

MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

Newsletter of the Urban Ecology Center Photo Club • Vol XX No III



15 Movies Every Photographer Must Watch

Photo Challenges return in April!

MARCH 2022

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15 Movies Every Photographer Must Watch

<https://blog.depositphotos.com/10-movies-every-photographer-must-watch.html>

1. *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013)

The first photography movie on our must-watch list is captivating in the depiction of the fantasies and dreams of the main character, Walter Mitty. Walter is a negative assets manager at Life Magazine. He leads a simple life and one day sets out on a mission to find an important negative #25, to complete the work of his partner and to save the new issue of the magazine. An adventurous spirit is awakened as Walter sets out on a journey he has literally dreamt about.

2. *Gregory Crewdson: Brief Encounters* (2012)

If you've had the chance to see Gregory Crewdson's works, you already know he is a legend of our time. His works are powerful, captivating, and thought-provoking. This movie is about the photographer's creative process, and how he brings to life the mesmerizing images based off of his dreams. This is a documentary-style film that has been shot over a decade and gives a glimpse of the very talented and gifted creative individual.

3. *Hand Held* (2010)

In 1989, Romania was struggling right after the fall of the communist regime. Mike Carrol, a documentary photographer, travels to Romania in the heat of the conflict and captures some of the most horrifying and shocking scenes of the surprising scene of 20th century Romania. Mike tells heart-wrenching stories and opens up the eyes of the western world to the condition of the helpless in Romania.

4. *The Bang Bang Club* (2010)

The Bang Bang Club is an emotional photography movie exploring a heavy topic. The film follows the journeys of four photographers that set out to document the Apartheid in South Africa. The characters went to extreme measures to capture what was happening in a torn country to bring the stories back with them. This movie about photography is based on the book *The Bang Bang Club: Snapshots From a Hidden War*.

5. *Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus* (2006)

Partially based on a true story, this movie explores a fragment in the life of a famous photographer, Diane Arbus. Starring Nicole Kidman, the eccentric photographer that is also a shy housewife, the movie is about mystery, exploration, and unique talent. The main character pursues taking pictures of people that don't fit into societal realms and borders.

6. *William Eggleston: In the Real World* (2005)

William Eggleston is known as one of the greats in American photography. He is a man of

a few words but with an impressive, acquired title of “The Father of Color Photography”. Some artists just don’t like talking about their work which is what makes this movie about photography so valuable and interesting. We get insights into William’s personality, his work, and his contribution to the world of photography. He is a true icon and an inspiration for artists across the world.

7. One Hour Photo (2002)

Featuring Robin Williams as the main character (Sy), the thriller-like photography movie is about a one-hour photo clerk who becomes obsessed with a family. Sy runs a photo processing department in a store and is very proud of the work that he does. We’re introduced to his favorite customers, a happy family with a young boy. The family isn’t aware of Sy’s fascination with their family, a fascination that extends well beyond all reasonable boundaries.

8. City of God (2002)

“City of God” deserves a special spot on our list as it was regarded as a ‘masterpiece of contemporary Brazilian cinema’. The film explores the themes of poverty, crime, violence, and drugs. Set in the slums in Rio de Janeiro, the story follows the lives of two young boys, one of them a talented photographer. This photographers’ favorite not only stands out in terms of relevant themes but also shocks in terms of the performances and the gritty depiction of events. All these things make it an impressive piece of cinematography and one of the must-watch movies for photographers.

9. War Photographer (2001)

War Photographer is a story about a photojournalist, James Nachtwey. He is an extremely passionate professional that is in the pursuit of covering global conflicts. Through bravery and perseverance, James is able to capture moments others would not dare. He uncovers the raw reality and the brutality behind a country torn apart by war. His lenses capture death and violence while the artist creates beautiful art in the process to deliver a loud message that doesn’t require words. It’s also one of the best photography movies that highlight social issues.

10. Blow-up (1966)

The plot of this legendary photography movie follows the events in Thomas’s life. Thomas is a fashion photographer based in London as one day he makes a startling discovery. While developing his film, he notices he captured a murder taking place in the background of one of his photographs. This must-watch movie raises a question about the essence of photography; do we see what we want to see? In what ways is truth illuminated by photography? This movie is a classic for those interested in photography.

