

A2Z of my photography journey; one letter at a time

Rajesh Pamnani



Part B/B



Introduction for Part B (K-Z)

If Part A was about beginnings, Part B is about depth.

From Ice to Zoo, this second half carries the weight of distance and the wisdom of time. These letters explore reflection, ritual, quiet corners, and the soft endings of sunsets.

Here, the pace slows. Journeys turn inward as much as outward.

The images in these pages remind us that travel is not only movement—it is memory, perspective, and sometimes, return.



French School World Atlas, 1849.

This book is a map of where my eyes have wandered for the last twenty-five years.

Across four continents, through changing seasons, shifting light, and different stages of my own life, I have carried a camera—not always to capture something, but to remember it.

These pages hold over five hundred photographs, stitched together like pieces of a long, unplanned quilt.

From the dusty lanes of small towns to the crowded streets of big cities, from quiet mornings at the seaside to nights alive with neon, I have found myself drawn to the ordinary moments that somehow felt extraordinary.

This collection is not a catalogue of technique—it is a diary written in images.



The alphabet gave me a way to tell these stories. A to Z, not as lessons in photography, but as invitations to look closely—at a stranger's smile, at the play of shadows, at the way water folds back into itself.

This book is for anyone who has ever paused, mid-step, because something beautiful demanded to be seen.

INTRODUCTION

How often do you break out of your creative comfort zone and try something new? When was the last time you threw caution to the wind and took a photographic risk?

The reality is that few of us do.

It's easier to stick to the same old routine and play it safe, especially in this digital age when modern cameras produce perfect pictures with minimal input from the user.

Unfortunately, predictability doesn't necessarily encourage creativity and originality.

Quite the opposite in fact - usually it breeds boredom and complacency.

If you take the same journey to work each morning, eventually it becomes so familiar that you no longer see anything along the way.

If you eat the same meals day-in, day-out, eventually you stop tasting the food.

It's the same in photography. Shoot the same subjects using the same techniques and equipment for too long and if you're not careful you will find yourself in a creative rut, devoid of ideas and inspiration. Photographers who specialize in one subject area are especially at risk and must evaluate what they're doing every now and then in order to avoid going stale.

This book has been written to share my journey, to possibly help you avoid that creative "Black hole" by providing a range of inspirational ideas that will keep your own passic for photography alive.

As well as alphabet based assignments that involve working that are subject-based techniques that will encourage you to broader your creative horizons and visual exercises designed to help you develop a keener eye for a picture.

Enjoy your visual journey.



Contents

This collection unfolds like a journey through the alphabet — twenty-six letters, countless stories.

Part A traces the beginnings: discovery, light, laughter, and the raw wonder of seeing the world anew.

Part B follows with reflection and return: quieter moments, deeper gazes, and the poetry of memory. Together, they form one continuous voyage — my travels through places, people, and time, one alphabet at a time.



K - Kites



M - Market



P-Pets



R-Reflection



S - Street Food



U - Umbrellas



V - Vehicles



W - Windows



Z - Zoo



S ISO - 250, L - 4mm, F /3.5, S - 1/30s, 🔎 Ubud (Indonesia)

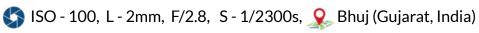






Kites: Floating color. Photographing them made me look up again.









S ISO - 100, L - 4mm, F / 1.6, S - 1/120s, 👤 Hyderabad (India)





Kitchens: They hold the heart of every home. I found intimacy here: steam, stories, hands at work.







🧣 SanJose (Costa Rica) S ISO - 640, L - 73mm, F/2.8, S - 1/800s,

The red-eyed tree frog is a small (thumb nail size) Costa Rican amphibian known for having violet or purple coloring on its sides. While its body is bright green, this famous rainforest frog uses its hidden, vibrant colors to startle predators.





Leaves: A Lesson in Change

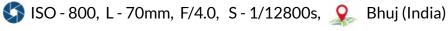
I once photographed the same tree every week for three months. From lush green to amber to bare branches against the winter sky. That project taught me to appreciate transition. Leaves are never still—they curl, fall, pile, disappear. They're a reminder that beauty isn't static, and neither is life. I now carry a small lens just for capturing leaf detail. Each one is like a fingerprint of a season.





Light - My biggest teacher. It changes everything, and waits for no one.







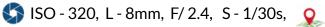


The Festival of Lights in Mandalay refers to the Thadingyut Festival, celebrated annually on the full moon day of Thadingyut to mark the end of Buddhist Lent and welcome the Buddha's descent from heaven.



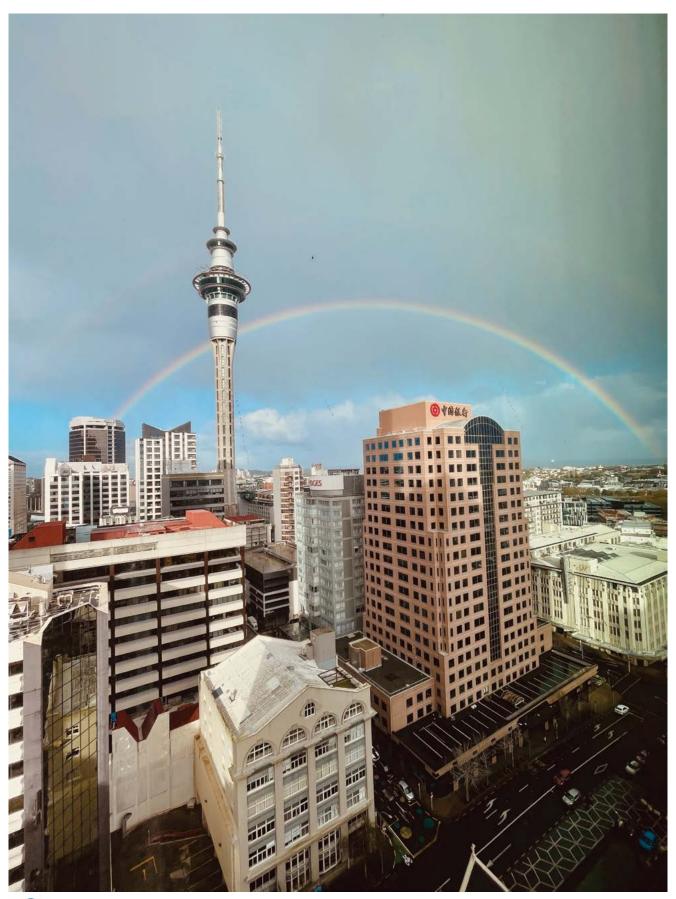
🔇 ISO - 800, L - 13mm, F/ 2.8, S - 1/30s, 🐊 Mandalay (Maynmar)

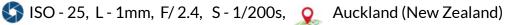


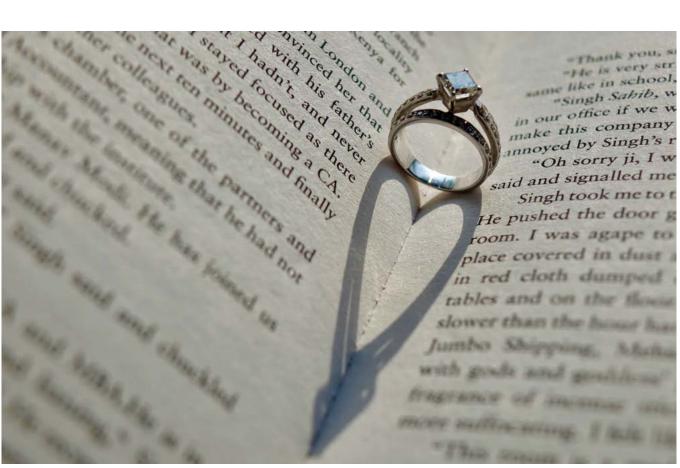


A rainbow is an optical phenomenon where sunlight, composed of various colors, interacts with water droplets. Light enters a droplet, bends (refracts), separates into its component colors, reflects off the back of the droplet, and then bends (refracts) again as it exits, creating a spectrum of colors.

This combination of refraction, reflection, and dispersion results in the visible arc of a rainbow.







