

PIRINTHIAN

PHOTOS



UGO DOMIZIOLI
PORTFOLIO



"What I do not see, is that which I seek"

Ugo Domizioli



THE PHOTOGRAPHER



My start in photography came with my first camera given to me by my Father at age 11. I remember it well, an Italian brand by the name of Bencini, a Koroll II. My photography in the seventies was very colourful. Looking back, I think this was because we only had a black & white television so using colour film and having photographic prints awash with colours was exciting to me.

As with many people, life gets in the way of early passions, it wasn't until my mid-40s before photography would return into my life.....I'm slowly learning why.

It would be a trip to Asia in 2015 that I would finally decide the type of photography I wanted to create. I fell in love with the fast pace of street style photography, never knowing what to expect or if you will get the perfect shot.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

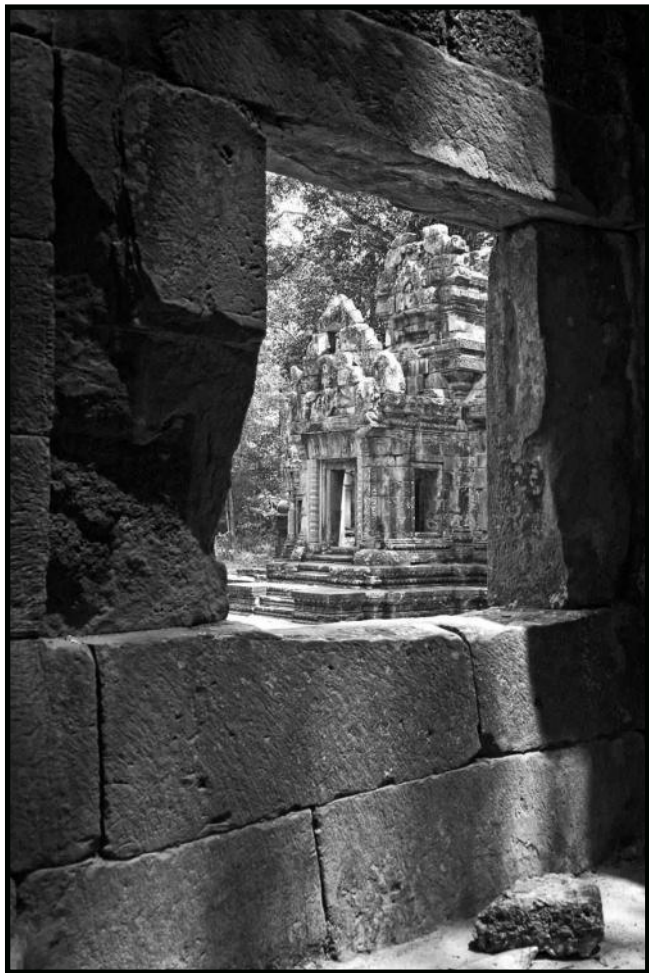
This portfolio consists of photographs from a trip in 2015 to Southern China, Vietnam and Cambodia. Each photo slots into a number of themed on-going projects.

The inspiration for this expedition of discovery came from a former work colleague who was a kindred spirit and amazing photographer, Diane. Strangers would open up to her in a beautifully natural way, her portraits from her trips were truly wonderful.

My main focus on whether or not to take a photograph is firstly having a gut feeling and being moved enough by what I see...what does my heart feel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ugo Domizioli', written in a cursive style.

Ugo Domizioli



This shot was taken at the temples of Preah Khan. They say you take the best pictures during the golden hours of the early morning and sunset. I'm not suggesting this tried and tested formula is wrong, but it depends on your local surroundings.

The way the midday sun was filtering down into this temple caught my eye. This normally dark area was lit up directly from above in the most gorgeous way, as though a ceiling light had been switched on.

Strangely, the main feature that caught my attention was the lonely stone in the bottom right-hand corner, every other stone was arranged with thought and tenure. Had it broken away from the structure, was it just rubble, had someone placed it there....questions that added some mystery?

