until I am one with it. It's very Zen, my approach. I then go home, upload the images, cull and correct in Lightroom; I only work on them as if I was in a darkroom. Can't stand when images are so over-produced that they look like illustrations. I don't believe that is photography anymore. I then create a blog of the day and post it.





Boucher Brothers

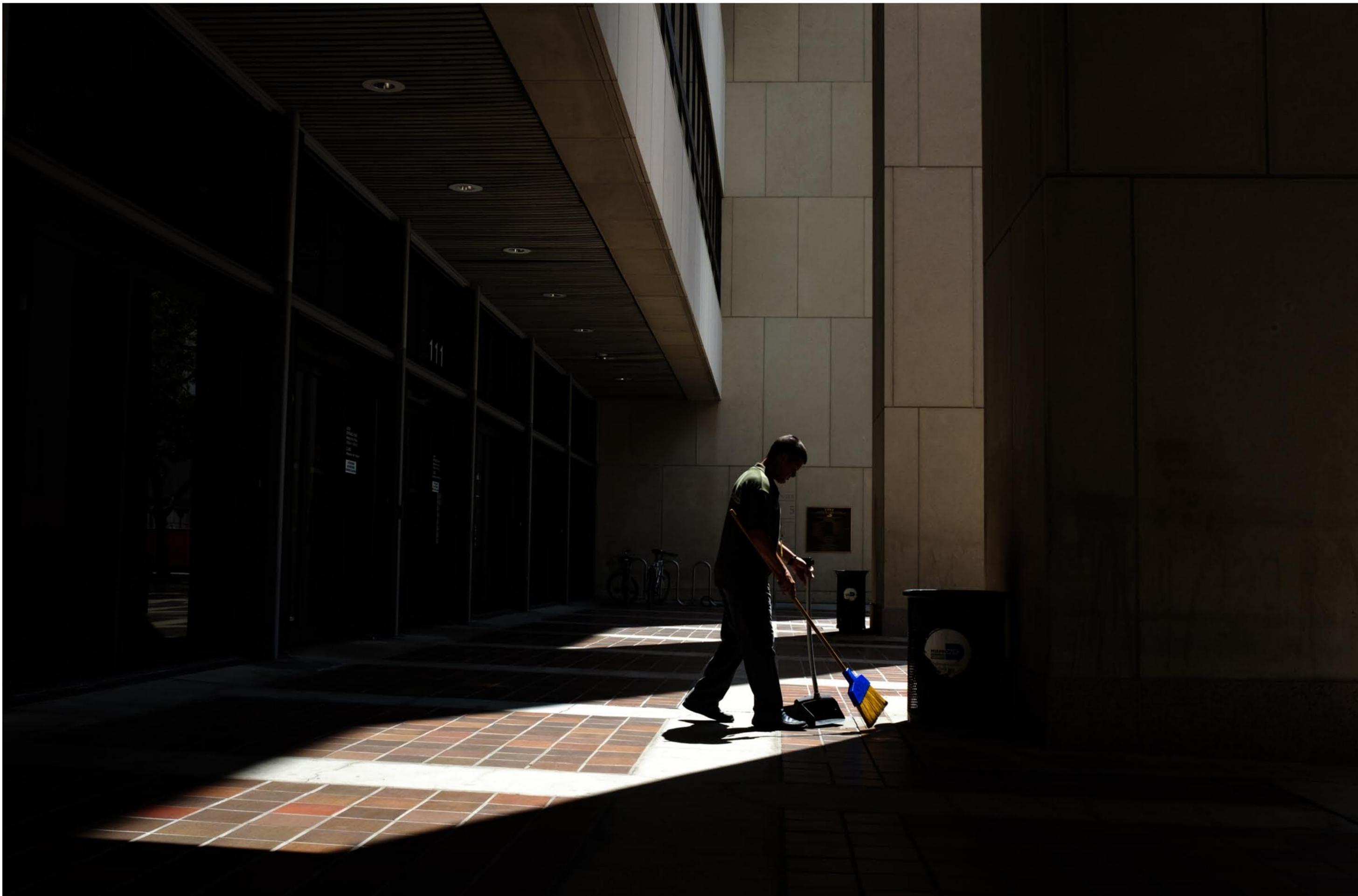
Boucher Brothers

Boucher Brothers

Boucher Brothers

What is it in your subjects that make you want to capture it?