11. *Helmut Newton: Frames from the Edge (1989)*

Helmut Newton is a fashion and ad photographer well-known for pictures of tall, usually blonde, and elegant women. In Newton's provocative style, the whole aesthetic of the past century crystallized. *Frames from the Edge* is one of the best photography movies in the documentary genre. Since Helmut Newton rarely shot in studios, this film will also show you the landscapes of Berlin, Paris, Monte Carlo, and Los Angeles from a fashion photography perspective.

12. *Rear Window (1954)*

If a photographer is locked at home, he will still be a photographer. Here's an Alfred Hitchcock's thriller that tells a story about a New York magazine photographer with a broken leg. To make time pass faster, the photographer takes pictures of neighbors living in the house opposite of him. This movie about a photographer invites you to reflect on the difference between personal and public life, as well as photography as a tool to steal moments.

13. *Photograph (2019)*

Is it time to relax a little and fill the heart with love? This slightly naive Indian film is about an ordinary street photographer in Mumbai and a shy girl who almost was left without her photo. The protagonist's grandmother refuses to take medicine until her grandson proves that he has a bride. That's why he asks the stranger to pose for him and sends a picture to his grandmother. This film is not dedicated to photography as a kind of art, but it helps to believe that happiness awaits everyone, and photographers are no exception.

14. *Proof (1991)*

Can a blind person be a photographer? Well, one in this Australian comedy-drama can. For him, a camera is a way to find out from others what places he visited today. The photographer shows images to others and asks them to describe what they saw. Thus, photography becomes the basis for social connections and the reason for new acquaintances. Bonus for movie fans: this movie about photography is starring Matrix star Weaving (the main character), as well as Russell Crowe.

15. *Ship of Theseus (2012)*

This is an Indian art-house drama, one of the heroes of which is a visually impaired experimental photographer. The film is based on an ancient Greek paradox called Ship of Theseus: if we replace all the elements of the ship with new ones, and assemble another ship from the old elements, which of these two ships will be the original (Ship of Theseus)? The heroes of the movie should find answers to a similar question. The movie could be interesting for photographers due to its unique metaphoric aesthetics and ancient Greek allusions.

5 Spring Photography Ideas to Get You Inspired

by Simon Bond

Full article at: <https://digital-photography-school.com/five-ideas-spring-photography/>

Are you looking to capture stunning spring photography? Are you in need of some spring photoshoot ideas?

In this article, I share five easy-to-follow spring photography ideas – many of which can be tackled in your backyard or at a local park. And you don't need sophisticated gear, either; you can capture most of these spring pictures with nothing but a cheap camera and some good light.

So if you're excited to photograph spring but you're not sure what to shoot, or you're simply looking to find inspiration before heading outside, then read on!

1. Focus on the finer details

No matter what you photograph, capturing the details is always a good idea – and this is especially true when creating springtime compositions.

If you like to photograph nature, you can whip out that macro lens and capture some stunning shots of bluebells, daffodils, or cherry blossoms.

And even if you prefer to photograph in cities or at festivals, I still recommend you look for detail shots.

In particular, aim to photograph:

Bokeh: Bokeh and detail photos go well together, plus it's easy to produce beautiful bokeh when shooting close up. Simply widen your lens's aperture as far as it can go, push your lens to its maximum magnification, then adjust your composition to include colors and/or lights in the background. You can create nice bokeh with any lens, but it does work best with macro lenses or prime lenses with a large maximum aperture.

Patterns: Nature is full of nice patterns, so use this to your advantage. Flowers can repeat, making for a very nice macro shot. Or you can photograph petal patterns on the ground (once they've fallen). At spring festivals, produce is often laid out in a pattern, which is ideal for photography.

Backgrounds: Photographers tend to focus on the main subject, but did you know that interesting backgrounds are an essential part of great photos? They're not hard to create, either. Simply adjust your composition until you get a clean, beautiful background effect – using a wide aperture will help! – and snap away. If you're not sure how to start, try shoot up at the sky on a clear day for a nice blue background, or aim down toward the grass for a green background.

Lighting: The best photographers know how to use the light for all sorts of interesting effects, and you can do the same! In fact, a great spring photography idea is to choose a subject, then capture ten images that vary only in their lighting. For instance, if you're shooting a flower, you can capture light shining through petals, sidelight dramatically illuminating the flower stem, backlight creating an interesting flare effect, and much more.

2. Explore the wider scene in your spring photography

When photographing spring beauties – such as flowers and plants – you may be tempted to get in close and stay there.

