

46 CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY IDEAS TO GET YOU OUT OF A RUT



The



BEGINNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Podcast

Raymond Hatfield

CONTENTS

Introdouction.....	4
1. Bring your camera with you everywhere	4
2. Take a self portrait.....	4
3. Look at paintings	5
4. Photograph the ground	5
5. Photograph the letters of your name	5
6. Photograph the same person or object every day.....	5
7. Draw over your photos	6
8. 100 Photos an hour.....	7
9. 10 Photos an hour.....	7
10. Go to the Library and look at photo books.....	7
11. 1 subject 10 photos	7
12. Panning	7
13. Astrophotography	8
14. Photograph Shapes.....	9
15. Shoot Film	9
16. Put something in front of your lens.....	10
17. Shoot super tight	10
18. Get closer	11
19. Long exposure	12
20. Shoot portraits out of focus	12
21. Recreate old photos	12
22. Light painting.....	13
23. HDR.....	14

24. Panoramic	14
25. Shoot everything in portrait	15
26. Try street photography.....	15
27. Photograph Shadows	15
28. Shoot one camera and one lens.....	16
29. Look up	16
30. Sunset Silhouettes	16
31. Shoot Motion	17
32. Free lens.....	17
33. Off camera flash	18
34. Don't look through the viewfinder	19
35. Big landscape tiny people	19
36. Walk around your neighborhood	19
37. Whats Blue?.....	20
38. Go to the farmers market / festival	20
39. Sound	21
40. Get out of your comfort zone.....	21
41. Go to a state park.....	21
42. Scale	21
43. Reflections	21
44. Write down your photography bucket list.....	21
45. Print and give away your photos.....	22
46. 31 Days of photos (warm up the creative muscles)	22

INTRODUCTION

Photography for many is a creative outlet. The ability to show how you see the world to others is infectious. But sooner or later you will find yourself in a creative rut. So I have created this list of 46 Creative Photography Ideas to Get You Out of a Rut!

1. BRING YOUR CAMERA WITH YOU EVERYWHERE



Even if you are uncomfortable to take out your camera, bringing it with you everywhere you go will get you in the mindset to keep a creative eye open so you cant use the excuse “I wish I had my nice camera to take a photo of this”

2. TAKE A SELF PORTRAIT

Photographers often have the least photos of themselves. Change that. Set up your camera on a tripod, set the timer and get in front of the lens. Review and adjust.

3. LOOK AT PAINTINGS

Painters have some of the best eyes when it comes to light. Study great paintings and you will be studying great light. Notice how soft the light is and what direction its coming from so you can use the same light set ups in your work.

4. PHOTOGRAPH THE GROUND

The ground is more interesting than you think. Sometimes its a trashcan, sometimes its a beautiful ecosystem. Pay attention to the ground and photograph what you see.

5. PHOTOGRAPH THE LETTERS OF YOUR NAME

This is a great way to train your eye to be on the look out when you have the camera in your hand. Depending on how long your name is, this shouldnt take more than an hour or two and then you can take each letter, print them out and and spell your name!

6. PHOTOGRAPH THE SAME PERSON OR OBJECT EVERY DAY

Repetition is key to mastering any skill. When you know you will photograph the same subject every day, that removes the headache of figuring out what to shoot, letting you focus on how to shoot.

7. DRAW OVER YOUR PHOTOS



Take your photos into photoshop or on your ipad and draw over your photos. You can trace the photo or you can draw new elements in the frame. Just get the creative juices flowing.

8. 100 PHOTOS AN HOUR

Spend an hour shooting at least 100 photos. Find 8-10 different subjects and photograph them 10-12 different ways. (This does not mean rapid fire, still shoot with intention) Look at the photos on a computer and pick out what you liked about the photos, and what you didn't like about the photos.

9. 10 PHOTOS AN HOUR

Like 100 photos an hour take an hour to take just 10 photos. This forces you to slow down and make decisions with your eye before snapping the shutter. You will also find that when you shoot less photos it's easier to pick which ones you like and don't like!

10. GO TO THE LIBRARY AND LOOK AT PHOTO BOOKS

Photography books are a great way to see photos that have lasted the test of time. Try to learn from these books, what the photographer is doing, what settings would be most important to capture this moment.