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Stoned Alone

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Extraordinaire

It had been a few years since my last visit to Hong Kong. The first few days I stayed in Kowloon as daily life has more grit and interest to me.

This shot, however, was taken on the main island. The markets were busy with lots of shouting and confusion, all adding to the melting pot of life in Hong Kong.

I spotted this old lady tidying her groceries, she was kind of interesting so decided to wait for a little to see if the scene would develop. An old man came down the stairs into the darkness of the corridor. This added the much-needed mystery I was looking for.....click.

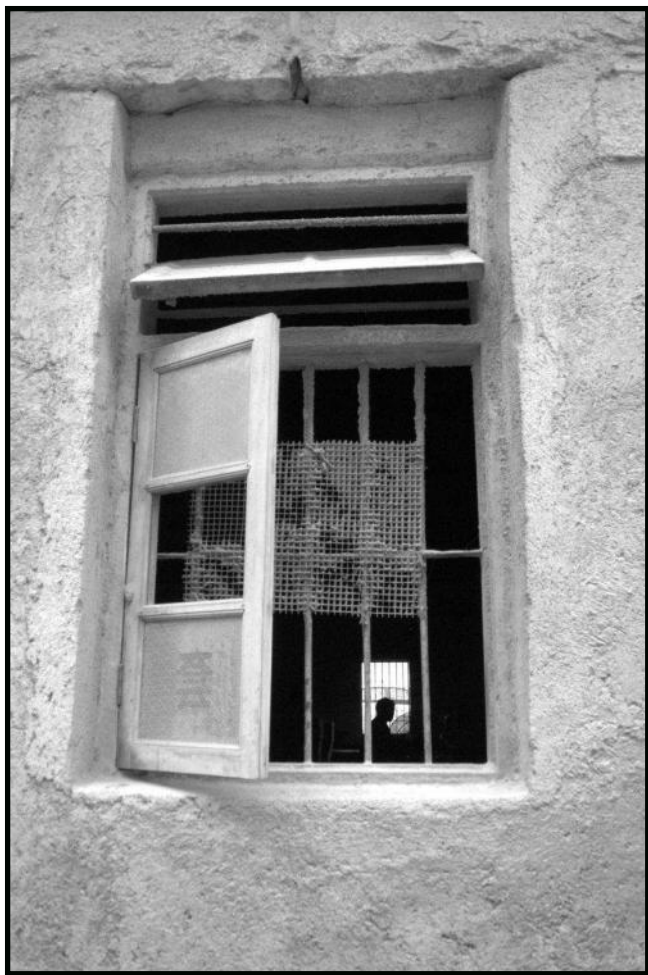
Date: 2015 | February

Name: Dark Pensioner

Location: China | Hong Kong

Collection: Existence





Started the day with an orange & carrot juice mix from what became my regular fruit & veg street stall. The lady was pleased to see me again, a good way to start the day.

Went for a very long walk to the south of Xiamen, heading for the beach and huge convention centre. People were flying their kites, with many young couples having their wedding photos taken.

I found a small area with narrow roads, this always gives me a sense of purpose. Down a particularly narrow road, I heard what sounded like wood being sawn. I peered through the open barred window and could see a man's head. I liked the contrast between the dark and light areas, the front and rear windows and the silhouette of the woodworker.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Barred Woodworker

Location: China | Xiamen

Collection: Exertion



Late one afternoon, in one of Phnom Penh's great markets, the strangeness of this man's daughter sitting & playing around all the dead flesh while he relaxes in his hammock caught my eye.....the family butcher.

Date: 2015 | March

Name: Family Butcher

Location: Cambodia | Phnom Penh

Collection: Exhaustion



It was a good chance to see local life unfold on the journey back to the hotel. I spotted these two girls walking ahead of my Tuk Tuk. I managed to quickly turn around and fire off just one shot. The name not interested arose because the first girl is clearly "not" interested in me, whilst the second is. I also like the attitude and stance of the first girl, while the second girl seemed more relaxed.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Not Interested

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Expressive



A late afternoon walk around Liwan Lake Park provided the backdrop for this photo. I did not want to interrupt this majestic lady's flow and so stood out of view and zoomed in. It was the symmetry between the huge stone soldier and the way the branches flowed in the same direction, next to the beauty of her slow soft flowing movements.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Majestic Lady

Location: China | Guangzhou

Collection: Exemplary



Another stallholder in another of Phnom Penh's indoor markets clearly exhausted after a long day. The alignment of the dead fish and sleeping man and bags behind his head is what drew me to take this shot.