But while this will certainly get you some stunning shots, you can also capture beautiful photos by switching to a wide-angle lens and shooting the scene from afar. Flower beds, blossoming trees, and petal-strewn paths can make for some gorgeous landscape shots, after all!

By the way, if you're looking to capture some beautiful spring compositions – especially if you want to include flowers – here are a few recommendations:

Check the forecast: Here, I'm talking about both the weather forecast and the blossom forecast. The weather forecast will ensure you head out to shoot when the light is good – while the blossom forecast will get you shooting during the peak flower period.

Composition is king: As with all landscape photography, good composition will get you the best results. Aim to balance your spring shots with compositional techniques such as symmetry, the rule of thirds, and the rule of odds. Also look to incorporate leading lines into your photos for a bit of extra dynamism.

Add extra context: Remember how I encouraged you to use a wide-angle lens? Go as wide as you can and include some context. For instance, shoot a cherry tree alongside some local architecture, or capture a person walking through a field of petals.

3. Take some portrait photos!

Spring is an amazing time for portrait photography. You can find some amazing nature backdrops, plus you can incorporate fun flower themes into your spring photoshoots.

Here are a few easy spring photoshoot ideas:

Combine the subjects with the trees: Clients love portraits that include beautiful, natural backgrounds. Position your subject(s) in front of trees or flowers, then use a large aperture to blur out the background. Lines of trees can add depth to a photo, while flowers will create stunning spots of backdrop color. For a nice touch, ask your model to hold a flower or two.

Do candid spring photography: As the weather warms up and people start to get out and enjoy park life, you'll have plenty of opportunities to photograph individuals enjoying

spring. You can capture people walking through flowery fields, people hiking through forests, people enjoying a picnic on the grass, and so much more.

Grab a selfie: It might not be the most original spring photo idea out there, but everyone needs a new profile picture for spring. So the next time you get the chance, capture a selfie (and make sure that you include a flower or two in the photo!).

4. Get experimental

Spring photography is a broad subject, but if you spend a bit of time browsing Instagram, you'll see that most spring photos are often, well, the same.

Want to shake things up a bit? Break out those experimental techniques, such as intentional camera movement, image compositing, and more. Here are just a few of my favorite ways to get creative during spring:

Try light trails: Spring foliage often grows by the side of the road. Take a walk at night, bring a tripod, and shoot some car light trail photos. Be sure to include some spring blossoms for context!

Take a refraction shot: If you haven't tried crystal ball photography, then you're missing out! Crystal balls are inexpensive, plus they can create astonishing effects (check out the shot below!).

Deliberately photography motion blur: Who says that blur has to be bad? Head out on a windy day, set your camera on a tripod, and use a slow shutter speed. If you can capture plants and flowers in mid-move, you'll create some beautifully abstract results!

5. Don't forget about spring festivals

Most of my spring picture ideas involve flowers and plants – but there are plenty of great shots to capture at spring festivals and religious holidays, too.

Head out with your camera and a couple of lenses (I recommend a fast prime and a wide-angle zoom). Have fun shooting subjects from a distance (so as to capture the ambiance of the entire event). Then get up close for some candid street shots.

Try to tell a story with your photos. What is happening at the event? What is it about? How do people engage?

Aim to leave with a little mini-series that tells the story of the festival!

Spring photography ideas: final words

Do you feel ready to capture some stunning spring pictures? I hope so!

Take a few of these ideas and have fun! Head out with your camera! Shoot some spring photos!

How Early Photographers Captured History's First Images of War

See this article with all of the historical images at

<https://militaryhistorynow.com/2012/06/12/how-early-photographers-captured-historys-first-images-of-war/>

Matthew Brady, the celebrated 19th century photographer, captured more than 10,000 images the American Civil War.

Similarly, Roger Fenton, a British photographer, took hundreds of photos of the Crimean War in the 1850s.

While many consider these men to be two of the earliest wartime photographers, they were actually not the first to capture conflict on film. A handful of pioneers had attempted it years before either man had set foot on a battlefield.

The very first war photographer was an American. While the particular artist's name has been lost to history, we do know that he was attached to the U.S. forces fighting in the Mexican War in 1846 and 1847.

These first wartime images were captured using a technology known as daguerreotype.

This early photography method was first developed in 1839 by a French inventor named Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre. It involved a rudimentary camera-like device that could project a scene onto a glass-encased polished metal plate that was treated with light-sensitive chemicals.