It differs. Sometimes it has to do more about the light. Sometimes I see them as actors on the proverbial stage of life and I want to capture certain moments that makes it look surreal.



Do you interact with your subjects on street and if yes, how do they react on you?

Never. I'm from the school that if you interact with them by talking or posing; infecting the natural balance of the moment in any way, then it is NOT SP.



Have you ever had to face unpleasant or even dangerous situation on street?

Not really. Maybe 5 times in all the years I have been shooting, someone might of screamed at me for taking their picture.





What would you say characterizes your work in comparison to other street photographers?

I'm not afraid to shoot in both Color and B/W, I don't use contemporary photographers as a foundation for my own style, and probably most importantly is that I was classically taught, in both aesthetic and history. I fully understand the "where" and "why" of Photography's birth.



Do you see your personality reflected in your work? In what image does that come apparent to you?

That's a tough question. I believe that is for the audience to answer and not the artist. I do what I do because of how I feel at the moment. :)





What can you tell us about the factor „luck" in street photography?

Luck is existential in definition. Is it there because we titled it so, only existing cause the human gave it a name? Does luck really exist? I believe that very good street photographers can literally see into the future. Studies of shown that what we perceive is actually a moment already passed. It takes the brain a fraction of a second to comprehend the signals sent from the eye. I believe the "Decisive Moment" is simply the artist seeing what has not yet manifested to the majority of viewers.