Date: 2015 | March

Name: Guttled Siesta

Location: Cambodia | Phnom Penh

Collection: Exhaustion



The shade inside the fantastic Angkor Wat temples helped this morning, if only there was a breeze I kept thinking. As I make my way around the temples, less than 10 minutes after taking "Mischievous Boy" I'm offered another diamond photo opportunity.....probably my favourite.

I see a small girl, she has a bag full of water bottles, she stops, I bring the camera to my eye, quickly compose just as she looks out to the wilderness.....click, I only managed to fire off two shots before she moved on.

The dark foreground with the barely visible floor stones contrasts beautifully with the light background.

Is she alone, looking for her family or selling the water? These contrasting elements and questions caught my attention and still keep me intrigued to this day.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Curious Girl

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Exploratory

I always look through any type of opening whether an open door, corridor or path. I spotted this circular cut-out while wondering through the lake area of Xiamen. Not quite sure why it had the iron bars as the surrounding area was wide open.

As I looked through, I could not believe my luck, a small bird on a pillar, I quickly adjusted my position while quickly bringing my camera up to eye level making sure the bird was perfectly framed.....10 seconds later, it flew away.

It seemed apt when naming this photo to highlight the bird's freedom and my apparent temporary confinement while thinking of the real lack of freedom of others around the world.

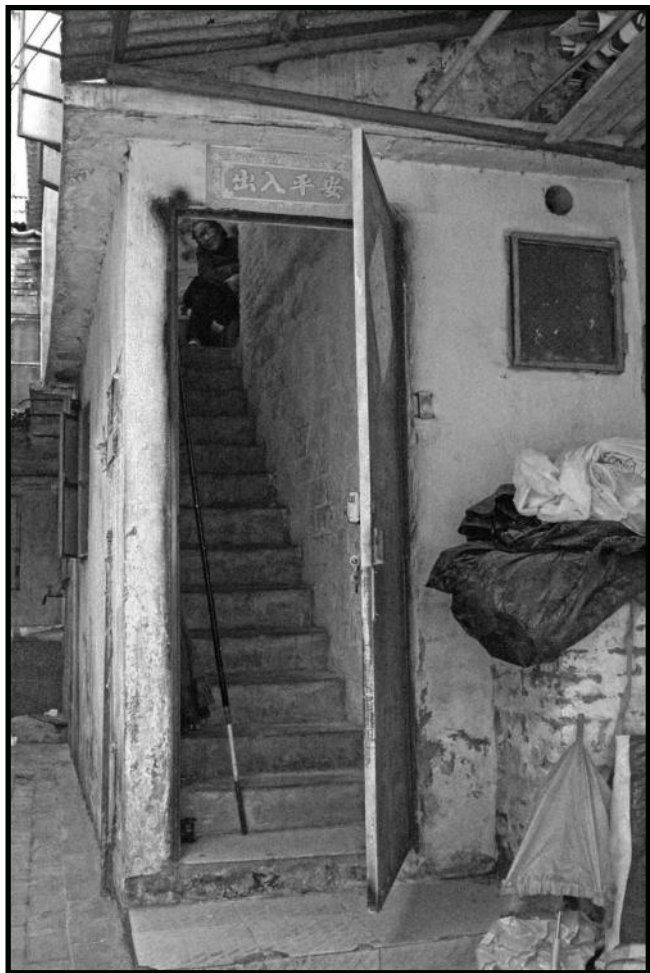
Date: 2015 | January

Name: Seeking Freedom

Location: China | Xiamen

Collection: Exploratory





An early morning trip to Shamian Island, the colonial British outpost through the opium wars didn't give me any notable shots despite the buildings being quite beautiful and impressive.