🔇 ISO - 100, L - 17mm, F/2.8, S - 1/250s, 잁 Hyderabad (India)





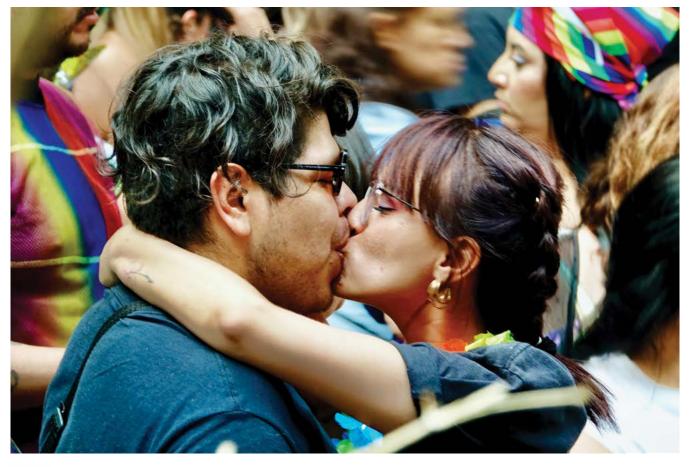
Florence (Italy)

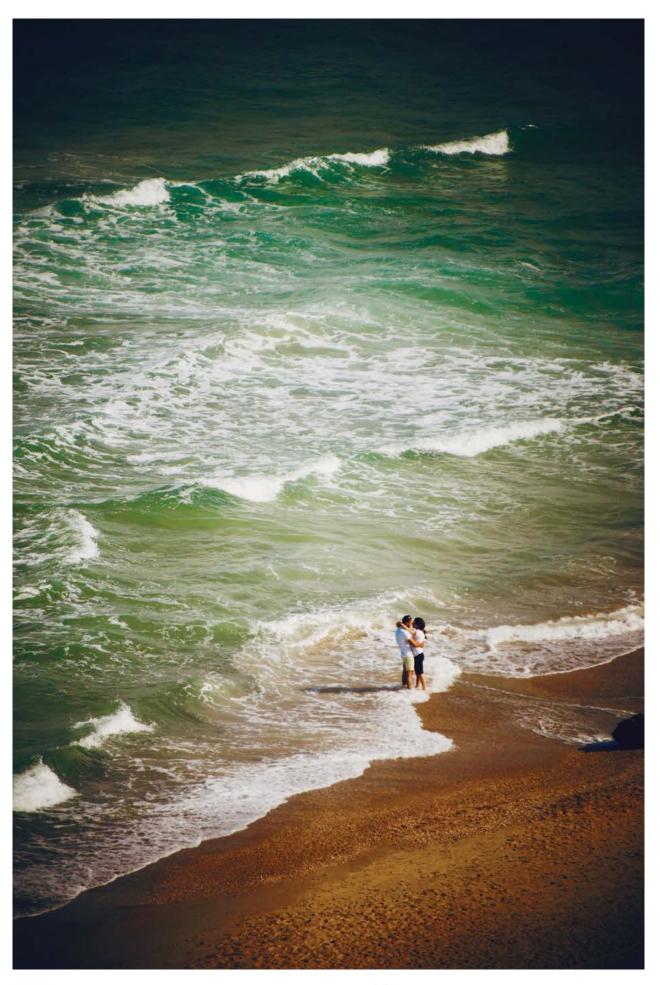
Love - Love is the quiet thread that binds two people, visible in gestures as small as a touch or as timeless as standing together before beauty. In its many forms—tender, playful, enduring—love is both universal and deeply personal, making every photograph of it feel like both a story and a secret.





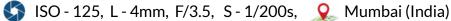
S ISO - 320, L - 8mm, F/7.1, S - 1/125s, Agra (india)





Lost Professions: In the winding lanes of markets and village squares, I came across men practicing a craft that time is slowly erasing—quack doctors who clean ears with simple tools, their trade passed down through generations. Sitting on wooden stools or beneath makeshift umbrellas, they wait patiently for customers who still trust their hands more than modern clinics. These images are less about medicine and more about survival, tradition, and the fragile dignity of professions on the edge of disappearance.













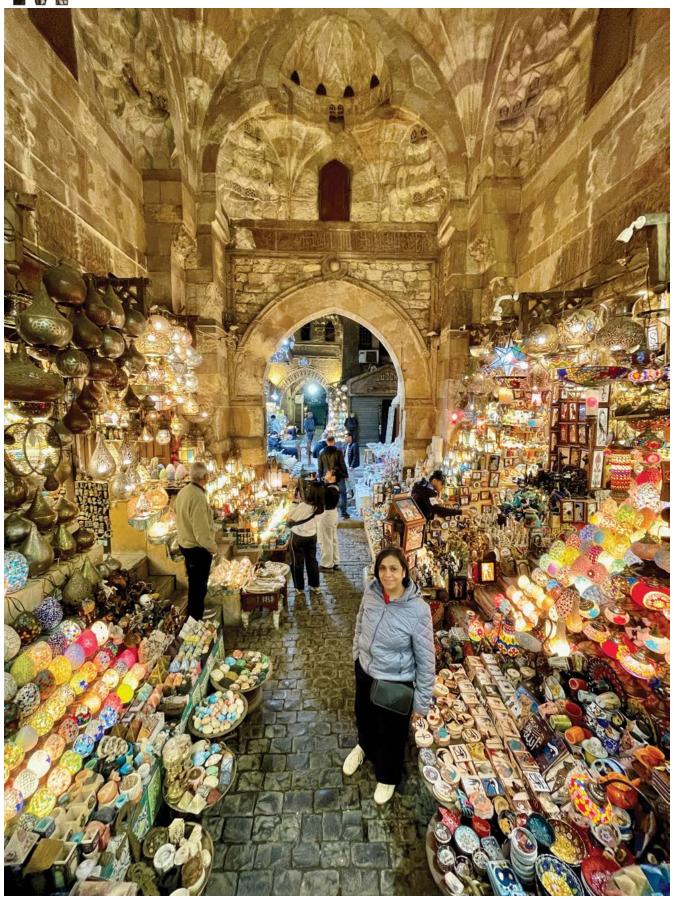


S ISO - 400, L - 8mm, F/3.5, S - 1/15s, ... Cusco (Peru)





Markets: Overflowing with movement, faces, smells. A challenge and a gift to photograph.

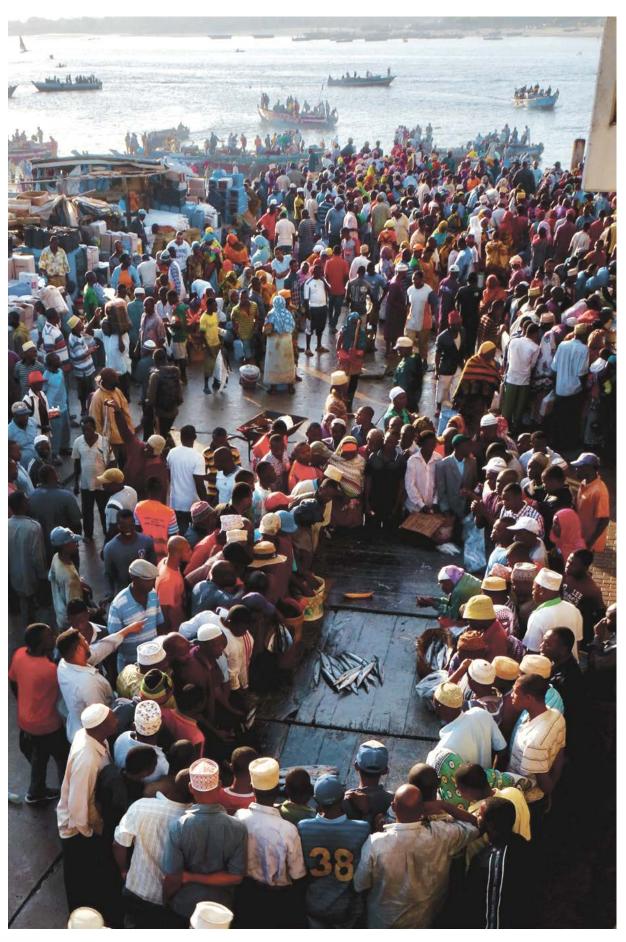








The Kivukoni fish market in the early morning to see fishers flog their catch to restauranteurs and homemakers with all the zeal of Wall St stockbrokers.







S ISO - 1600, L - 16mm, F/4.0, S - 1/160s, Manila (Philippines)



The market is VDNKh, located in the park of the same name, which features a Space Pavilion with space exhibits. While VDNKh is a permanent exhibition and amusement park, there are also often temporary markets held within its grounds.





