

The Art of Limitation

David Brugman, Photographer



Orson Welles once said “The enemy of art is the absence of limitations.” In photography, today’s digital technology has removed the previous limitations of film cameras and dark room developing, allowing us to capture thousands of photographs on a single memory card and giving us endless editing possibilities.

Yet the limitations of analogue film can help us to slow down and be more mindful as a photographer. Each shutter release becomes more valuable. Each exposure on a roll of film becomes more precious. Editing in a dark room becomes a thoughtful ritual allowing us time to reflect and create one-of-a-kind prints that get the most from each image.

In this collection of 150 essential photographs spanning over 30 years of his work, Munich-based photographer Dimitri Davies demonstrates how the limitations of film photography work to his advantage by

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placing less emphasis on technology more value on taking time to frame the right scene at the right time, sometimes waiting hours or days for that one magical moment to press the shutter. Dimitri has travelled the globe employing this philosophy to his photography regardless of whether he was on the war-stricken streets of Iraq or in the tranquil countryside of Italy.

Photo technology is always evolving. Years ago, film cameras were cutting-edge technology and today's digital cameras will seem obsolete in the coming years.

Yet regardless of the technology, the medium of photography as a form of creative expression and documentation will remain timeless, allowing us to reflect on the power and magic of a single moment frozen in time.

As a form of both social commentary and visual art, Dimitri Davies' collection of contemporary works on film allows us to do just that.