I walked around Liwan Lake to discover the old district that was tumbling down, so many very old buildings ready for demolition. I was amazed I could simply walk around.

I have always been interested in doorways as you never know where they lead. Looking into this doorway I noticed someone peering down the stairway. I quickly put the camera into portrait mode and took two shots, I hope I didn't scare the old lady in any way.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Stair Lady

Location: China | Guangzhou

Collection: Expressive



I spotted this elderly gentleman in his wheelchair outside this building. I guess he was waiting for someone to come out...I found this intriguing so waited a few minutes. It wasn't until the young girl walked past that I felt the composition was perfect with the old/young and less able/able contrasting elements.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Waiting Man

Location: China | Shenzhen

Collection: Exhaustion



There was a haze in the air this morning with the mirror Yundang Lake shimmering in front of me. I spotted a perfect alignment of three egrets in diminishing size with the backdrop of the skyscrapers also diminishing in size.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Egret Lake

Location: China | Xiamen

Collection: Exploration



I was travelling from one temple to another with the help of my driver "Van" and his Tuk Tuk. He was a quiet soul and luckily his driving style reflected this, allowing me to steadily aim my camera out to the side as we went through the countryside. I could see in front of me these girls on a bike, as we went past I managed to get just one shot...I love that there is a Tuk Tuk far away in the background.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Riding High

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Exemplary



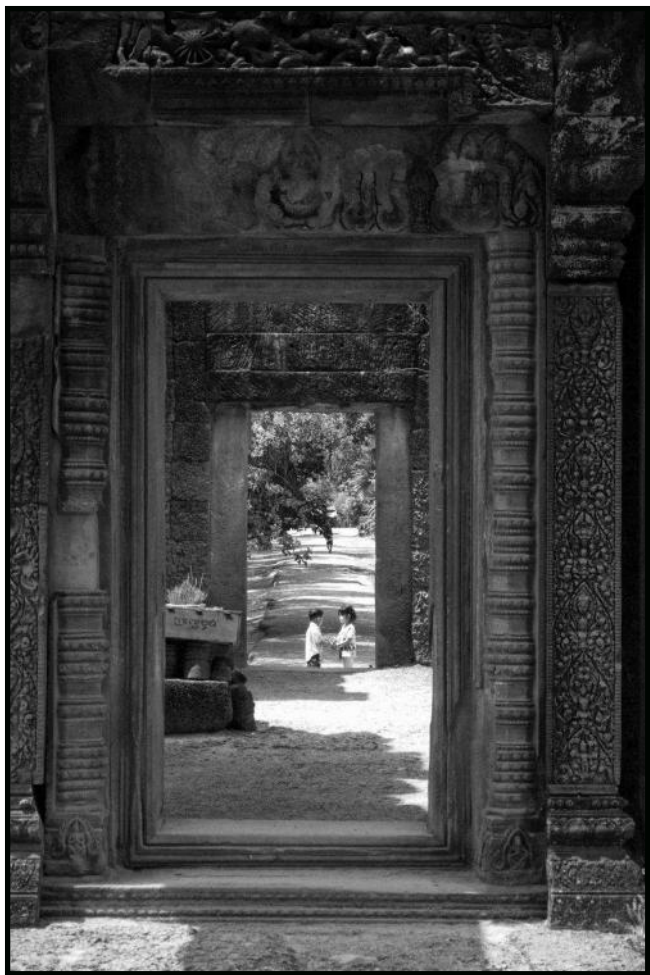
A journey can often be as interesting as the destination. This was taken on the bus trip towards my awaiting boat for the Ha Long Bay part of the trip. My camera always at hand and with a fast shutter speed to compensate for the speed of the bus, I could see this Vietnamese man ploughing his rice field ahead of me, I quickly swivel around to take the shot.....one of my favourite shots from the trip.

Date: 2015 | February

Name: The Ploughman

Location: Vietnam | Hà Long Bay

Collection: Exertion



I had walked along the long path to this set of temples in the afternoon heat, no shelter unlike some of the others. As I looked back through this set of beautifully framed gateways, I couldn't believe the infinite view beyond the stacked frames.