S ISO - 200, L - 209mm, F/9, S - 1/640s, 🔎 Hyderabad (India)







💲 ISO - 160, L - 37mm, F/5.6, S - 1/500s, 🐊 Hyderabad (India)

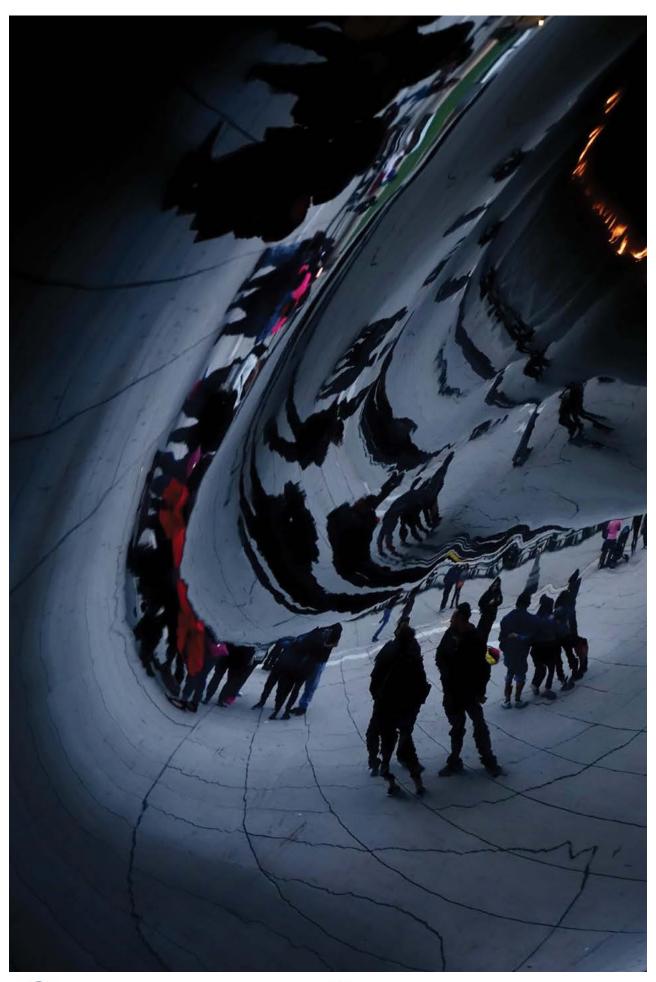


Mirrors - Reflection adds complexity. I learned to look at both sides of the lens.



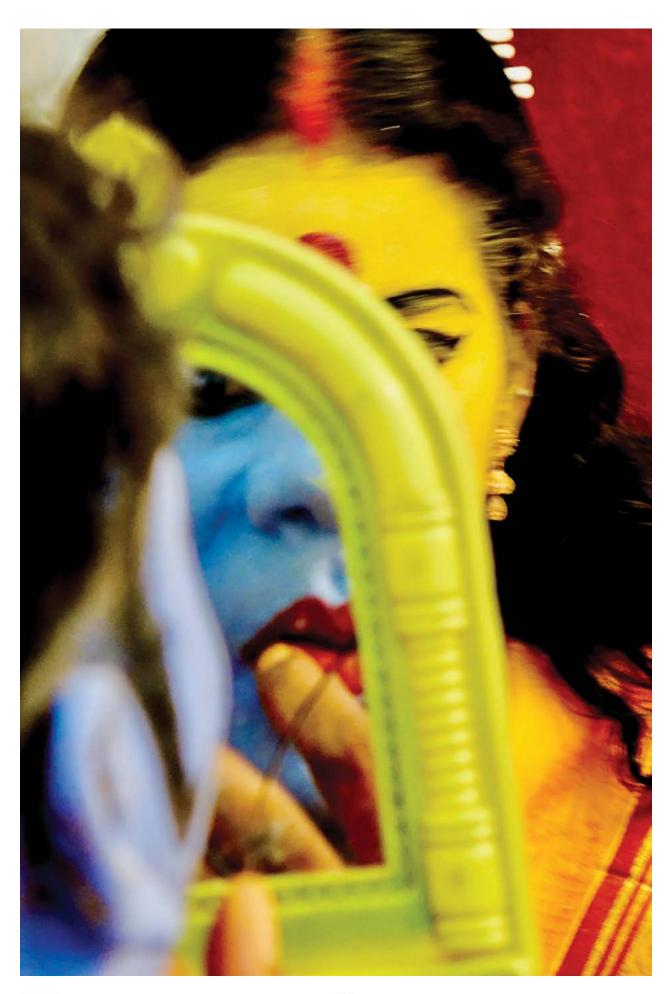
ISO - 200, L - 123mm, F/9, S - 1/500s, 👤 Hyderabad (India)























🔇 ISO - 400, L - 167mm, F/6.3, S - 1/320s, 🐊 Warangal (India)

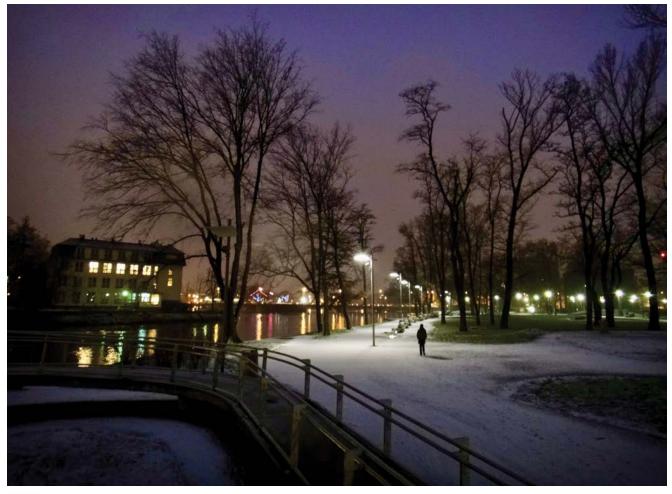




Mothers – Strength wrapped in familiarity. Their gestures are almost universal, yet deeply personal.









Night - A mood of its own. Light becomes rare, people become shadows—it changed how I see.





S ISO - 800, L - 65mm, F/13, S - 1/1000s, . Izmir (Turkey)





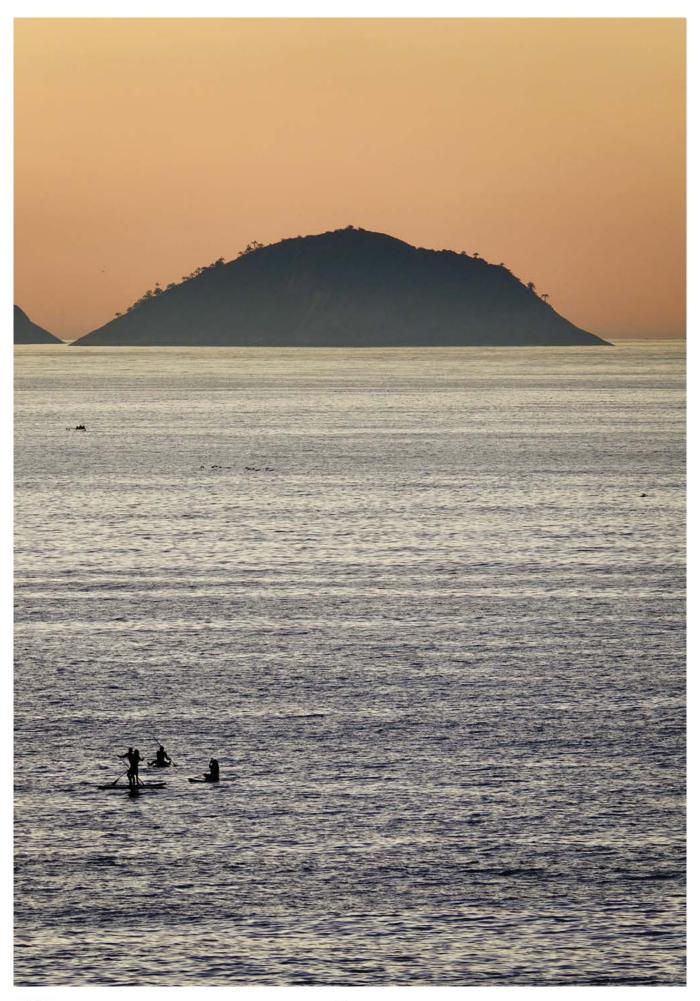
Oceans: The Language of Movement

The ocean is never the same twice. Sometimes it whispers, other times it roars. I remember standing on a windy beach, soaked to the knees, trying to photograph a crashing wave just as the sun broke through the clouds. I didn't get the wave-but I got the light. Oceans have taught me humility. You can't control them. You can only respond. And often, that's enough.



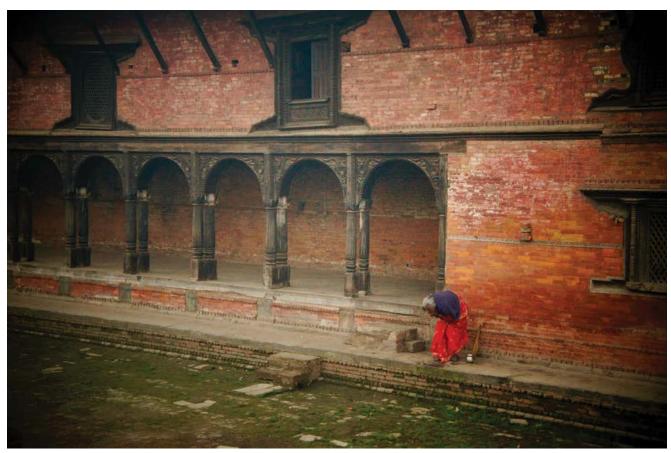
🔇 ISO - 250, L - 31mm, F/4.0, S - 1/2000s, 👤 Manila (Philippines)



