

The Language of Photography: Understanding, Interpreting and Enjoying A Photograph

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Abstract

All people can look at a picture, but not all of them can read the picture. Photography is a type of language. It can tell many things. In every artwork, there is a hidden purpose, but not everyone can read it because we need literacy to read a language. Without it we can't get the full taste of that. If we have the literacy to read images in photography then we can look at the picture in different ways, and when we look at the picture, we engage in a series of complex readings. In such a reading, a series of problematic, ambiguous, and often contradictory meanings and relationships between the reader and the photograph will emerge. According to Bruno Barbey "Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world. " Ansell Adams said that "you don't make a photograph just with the camera, you bring to the act of photograph all the pictures you have seen the books you have read, the music you have heard the people you have loved". According to Adams, the cameraman takes the best picture not just using his camera, so we want literacy to understand what the artist says. Without that artistic reading, it will be just a beautiful snapshot. Therefore, viewers of photography need to be literate in the language of photography to read it and get the best taste and feeling about it.

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