I decided to wait to see if something interesting might happen. Quite a few people came through.....nothing. It wasn't until these two kids came near the main doorway that my interest peaked, I quickly composed and fired off two frames.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Friends Forever

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Expressive

This day the temples were further out with fewer people around, another morning start would help keep the blazing sun at bay for at least a few more hours. Lots of walking brought me through a still looking lake with the burnt out remains of trees after what looked like a severe forest fire.

As I turn the corner towards the main temple, I hear the voice of a little girl, she sounded a little distraught. She was trying to get down a steep bank and her brother who had already got down turned around and climbed up to help her down the steep bank.

Why do I think they were brother & sister.....I'm not sure, but I would like to think so, as she gave him a little hug once down. I love the way the roots mirror the legs and arms of the children.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Brother's Love

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Exemplary





Two men passing the time away on the edge of the dock with the sun on its way down and water calmly caressing the shore.

I waited for the sun to come down just enough to touch the top of the pole. The name for this piece came to me very easily with the beautiful lighting conditions on the beautiful island of Koh Rong.

The contrast from the dark boats with the upcoming sunset seemed perfect.....click

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Lollipop Sunset

Location: Cambodia | Koh Rong

Collection: Extraordinaire



It was just after breakfast on our stationary boat on Ha Long Bay that I began wondering from deck to deck for a glimpse of something unique. As I went below deck to the rear kitchen area, I spotted this small window with a view to the shore. A small supply boat was approaching, I quickly composed and managed to capture this shot.

Date: 2015 | February

Name: Water Worker

Location: Vietnam | Hạ Long Bay

Collection: Exertion



An early morning walk along Yundang Lake yielded this gem. I walk past this man wearing an old army uniform. His fishing rod was at a precise 90-degree angle to the river bank. I very quickly turned around, composed and took the shot before he looks up. I took a second shot with his permission as he smiled at me.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Fishing Soldier

Location: China | Xiamen

Collection: Existence



Another photo taken on the bus trip towards Ha Long Bay. A sole Vietnamese farmer walking his rice field, I only just managed to see him as he was so far away. This image although very similar to "The Ploughman", I feel is fragile and more subtle. Once again, a single shot was taken.

Date: 2015 | February

Name: The Farmer

Location: Vietnam | Hạ Long Bay

Collection: Exertion



Koh Rong high street is like no other....it is on the beach with shops, restaurants and bars on one side and the ocean on the other. These kids were having a really fun time climbing into the boat and jumping off in the midday sun. I like the way the arms of the child jumping into the water almost mirrors the vertical wooden docking poles behind.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Getting Wet

Location: Cambodia | Koh Rong

Collection: Exuberance



Fantastic views over Liwan Lake made for my best ever dim sum lunch at the famous Panxi restaurant. You are served traditional tea from a cute clay pot and choose from an endless list of dim sum, big, juicy with a thin outer coating.

I passed many fruit & veg stalls with sleeping owners in the hot afternoon sun as I worked off my huge lunch walking through the zigzag alleyways in old Guangzhou.

I walked past this young boy playing, my attention peaked when I noticed he was playing with a knife. His mother was on the other side of the path and smiled as I took his shot.

This shot takes me back to my childhood when I happily played with items considered unsafe and dangerous today.

Date: 2015 | January

Name: Play Safely

Location: China | Xiamen

Collection: Extraordinaire

The temples were yet to be overcrowded this morning. I take what I believe to be my first stand out image of the trip. I am wondering around the ancient temples in the rising morning heat. through one huge stone framed doorway to the next, looking through each open portal.

Through the corner of my eye, I see a small boy against the huge backdrop of the temples. I quickly pull up the camera to my eye, adjust my composition, focus and click, I get the shot. I'm so happy, it will probably be one of the best on this trip.