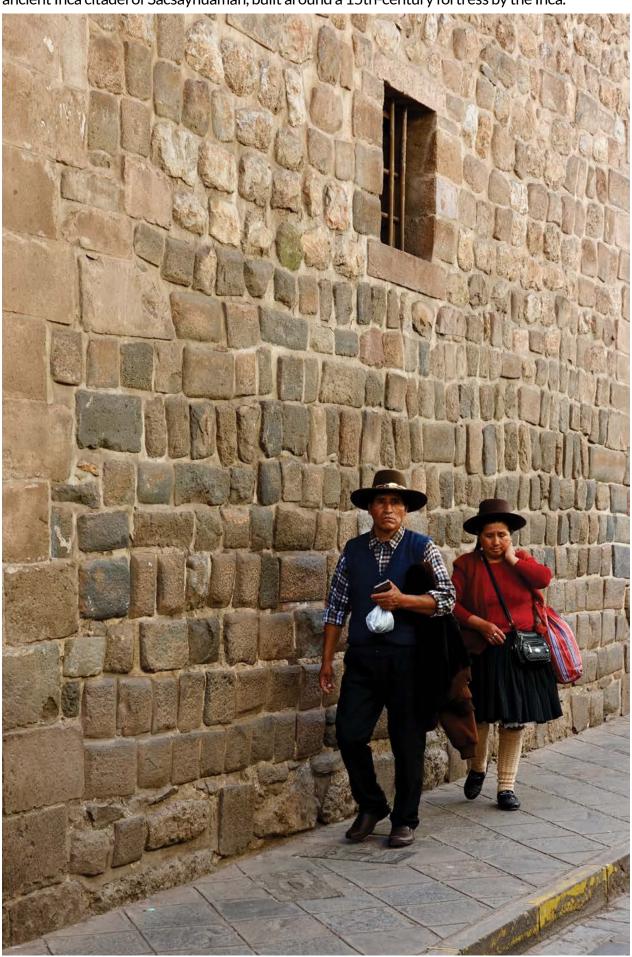




S ISO - 100, L - 93mm, F/4.0, S - 1/100s, Amsterdam (Netherlands)



The "old walls of Cusco" refer primarily to the massive, meticulously fitted dry-stone walls of the ancient Inca citadel of Sacsayhuamán, built around a 15th-century fortress by the Inca.





S ISO - 500, L - 16mm, F/4.0, S - 1/160s, 👤 Istanbul (Turkey)





S ISO - 200, L - 209mm, F/9, S - 1/640s, . Gandipet, Hyderabad (India)



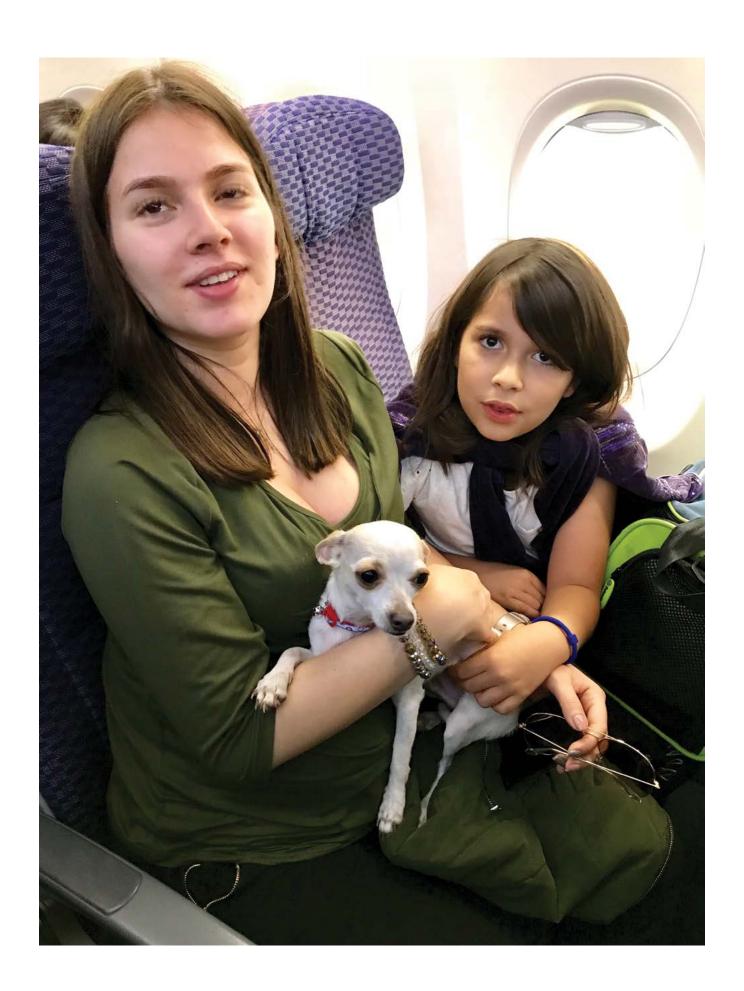
Pets: Chaos and Character

Trying to photograph my friend's dog was like trying to catch a cloud. He zoomed around, tongue out, eyes wild. But just as I gave up, he sat-head tilted, eyes wide-and I got the shot. Pets teach you to be fast, to anticipate emotion, to recognise character. They're honest. They don't care about the camera. And that's what makes them such good subjects.



Where Swiss homes nurture horses like companions, Indian hearts beat to the rhythm of a dog's bark.

- love knows no size when it comes to pets.

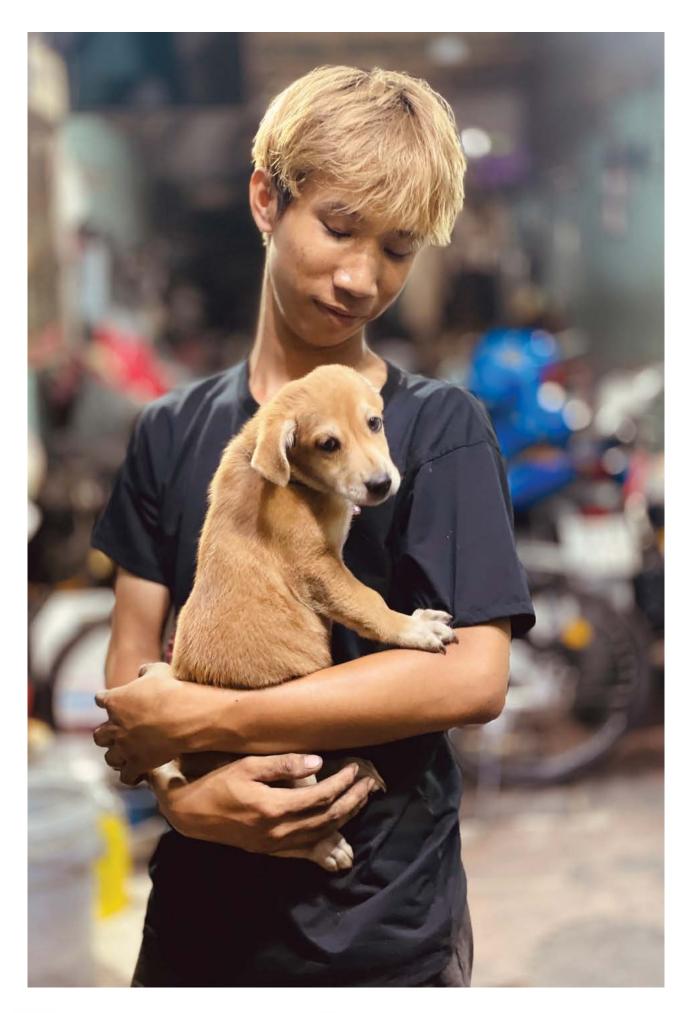






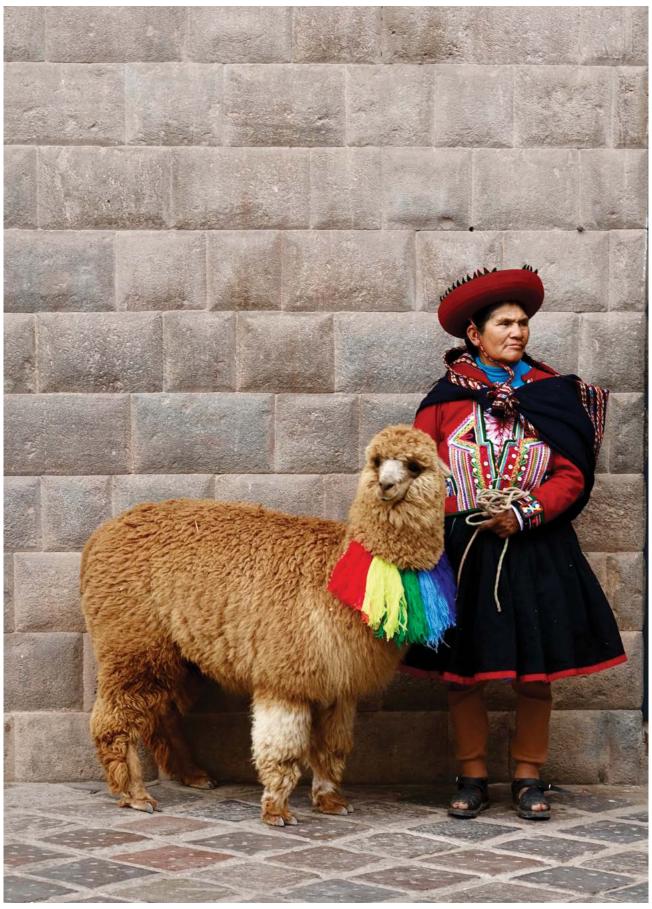








You can see baby Ilamas and alpacas at textile centers like Awana Kancha in the Sacred Valley, or at sites within the city of Cusco like the Plaza de Armas, often with people in traditional dress.