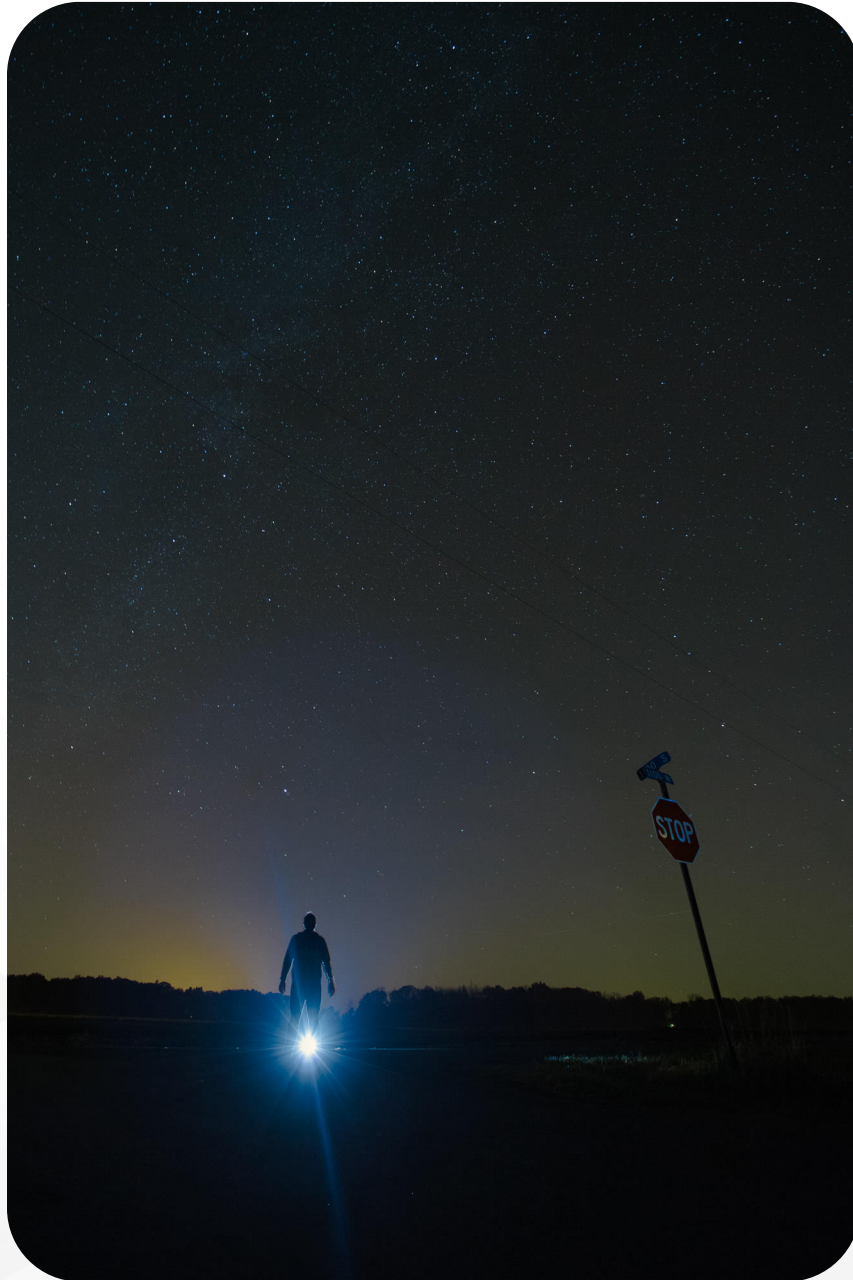
11. 1 SUBJECT 10 PHOTOS

Take a subject around the house and photograph it 10 different ways. Close, far, camera high, camera low, in low light, in the sun, etc.

12. PANNING

Kids on bikes are perfect for this. Slow down your shutter speed to 1/30 of a second and follow them as they move. What you want is an image where the rider is frozen in the frame but the background is blurred from the camera movement.

13. ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY



There is nothing like the silence and challenge of photographing the night sky. You will need a tripod for this. Use a large aperture to let in as much light as you can and raise up your ISO to collect the light.

14. PHOTOGRAPH SHAPES

Squares, Circles, Triangles, pick a shape and go out and photograph as many as you can in an hour.

15. SHOOT FILM



Film is a slow process and there is something about the finite number of photos you can take that makes every photo seem much more important causing you to take a closer look at the photo before you snap.

16. PUT SOMETHING IN FRONT OF YOUR LENS



Put string lights, a plastic bag, or a magnifying glass in front of your lens to create an interesting effect. The photos won't be good right away, spend at least an hour with each object to really feel it out.

17. SHOOT SUPER TIGHT

One mistake beginners make all the time is not getting close enough to fill the frame. Try using a telephoto lens to fill the frame if getting closer makes you uncomfortable.

18. GET CLOSER



Do it anyway. Next time you go to take a photo, just take 1 step closer. You don't have to get in someone's face.

19. LONG EXPOSURE



Wait until its dark, grab a tripod and head to a street corner or a bridge and use a long exposure, 5-10 seconds or so to capture car trails of their headlights and tail lights.

20. SHOOT PORTRAITS OUT OF FOCUS

Get good at photographing people out of focus, if when you look at the photo you can tell it is still a person, then there is a good chance you have a composition. If they blend into the background the photo was not compelling enough when it WAS in focus

21. RECREATE OLD PHOTOS

Do you have any old family photos or portraits? Try to re create them today! Pay attention to the details and lighting as they will make the biggest difference.

22. LIGHT PAINTING



Wait until its dark, grab a tripod, because we are doing another long exposure (about 30 seconds). Point the camera at something interesting press the shutter button, run out into the scene and use a flashlight pointed at the camera to draw with light.