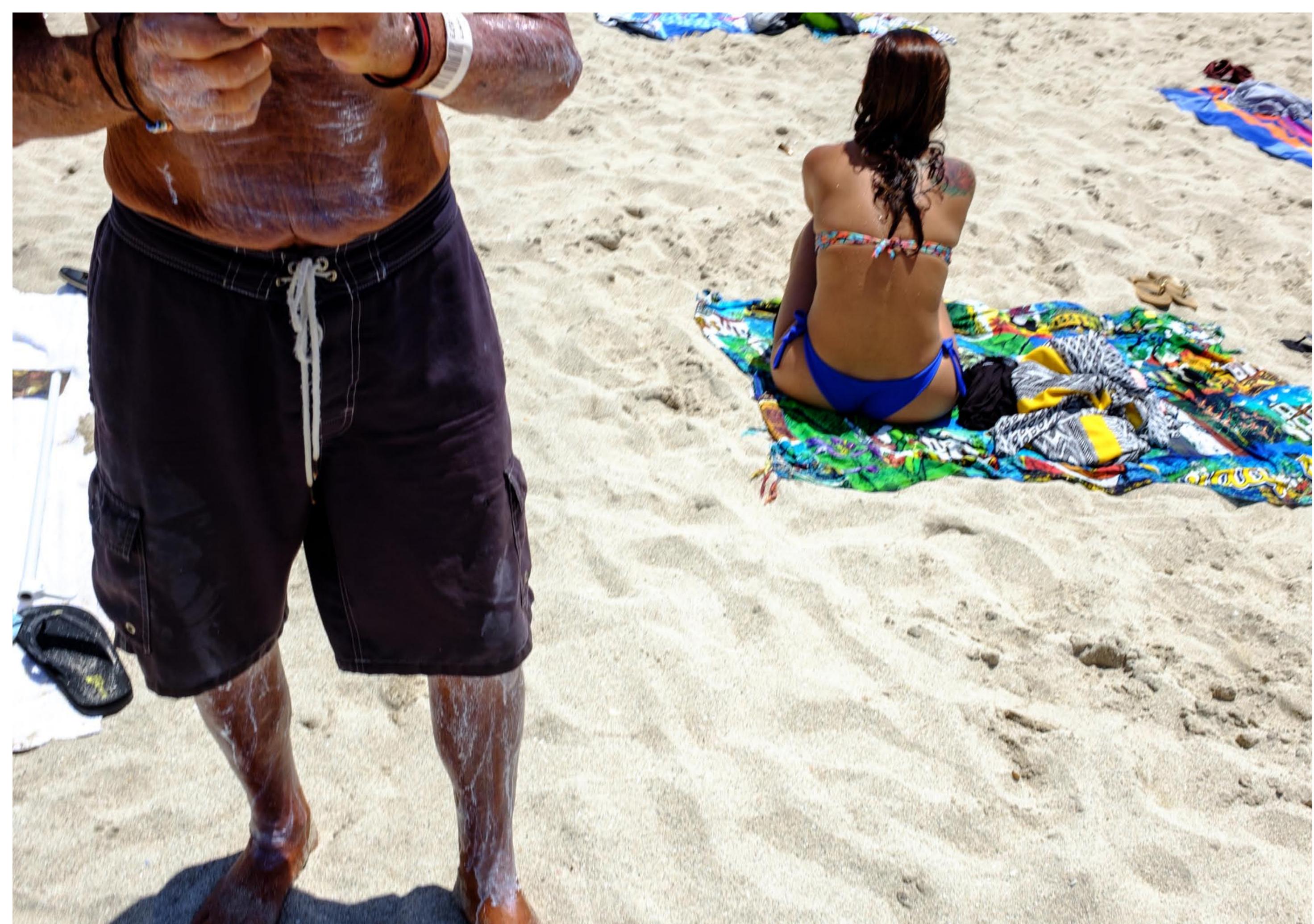


What do you think about color street photography in comparison to B&W?

I have always been a B/W shooter, because of film. But ever since I purchased the x100s, I have been shooting color more. Some scenes are meant to be in B/W and some scenes are meant to be expressed in color.

I am hoping the Leica D-Lux doesn't disappoint me with color. Technology has advanced, allowing sensors to pick up color more closely associated with high end film such as Cibachrome, Kodachrome, and a number of negative films. In school, when I did shoot color, it was always Fuji. I like the blue/green shift as oppose to the red/orange of Kodak. This is why I love the Fuji X-series cameras.





What are some of the most important lessons you have learned from shooting on street?

The Art of Seeing. Observation which leads to patience, which in turn not only humbles you but teaches you discipline is life lesson you can take to many parts of your life, especially business.



Based on your experience, what advice would you give people who are just starting out in street photography?

Well, first I would tell them to study up on the greats. Not just in photography but painters, poets, architects, all disciplines of art. Second is to practice other genres first. Still Lifes help you see and understand light. Architecture helps you in composition.

Portraiture teaches you the difference in facial expressions. Lastly, ignore the haters. Don't copy what people are doing but first start copying what the masters did. Let that be your foundation so eventually you can create your own voice. And never, ever, ever, compare how good your image is with the amount of "Likes" you get in Social Media. Social Media is not a real world. Galleries and communicating with people face to face is the real world. It holds much more value.



Christian, thank you very much for taking the time and for this interesting interview!

Christian Robotti

C.F. Robotti Fine Art

Photography

info@christianrobotti.com

cfrphotography@icloud.com

www.christianrobotti.com

305.609.9673

WEBSITE:

www.christianrobotti.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/AmericanStreetPhotography

www.facebook.com/robotti.photography

Instagram:

https://instagram.com/c.f._robotti_fine_art

IMPRINT:

EYE-PHOTO MAGAZINE ©.

MANAGING EDITOR: STEFAN CIMER
COLUMNIST & EDITOR: ALEXANDER MERC
COLUMNIST & EDITOR: CHRISTIAN SCHIRRMACHER
EDITOR: GERRI McLAUGHLIN
FACEBOOK EDITOR: MONA REHMERS
COPY EDITING: ELLA CIMER
DESIGN, LAYOUT: ANDREAS BURGHARDT

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ®
COPYRIGHT BY STEFAN CIMER ©