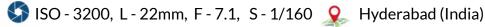
Prayers: Prayer takes many forms, yet it always begins with the same gesture—an offering of self. At the Chilkur Balaji temple in Hyderabad, a lone man stands still, palms folded, as the crowd swirls around him.

In Boudhnath, Nepal, a priest carries incense, smoke rising like words unspoken.

In another shrine in Hyderabad, women press their hands to sacred relics, while in Bagan, a young monk stands in silence, his small frame bowed with devotion.

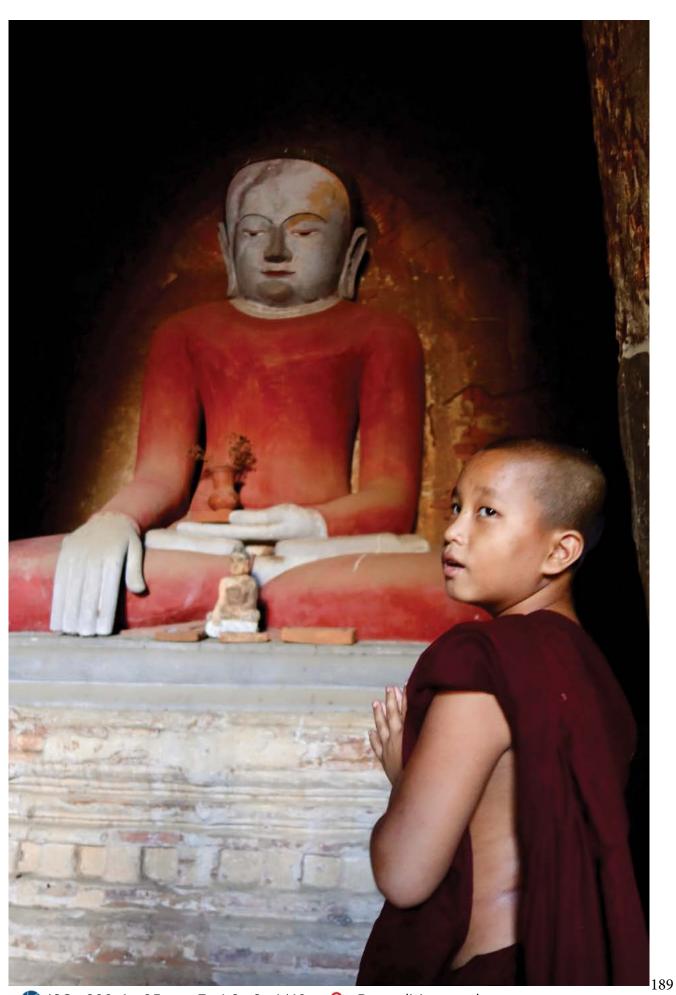
From stillness to motion, from solitude to community, prayer is the language of hope written across every faith.















SO - 400, L - 10mm, F - 1.8, S - 1/250s,
→ Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

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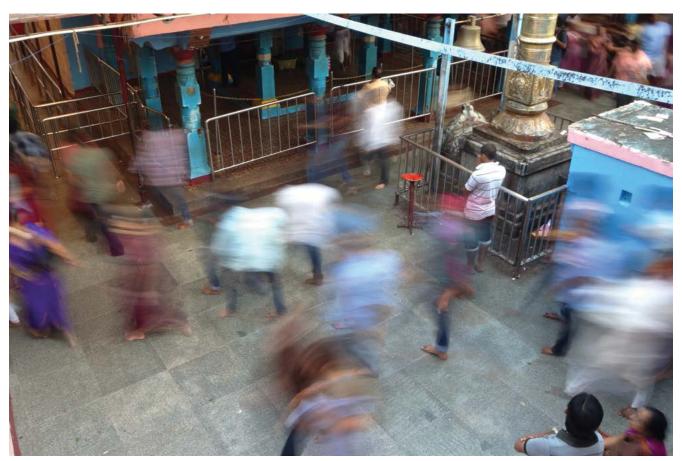
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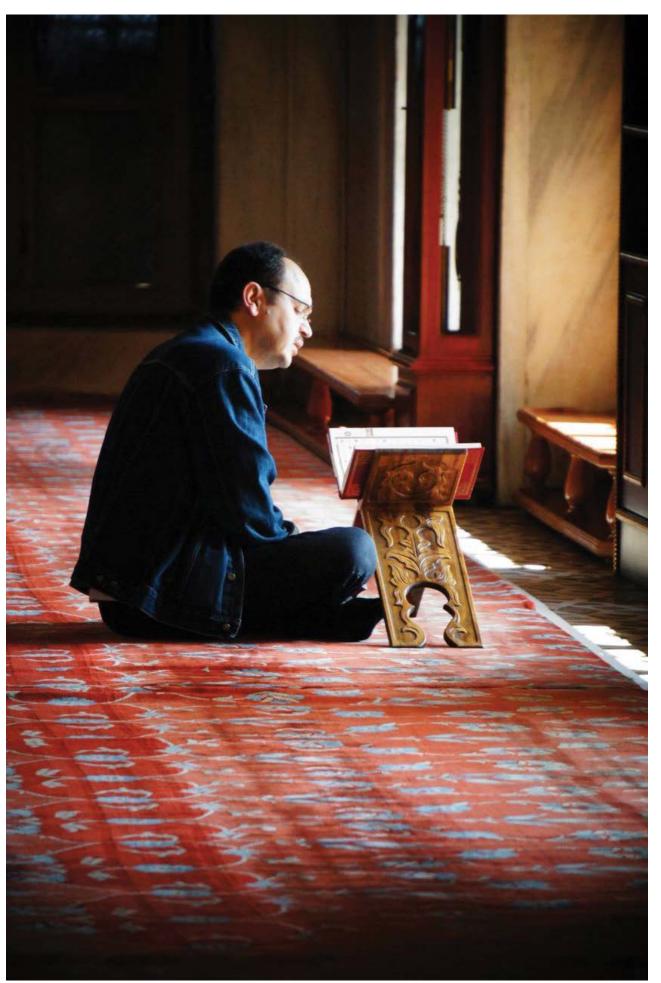