23. HDR



HDR stands for high dynamic range. This means you want to capture more shadow detail and more highlight detail. Once again you need a tripod and you will want to take 3 photos. One really dark, one really bright, and one just right. Take those photos into lightroom and put them into an HDR photo merge to get one photo with great shadow and highlight detail.

24. PANORAMIC

Sometimes you just cant capture the whole scene with the lens you have. Take a series of photos from left to right and bring them into lightroom to create a Panoramic Photomerge

25. SHOOT EVERYTHING IN PORTRAIT

The traditional way to hold your camera gives you images wider than they are tall, when you rotate your camera, your photos are taller than they are wide. This is called portrait orientation. Go out and photograph everything in portrait orientation. The slight difference will cause you to compose your photos entirely different.

26. TRY STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



Street photography is a study of people. So take your camera out and even if you don't take any photos, just study people. Watch them for a bit, what are they doing, where are they going, how are they feeling? Learn to anticipate action.

27. PHOTOGRAPH SHADOWS

At a certain point during the day shadows on the ground get long and beautiful. Just spend an hour photographing the shadows.

28. SHOOT ONE CAMERA AND ONE LENS

A prime lens is one that does not zoom. This can be scary to new photographers who love to play the “But what if...” game in their heads. But a prime lens will stop you from being a lazy photographer and just zooming in. With a prime you will have to move your body to get the composition you want. I recommend the Canon 50mm 1.8 or the Nikon 50mm 1.8.

29. LOOK UP

There are a lot of interesting things above us that we never take any time to really look at. Trees, buildings, people if you're on the ground, clouds. Spend some time just looking up.

30. SUNSET SILHOUETTES



Sunsets are beautiful as they are but when you have a subject silhouetted in the sunset you add a lot of emotion and story to your photo.

31. SHOOT MOTION



Moving objects can be hard to capture correctly. Whether it be a pet or a city cyclist or race car, challenge yourself to photograph motion in a way that feels like motion.

32. FREE LENS

Did you know you can take the lens off of your camera and still take photos? When you take the lens off but keep it close you can manipulate it to create really interesting photos. This is another example of something you want to try for at least an hour. Don't get up right away.

33. OFF CAMERA FLASH



Photography is simply how you capture light, so when you can control the light with a flash, you have unlimited creative options! Off camera flash means your camera and flash talk wirelessly to trigger when the shutter button is pressed. The easiest way to get started with off camera flash is to use it as a backlight.

34. DON'T LOOK THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER

When looking through a viewfinder you somehow can remove yourself emotionally from what's happening in front of you. This can cause you to overshoot. Get your settings ready for a scene and approach it without looking through the viewfinder. Hold the camera at chest or hip level and shoot from there.

35. BIG LANDSCAPE TINY PEOPLE



This is where you want to add context to where you are and the person is not as important. Leaving them in the frame lets you know they were there but mostly lets the landscape speak for itself.

36. WALK AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

When was the last time you walked around your neighborhood? You might be surprised how much you can find so close to where you live.

37. WHATS BLUE?

Or red, green, yellow, any color really but pick one before you go out to shoot and look for objects that are that color.

38. GO TO THE FARMERS MARKET / FESTIVAL



Farmers markets or outdoor festivals typically have various vendors with lots of offerings. Most are colorful and with the people walking around it provides a great opportunity to capture candid photos too!

39. SOUND

Be on the lookout to photograph things that either make a lot of sound or have a distinct sound. Construction sights, classic cars, kids parks, ect. Try to capture a photo in a way that will make the viewer feel the sound.

40. GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

My comfort zone is weddings and engagements if I was thrown into a fashion shoot I would have to think on my feet. That's the point here. Look at photography from a new perspective.

41. GO TO A STATE PARK

State parks offer a lot of new scenes and living things to capture.

42. SCALE

Try to emphasize how large or how small an object is. Photograph a mountain next to a person, photography an ant next to a penny. Take a photo that gives scale.

43. REFLECTIONS

From mirrors, to puddles on the ground there are reflections everywhere! Keep your eyes open to create a unique photo

44. WRITE DOWN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY BUCKET LIST

Goals are important so write them down! They update and change all the time! I never thought I wanted to photograph penguins in antarctica until I watched a documentary about them. Keep a list and you can work towards them

45. PRINT AND GIVE AWAY YOUR PHOTOS

Photos live on your computer or phone and rarely anywhere else but people want to see them! If you have photos of someone, print it out and give it to them. It could make their day and seeing the joy photography brings someone else can fuel how you shoot creatively.

46. 31 DAYS OF PHOTOS (WARM UP THE CREATIVE MUSCLES)

When you shoot everyday you will improve beyond your wildest dreams! Come up with a theme to focus on and start shooting.

Creativity is a muscle and can be strengthened but just like a muscle you need to work it out to strengthen it! Just looking at this list of creative ideas won't do anything, you have to do them! Just pick one and do it. And if you want to continue to learn and grow every week subscribe to the Beginner Photography Podcast in your favorite podcast player or Spotify! It's free and will help you grow your knowledge and skill!

www.BeginnerPhotographyPodcast.com