The process, which could take up to ten minutes or longer to complete, required subjects to stand motionless for the duration of the exposure. Images were captured like mirror reflections on the glass plates, with the chemicals preserving the scene. Despite the limitations of daguerreotypes, they quickly became popular throughout Europe and the United States, with early photographers recording images of cityscapes, public events and even prominent people.

When the U.S. military went to war with Mexico in 1846, the now unknown daguerreotype photographer went with them taking likenesses of the army's officers, Mexican civilians and the battlefields. Due to the delicate nature of the equipment and the length of time required for exposures, no scenes of actual battle were captured. Yet

the pictures do represent the first images of an army operating in the field. Copies of the last surviving daguerreotype images of the Mexican American War are available here.

The first known war photographer was Carol Popp de Szathmari. A Hungarian, he travelled to the Black Sea region to record more than 200 images of the Crimean War. The conflict, which saw Britain and France pitted against Russia, was fought between 1853 and 1856. As many as nine of de Szathmari's images of the war have survived to this day. French photographer Ernest Eduard de Caranza and Roger Fenton from Great Britain also shot scenes of the conflict. Fenton's photos, more than 350 of them in all, are still viewable today. They include pictures of the landscapes, shots of various battlefields, portraits of British officers, as well as some fascinating images of life in the army camps. An extensive (and stunning) set of Fenton images is available here: <http://allworldwars.com/Crimean-War-Photographs-by-Roger-Fenton-1855.html>.

Later in the decade, other photographers flocked to India to photograph the British suppression of the mutiny there and to China as well, to document the Second Opium War.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, an obscure New York photographer named Mathew Brady wrote to Abraham Lincoln himself asking permission to travel with the Union to record the war for posterity. Lincoln agreed and Brady ventured out into the field with a then-cutting-edge mobile photography studio that he financed out of his own pocket. Although the science of photography had improved considerably since its inception 20 years earlier, images of battle remained difficult to capture. The equipment was still sensitive and it took several moments for a successful exposure. That didn't keep early war photographers from trying. In fact, during the first battle of Bull Run in 1861, Brady ventured so far forward he was nearly captured by Confederates when the Union troops were routed.

Unable to get actual images of combat, Brady and his small but growing army of hired photographers simply staged the scenes, asking Federal troops to pose as if they really were in action. Despite their questionable journalistic authenticity, to civilians the shots offered a rare glimpse of what the action at the front really looked like. Folks at home also got to witness the human cost of war thanks to Brady and his cohorts like

Alexander Gardner. Some of the most arresting images of the war show the bodies of slain soldiers. Yet, even many of these iconic shots were staged, with Brady photographers and their assistants actually repositioning the dead in the frame for maximum visual effect.

Brady's photography business also worked in portraits with everyone from generals Grant, McClelland, Sherman and Hooker to heroes like Joshua Chamberlain and George Armstrong Custer sitting for his cameras. Even Rebel generals like Stonewall Jackson, Longstreet and Robert E. Lee appeared before the lens as did Jefferson Davis. President Lincoln sat for Brady on several occasions. The portrait of the Great Emancipator that appears on the American \$5 is based on one of Brady's photos.

All in all, Brady spent \$100,000 of his own money creating a visual record of the Civil War. Sadly, his efforts left him financially broken. In 1875, Congress did vote to compensate him to the tune of \$25,000 but it was not enough to save the ailing photographer from bankruptcy. He died penniless in 1896 at the age of 76.

Brady and Co. were by no means the only photographers who captured the Civil War, but his work and that of his staff were certainly among the best known. In fact, many of the Civil War's most famous photographers were actually employees of Brady.

Despite the presence of cameras near the battlefield during the Civil War, the first actual photo of combat itself wasn't captured until the Franco Prussian War. The image (at the top) snapped on Sept. 1, 1870 from a French position, shows a line of Prussian skirmishers advancing. On the right side of the frame, a column of troops can be seen moving up the road with wounded and dead scattered before them.

Other combat photographs followed and as photography equipment improved, so did the quantity and quality of wartime images. By the time of the Boer War as well as the Russian Japanese War, combat photography was an established genre. Since then, other giants in the field have included: Robert Capa who captured the now-famous images of the Normandy landings; Joe Rosenthal, who photographed the flag raising on Iwo Jima; and Vietnam war photographer Horst Faas who died just last month [2012].