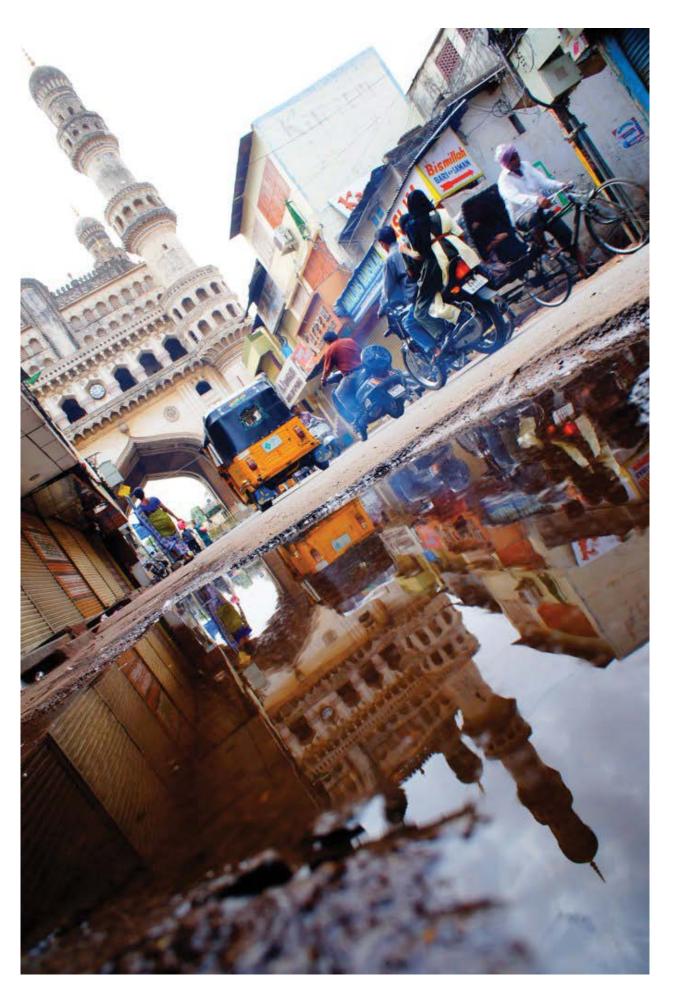






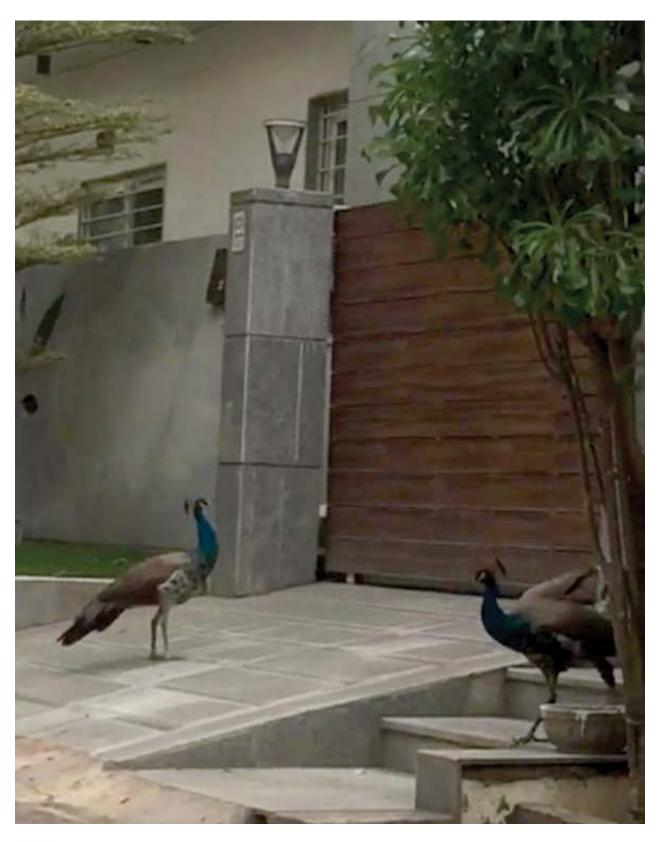
S ISO - 125, L - 4mm, F /4.5, S - 1/400s, 🔑 Hyderabad (India)





Quiet Streets: The Still City

During lockdown, I walked through a normally busy avenue that was utterly still. The traffic lights blinked over empty roads, and pigeons sat undisturbed on power lines. It felt eerie, but also intimate. Quiet streets taught me to appreciate stillness—not just the absence of people, but the presence of space. There's a peace in those moments, and a quiet kind of beauty that's easy to miss.









Rain: Mood in Motion: Rain transforms everything. I once shot a photo of a man walking with a broken umbrella, water pouring off him, his face a mix of frustration and defiance. Rain adds drama. It reflects light in strange ways. It slows people down. I used to hide my camera during storms. Now, I chase them.



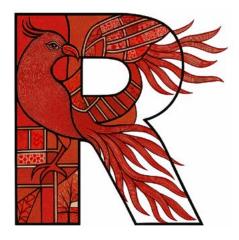












for Red



"Red is not just a color.

It's an emotion, a presence-it refuses to be ignored."

This portrait wasn't planned, She wasn't posing. In fact, shew was about o walk away. The cioh slipped slightly, revealing just enough of her expression for a story to emerge-coy, warm, quietly confident.

Red surrounded her like a shield and a celebration. It wasn't just the color of her c'lothes-It was the backdrop, the mood, the heartbeat of the moment. In her world, red might mean fradition, strength, maybe even resistance. In this frame, It meant presence.

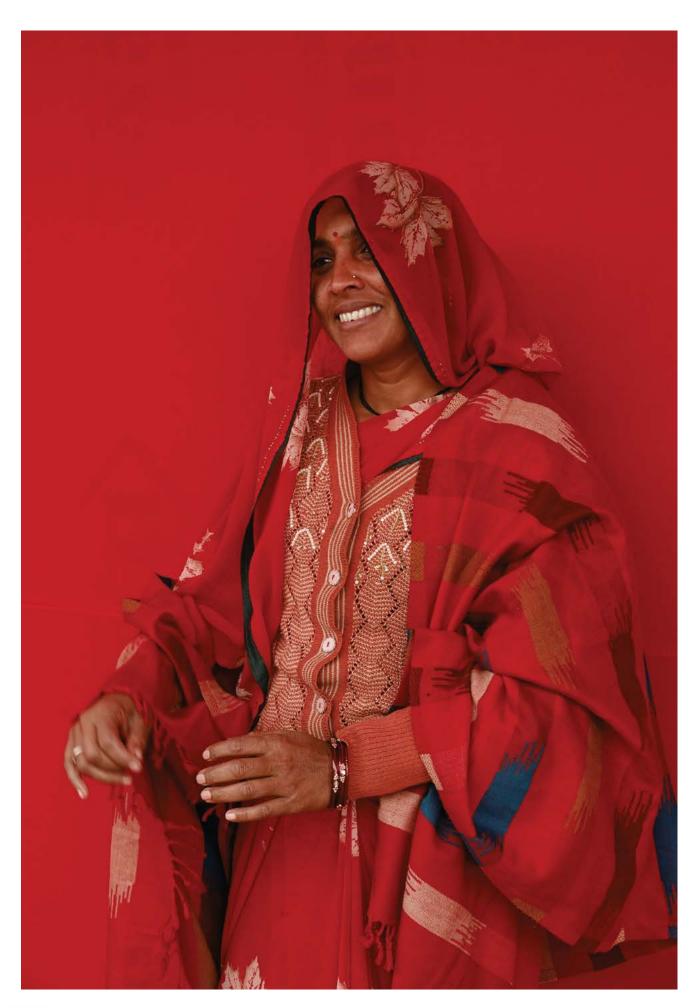
She didn't look directly at the lens. That made it even more powerful. Her smile was shy but not uncertain. This was a moment where I wasn't just taking a pic-ture-I was receiving something. Something gentle. Something honest.



Red veil, quiet grin. She wasn't posing for the world-she was just being herself. And I happened to be there.

What I Learned from "R - Red"

- Color can carry emotion just as much as faces do.
- The best portraits are sometimes the ones where no one's looking at you.
- Let the subject lead-you just follow.
- Matching background and clothing can make the human element glow.



S ISO - 32, L - 4mm, F/ 1.6, S - 1/640s, • Warsaw (Poland)







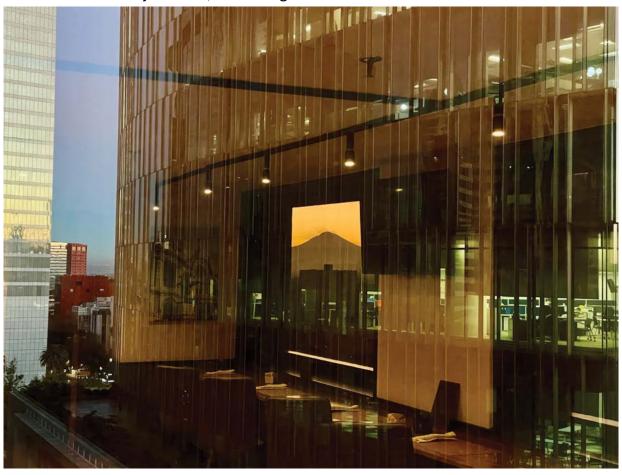
S ISO - 200, L - 8mm, F/8, S - 1/30s,

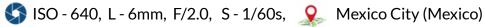


Milan (Italy)



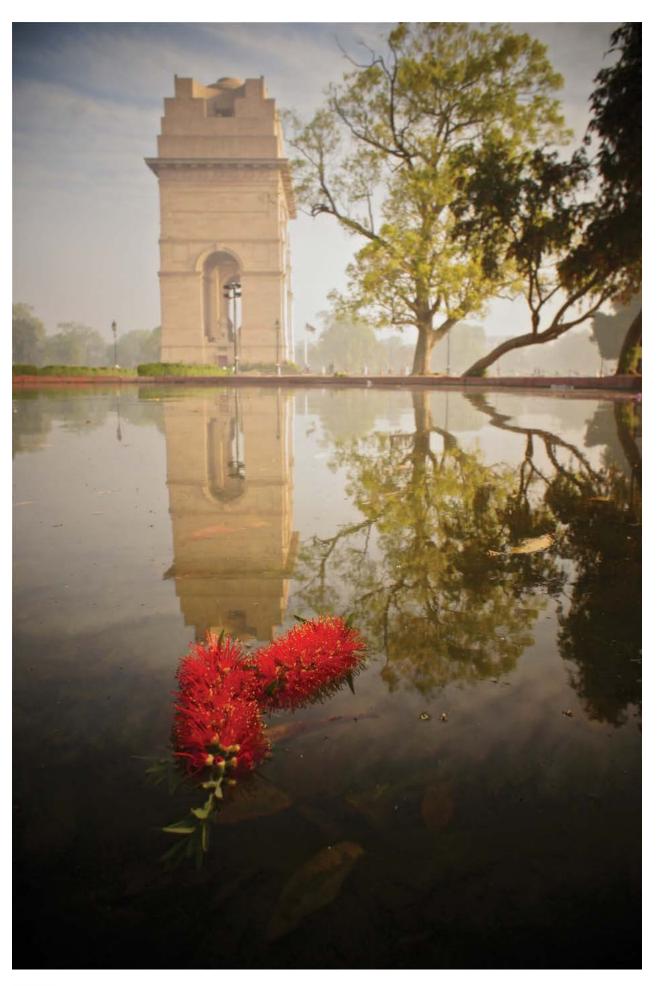








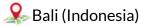




Ritual - Rituals are the threads that bind time, weaving the sacred into the ordinary. A gesture repeated becomes meaning, a memory carried forward.



