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PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE HEART



Learn how to
photograph
with Anki from
Zilverblauw

Anki Wijnen

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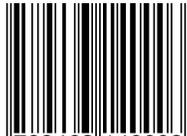
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE HEART

Anki Wijnen - Zilverblauw

Ever dreamt of making the most lovely pictures? Then this is the book for you! Internationally famous blogger Anki Wijnen from Zilverblauw blog tells you all you need to know to make the best pictures ever. With beautiful examples, user friendly technical explanations, this book will get you totally inspired and ready to take pictures as beautiful as Anki's.



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Preface

I make photographs as long as I can remember, especially of the daily things where I can recognize the beauty in. I used the automatic position from my camera to do this until five years ago. I thought I would never understand the technical side of photography: I am everything but a technical. When I bought my first reflex camera, I tried to learn photography better with the help of a book. That book was boring and full of difficult words and the pictures in it were banal. For me this confirmed my feeling: the technical side of photography was not mentioned for creative people.

In the year of 2010 I began with sharing images of my daily life at my blog silverblauw.nl. I wanted to share the beauty around me with the readers of my blog. Soon I found out my own limitations. I could not make the images inside my head with the automatic position of my camera, which frustrated me inexpressible.

Eventually it was the will to control my camera instead of the other way around that made me decide, spontaneously, to photograph fully manually. I listened to my feelings with everything. By watching to the light and following my camera. Rarely I looked to the adjustments, I did it intuitive. Only when I did this a couple of years, I could take a step back to see all the things I actually did with my camera.

You won't find any jargon, difficult graphics and as less as possible difficult terms in this book. This book is all about to look and see and to photograph with your heart. And yes, that includes some technics, but I promise that I won't make it to difficult. The purpose is that you are able to record your life the way you see it, at your own way. When I can do it, you could do it for sure.

Anki Wijnen

www.zilverblauw.nl



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seeing, coincidence & creativity

Real good pictures are those that touch.

Which recall something: a feel or a memory.

Photos that are yours and that identify you as a photographer.

How do you make such kind of photographs?

The first step is learning how to watch.

SEEING BEAUTY

Photography has always played a part in my life.

I photographed as a child already, with simple cameras that I borrowed from my parents. From my pocket money I bought films. I made pictures of common things, like my guinea pig and my bedroom. I started to look conscious to the world around me when I studied and started to live on my own. In my first tiny house, I promised myself that I would never get something ugly. I wanted to surround me with beautiful, special things that would make me happy. That was not about materialism: I can find these beautiful things at a second hand shop as easy as at a designers shop. It is all about looking conscious.

Soon I did not only pay attention to the beauty inside my house, but I noticed it everywhere. Suddenly I saw beautiful details at buildings. The long shadows when the sunset begins. Beautiful product packaging at the supermarket. Two cats which fit each other by colour. I discovered how happy it made me to see the world in this way. It became a hobby to search for beautiful things. At one moment I decided to record all those beauty with my camera. A bit later I decided to share these things that made me happy, the beauty I documented, at a blog.



There is much beauty around us in the simply things when you learn to watch correctly and conscious. The only thing you have to learn is to see those things. People think often that being creative or artistic is all about making great, complicated, pretentious things, but I believe it's especially in the little things, in that which remains invisibly otherwise. Actress Bonham Carter said once, which I totally agree to:

"I think everything in life is art. What you do. How you dress. The way you love someone, and how you talk. Your smile and your personality. What you believe in, and all your dreams. The way you drink your tea. How you decorate your home. Or party. Your grocery list. The food you make. How your writing looks. And the way you feel. Life is art."

By learning to watch conscious, you'll develop your own taste and style eventually, which contribute to the personality of your photos. When you look at the photographs in this book, you can easily distinguish my own style: light, polychrome, soft and with graphic elements. This style says a lot about my character and how I see the world. I believe this is the beauty in photography: you can show the world through your own eyes.

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS RECALL EMOTIONS

The most important part to be able to make a good picture is not the camera, but you, the photographer. You are the one that make the picture; the camera is not more than just an instrument. The pictures that are most precious to you are often not the most beautiful or best pictures you have made, but the pictures that recall emotions on you. Always ask yourself if the photo you've made fits with the feelings that recall on you and if these the one you've mentioned.

WHEN YOUR CAMERA HAS ONE, LOOK THROUGH THE SEARCHER INSTEAD OF THE LITTLE SCREEN. THIS WAY YOU WON'T BE DISTURB BY INCOMING LIGHT AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE COMPOSITION BETTER.





BEING FLEXIBLE

In the contrast of what you may think, it is not always that professional photographers make the perfect picture in just one shot. It is a coherence of circumstances, which provide good images more often. Photos become more interesting when they include something unexpectedly. The picture here on the side, which I made from my son Wolf, is a nice example. What was mentioned to be a happy picture of a kid, which is ready to celebrate carnival, became a pig headed, typical portrait. Sometimes I make hundreds of pictures of which just one live up to my expectations eventually, and sometimes it hits the first time. Hold on, even when it takes a little longer.

SHOW WHAT MOVES YOU

Photograph anything you like, don't let you be led by the 'standard'. It is obvious to make standard holiday pictures: a view, the beach or a terrace. But are these recalling emotions to you? Isn't it more fun to record the things that made your holiday so nice to you, like the kindly neighbours, the beautiful package of that delicious ice cream or that cute tiny kitchen? Try to give your photos a personal touch and dare to distinguish.

DIY What moves you?

Try to make pictures of all the things that move you one day. This can be anything, as long as it touches you. Evaluate your photos at the end of the day, which colours do you prefer? Can you discover a common factor in the pictures you have made?

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SEE THE WORLD AS A PHOTOGRAPH

Try to see the world as a photograph, even when you left your camera at home. Watch the light and notice how this changes of colour during the day. Look at how the sun forms shadows and how this changes the contrast en colours. Open up your sight – literally. Look up or just down and experience how different the world look when you do this.