



# Urban Street Photography ...Your Community, Our Community



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the Facebook group

If you are a keen photographer almost always you'll join a photography group, aren't you? There are plenty of reasons why photographers joined groups. These are, either, they want to get feedback or critique...they want to share their work and get exposed to the whole world... they want to gain friends...or, they want to acquire tips and tutorials.

The Urban Street Photography was born out of these rationales. Its objectives was to provide enthusiastic street photographers around the world, beginners and experts alike, a playground to showcase their talent, sharpen their photography skills by looking at other perfectly composed photos, and be inspired.

Created in 2013, USP can boast that it is one of the largest and liveliest photography groups in Facebook today with over 43,000 active members.

There are not only thousands but millions of groups in the internet but USP was able to withstood this rough and tumble activity because it is unique, different, and dynamic. Why unique, different, and dynamic, these are the reasons:

- 1) **Interaction** - In USP, there is a great interaction between members. This is the very essence why this group has become unique and different. There is a social life here. Photographers exchange comments, opinions, and ideas. According to study, without interaction there would be no group life. Mere presence of individuals in a group does not weld them into a social unit or community.
- 2) **Likes – In USP**, members don't shy away from demonstrating their likeness to an image. Just as in real photographers' exhibition gallery, photographers want to have as many audiences as possible. This is the biggest reason why they share their photographs apparently---to be viewed and be liked by many. With few likes or nothing at all, it means that the photo was uninteresting that's why it was not appreciated very much by the audience. USP's audience is so diversified, from newbies, amateurs, and professionals, and many of these people are capable of judging quality photographs.
- 3) **Educational vision** – USP strives to push the photography skills of members to the next level by providing strong leadership, challenging them through constructive criticism, handing out good tips and tutorials, and inspiring them.
- 4) **USP Gallery and Banner** – In USP, the best photos are selected and shared in its "Gallery". The criteria for selection are technical excellence (using correct camera settings), good composition (great balance and placement, use of rule of third and golden ratio, color, and artistic merit), storytelling content (or impact), and audience votes (determined by likes). USP is the only group in the internet that send as many amazing photos as possible to its gallery on a daily basis to encourage and inspire its members. Likewise, the best among the best is used as its banner.

- 5) **Magazine** – USP has a magazine named "Urban EYE-Magazine" which is a cooperation between USP and EYE-Photo Magazine. The magazine is free and online. It was launched to provide a wider and effective platform for emerging young talents and seasoned photographers. Urban EYE-Magazine features the best cover photos of USP for the month, while EYE-Photo Magazine concentrates on publishing interviews and photo reviews. The magazine has also regular column which contain tips, advice, news and developments in street photography. The cooperation between USP and EYE-Photo Magazine is surely, a great tool for encouraging and inspiring members to push hard their boundaries.
- 6) **Friendly admins** – USP has not only passionate photographers as admin team but very friendly, as well. They came from different parts of the world with different fields, such as, writers, artists, designers, computer wizards, businessmen, office managers, etc. They are: Rainer Nowotny, from Karlsruhe, Germany; Simona Sacco, from London, United Kingdom; Steven Gonzalez, from New York, New York; Stefan Cimer, from Vienna, Austria; and, Alexander Merc, from Ottawa, Canada. Furthermore. Philip Cleminson, who co-founded this group and nourished it as it is today, is now the consultant of the group.
- 7) **Newbies are most welcomed!** – In USP, there is no pre-selection of submitted photos. There are no photos being excluded here as long as they conform to the group rules. The idea is to help and support those emerging talents to learn, grow and feel comfortable with their craft.

Unfortunately, as in any big groups like USP there are always bad eggs, such as, spammers, "troilers", "pornographers", bad advertisers, rule breakers, etc. In order to manage its group, USP has some set group rules. Warning is given to first offender only but repeated violators may end up having their image deleted, or in some serious cases being banned from the group.

These are the rules:

- 1) Photographs should be about people in public places, and not be architectural, wildlife, landscape or cityscape.
- 2) Post up to two images per day only. Do not create an album or post from your page. Post directly to the group wall. Do not share to the group photography page.
- 3) No watermarks or hashtags permitted. You may include copyright information within your post.
- 4) No nude images.
- 5) Post only your own work.
- 6) No staged or posed photos, over processed, borders and frames, color selection, and collage photographs.
- 7) Sentences or commentary is discouraged. You may include title only. This is a photography community, not a blog or a forum.

This group is a high quality site for street photographers to showcase their work, find friends and chat with fellow photographers, acquire tips and tutorials, and be inspired. But most importantly, USP is committed to nurturing and supporting young and emerging talents so that they can be better street photographers in the future. Urban Street Photography is your community, our community, because it cares!

Cheers!



**Editorial:**

Urban EYE Magazine is the group magazine of Urban Street Photography, a Facebook group.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/urbanstreetphotographygroup](http://www.facebook.com/groups/urbanstreetphotographygroup)

**Admins:**

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