S ISO - 125, L - 4mm, F/3.5, S - 1/250s,







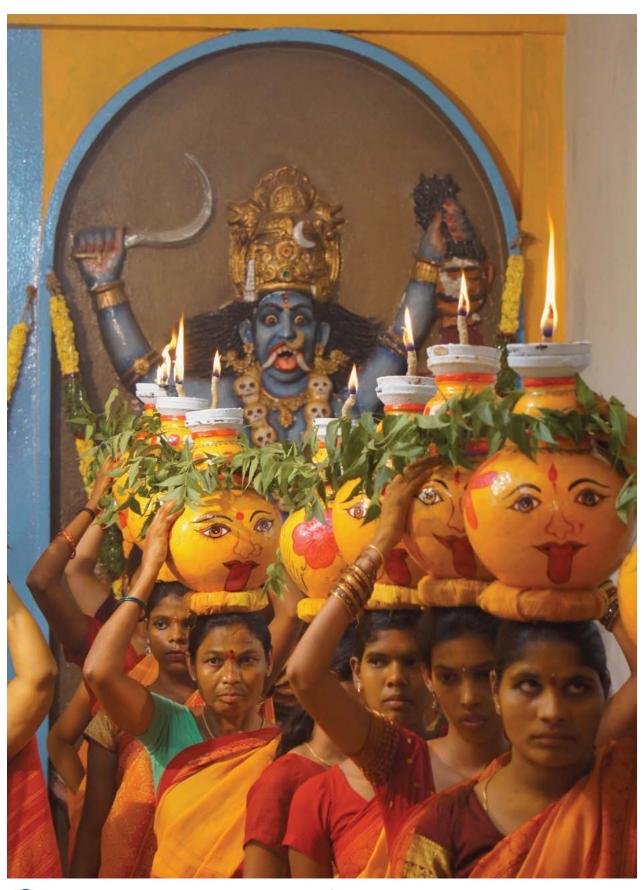


S ISO - 400, L - 11mm, F/5.6, S - 1/60s, A Hyderabad (India)



The Bonalu ritual of offerings centers on the preparation and presentation of 'Bonam' (a sacred meal) to Goddess Mahakali.

Women cook rice with jaggery and milk, place it in a new earthen or brass pot that is elaborately decorated with neem leaves, turmeric, and vermilion, and often topped with a lit lamp.



Rock/ Rock Formations - Rocks tell stories older than us-sculpted by wind, water, and time. From towering cliffs to weathered stones, each formation feels like a monument of patience, a reminder of the earth's enduring strength.

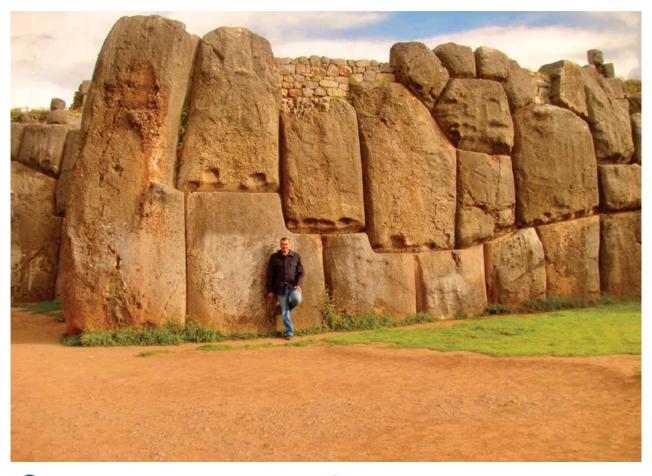


💲 ISO -00, L - 0mm, F/0, S - 1/00s, 🤉 Hyderabad (India)



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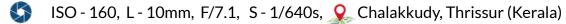
S ISO - 00, L - 0mm, F/0, S - 1/00s, 🔎 Vik (Iceland)



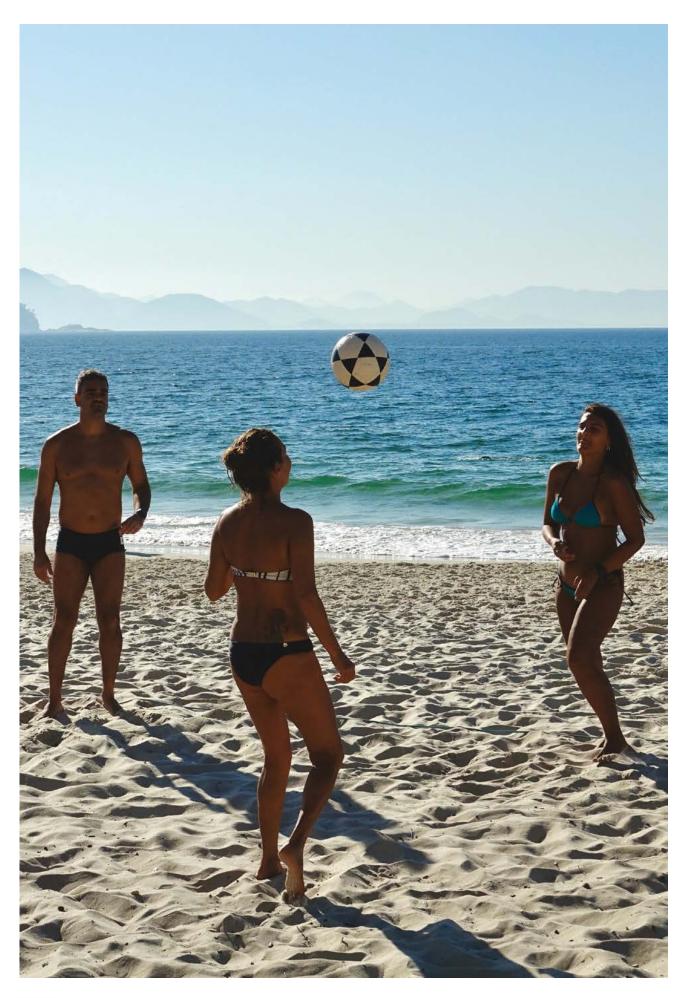


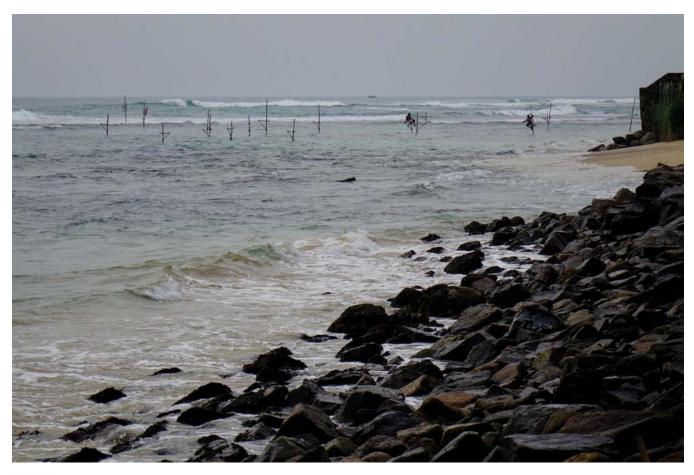












S ISO -160, L - 53mm, F/8, S - 1/640s, 🔎 Galle Face Road (Srilanka)





Venice is located on the Venetian Lagoon, a shallow body of water that is an enclosed bay of the Adriatic Sea.





Stairs – Architectural poetry, leading eyes up or down through a frame.



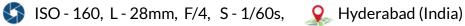
🔇 ISO - 400, L - 8mm, F /8, S - 0.6s, 🦜 (Vatican)



The famous spiral staircase near Greenwich is the Tulip Staircase at the Queen's House. Designed by Inigo Jones in the 1630s, it's the first geometrically self-supporting spiral staircase in Britain, built in 1635.

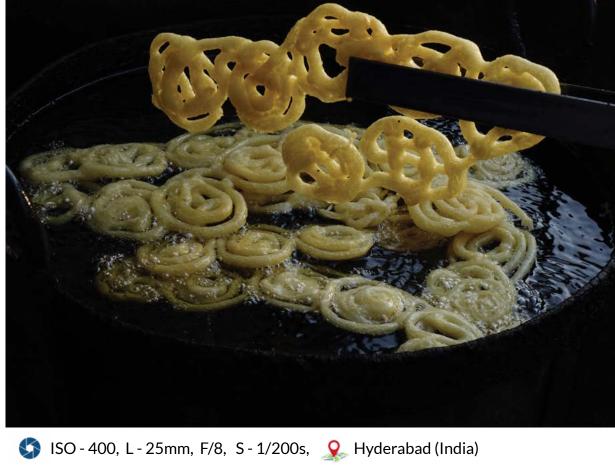














Sunrise - Sunrise is not just light—it is renewal. A reminder that each day begins with promise, no matter what came before.