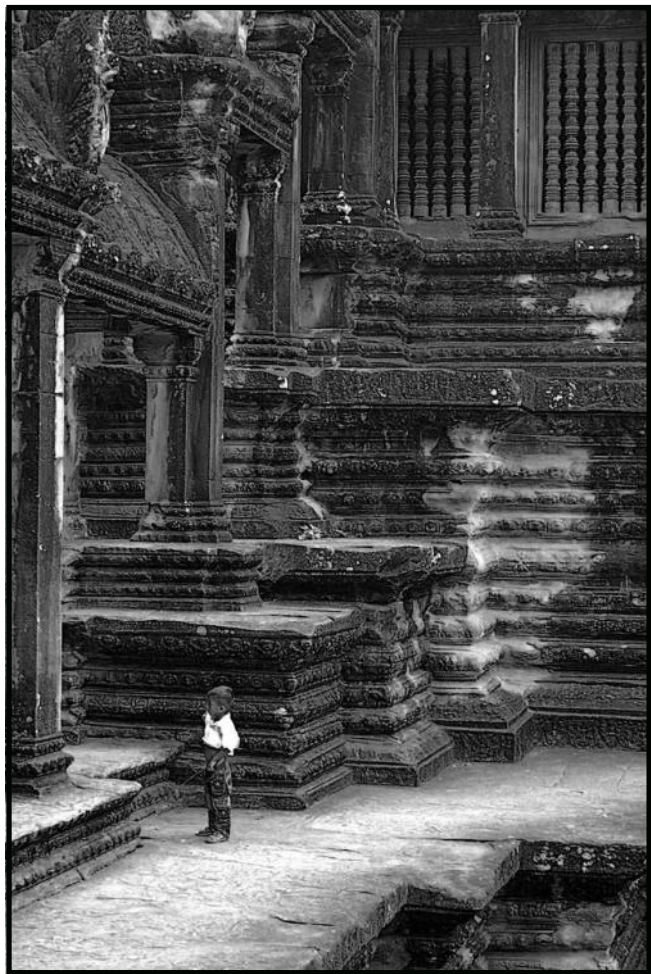
The huge disparity between this small boy and the huge stone temple background was jarring. Were his parents nearby?...once I got back to the UK, I had a closer look, it looks like he is looking at someone whilst taking a private moment.

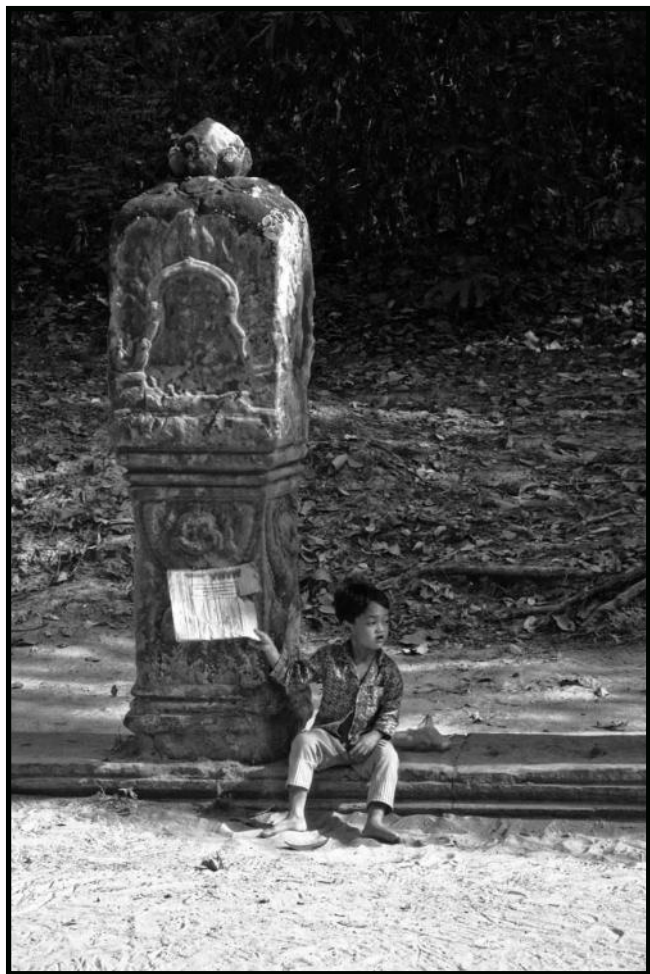
Date: 2015 | April

Name: Mischievous Boy

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Expressive





This was taken early in the morning as I was leaving one of the lesser known temples of Siem Reap. It was only once I completely walked past this boy that I had a reaction.

I knew I had to take his photo. It looks like he is selling something, I made the assumption that it's aimed at locals rather than tourists as he didn't even notice me walking back.

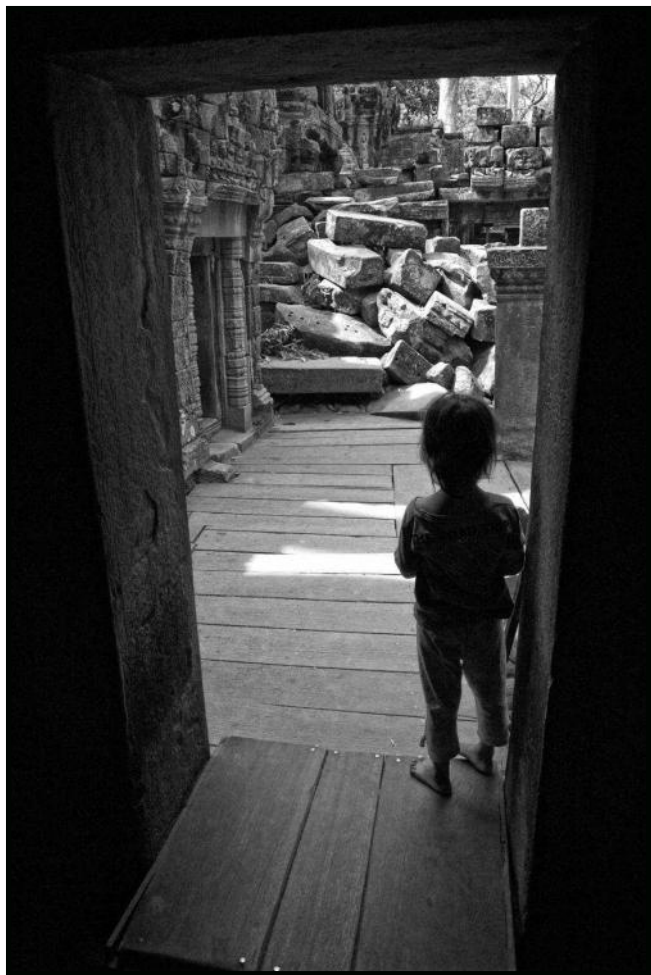
I took a total of three differently composed shots. What struck me initially was the size of the stone column and that in some way it had human form. I also liked the different textures from the trees and leaves in the background compared to the stone pavement and sand beneath his bare feet.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Stone Child

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Existence



As I wondered further outward around the temples, fewer and fewer people were around. I see this little girl, she was selling some kind of small item.

I wanted to somehow include the pile of fallen temple rocks that I had just passed, the only way to do this was to take the photo from behind the girl.

The narrow and small cavern left me with little space to fit everything inside the camera's frame. I had to go as wide as the lens would allow which was 10mm (27mm in 35mm camera terms).

The huge disparity between the young girl and the ancient stones really works for me.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: Ancient Child

Location: Cambodia | Siem Reap

Collection: Existence

The day begins with lots of walking, I just love exploring new places. Hanoi in North Vietnam is truly special with its narrow streets in the Old Quarter.

I walk along one of the many market streets, they are pretty much all market streets with hundreds of shops.

I see this very old lady sitting on a traditional low stool, she is huddled with a headscarf even though I thought it quite mild. The element that really jarred me was.....her feet.

She was cold yet wearing flip flops/sandals, choosing to sit on a low stool when a full-size chair is nearby. It was the old worn out socks with huge holes that made me think just how little income she probably earns.

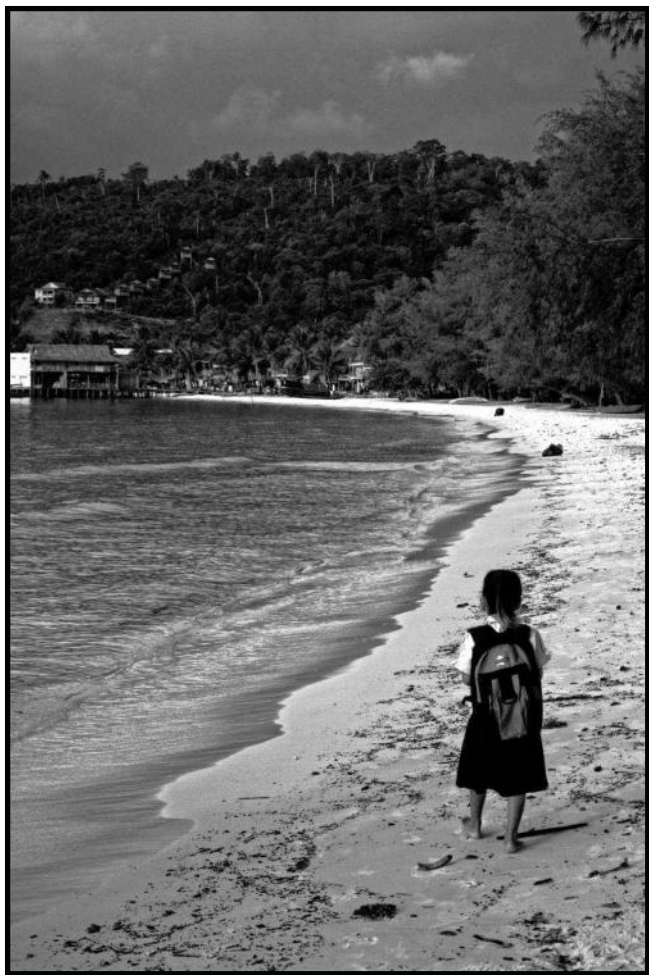
Date: 2015 | February

Name: Still Working

Location: Vietnam | Hanoi

Collection: Existence





I Woke up early on this beautiful day on the island of Koh Rong. I came out onto the wooden balcony of my hillside chalet looking down upon the sweeping beach below me, only one thought crossed my mind...I quickly picked up my camera and went out for a walkabout.

It was just after 6 am, hardly anyone was around, apart from a few late night revellers and shop owners getting ready for their trading day.

As I walked the length of the beach, I spotted someone up ahead, it was a young girl walking to school....I had a quick flashback to my school journey as a child, on a bus.....what a contrast I thought as she passed by. I swung around and quickly took this photo. I like the contrast of her dark uniform against the curving white sandy beach.

Date: 2015 | April

Name: School Run

Location: Cambodia | Koh Rong

Collection: Exemplary

INSPIRED PHOTOGRAPHERS

To me photography must suggest, not insist or explain

Brassaï

*Look and think before opening the shutter.
The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera*

Yousuf Karsh

Which of my photographs is my favourite?

The one I'm going to take tomorrow

Imogen Cunningham

*It's weird that photographers spend years or even a
whole lifetime, trying to capture moments that added
together, don't even amount to a couple of hours*

James Lalropui Keivom

*Photography, as a powerful medium of expression
and communications, offers an infinite variety of
perception, interpretation and execution*

Ansel Adams

*If you scratch a great photograph, you find
two things; a painting and a photograph*

Janet Malcolm

*The goal is not to change your subjects, but for
the subject to change the photographer*

Unknown

INSPIRED ARTISTS

*Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and
poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen*

Leonardo da Vinci

*If I could say it in words there
would be no reason to paint*

Edward Hopper

*Art is the only way to run
away without leaving home*

Twyla Tharp

*Every child is an artist, the problem is
how to remain an artist once we grow up*

Pablo Picasso

*Treat a work of art like a prince,
let it speak to you first*

Arthur Schopenhauer

*The artist sees what others
only catch a glimpse of*

Leonardo da Vinci

*Art is so wonderfully irrational, exuberantly
pointless, but necessary all the same*

Günter Grass