S ISO - 400, L - 12mm, F /4.0, S - 1/2000s, 🦜 Mandvi (Gujarat)





Sunset- The day exhales, the sky burns with farewell. Sunsets are not endings, but a soft invitation to rest.



S ISO - 200, L - 55mm, F /6.3, S - 1/200s, A Herzliya (Isereal)





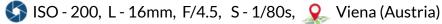
Shadows: Drawing with Darkness

Shadow is not absence—it's a story in contrast.

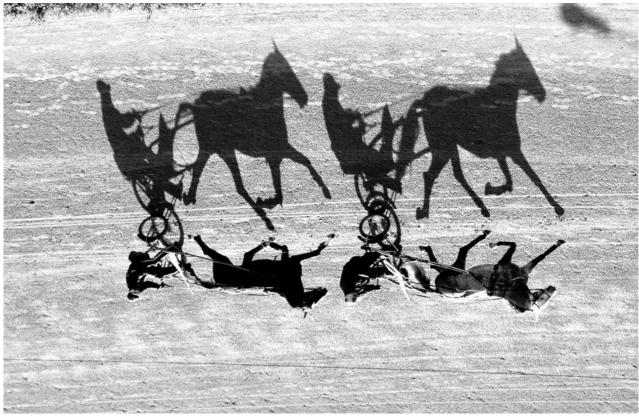
From a forgotten cycle lane to champagne in midair, from galloping freedom to quiet reflection on a train... the beauty lies where light dares to stop.

Each frame here captures not the object—but its echo.













S ISO - 200, L - 16mm, F/4.0, S - 1/80s, 🔎 Kedarnath (India)





S ISO - 640, L - 49mm, F/4.0, S - 1/1000s, 🎤 Hyderabad (India)



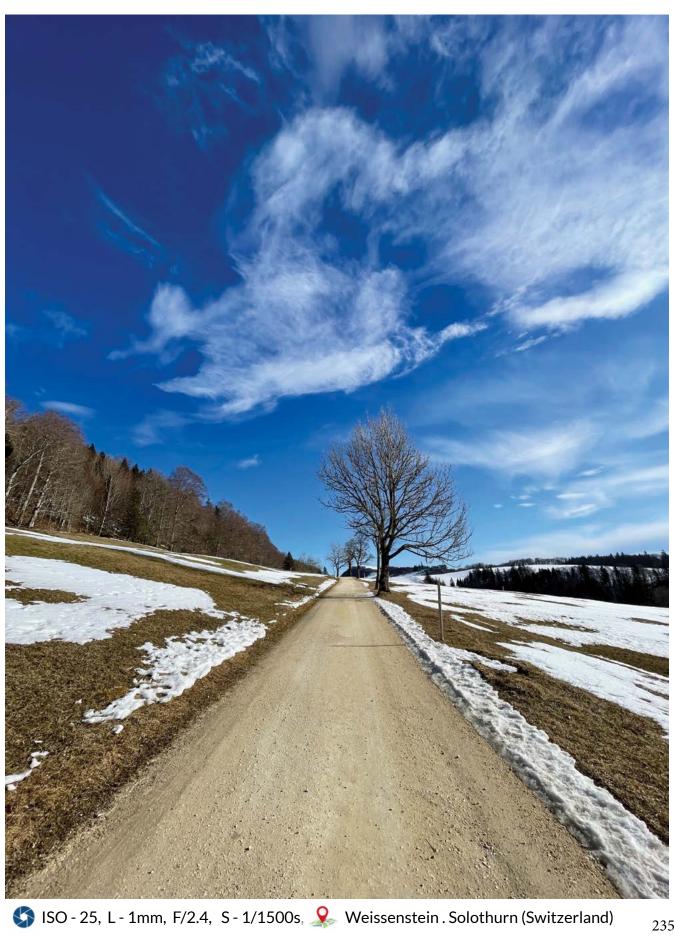
Trees: Time Standing Tall

Trees are constant companions. I've leaned against them, shot through them, climbed them, and been shaded by them. One winter, I took a photo of a solitary tree in a foggy field. It looked like it had always been there—waiting. Trees remind me of stillness, endurance, and the quiet way things grow.



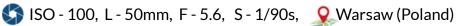
🔇 ISO - 800, L -12mm, F/2.8, S - 1/15s, 👤 Warsaw (Poland)



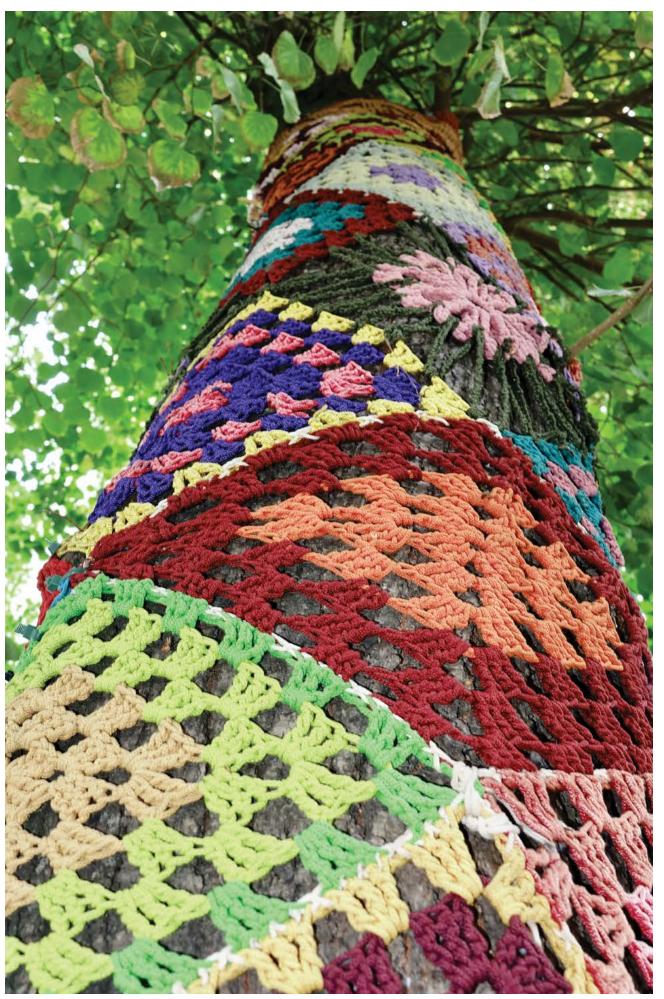












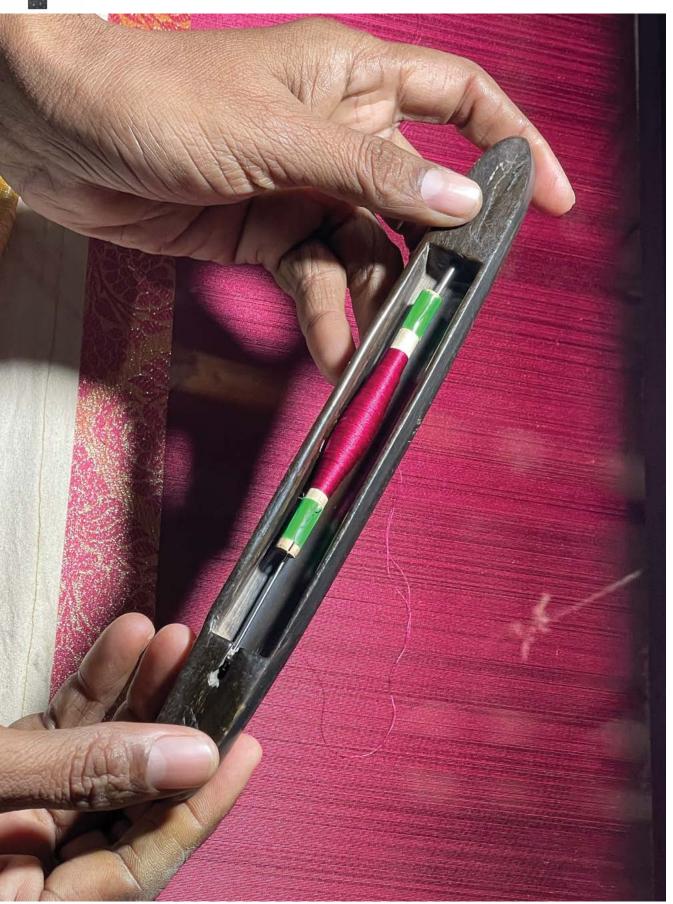


S ISO - 1250, L - 6mm, F/2.8, S - 1/50s, . Pochampally (Telangana, India)

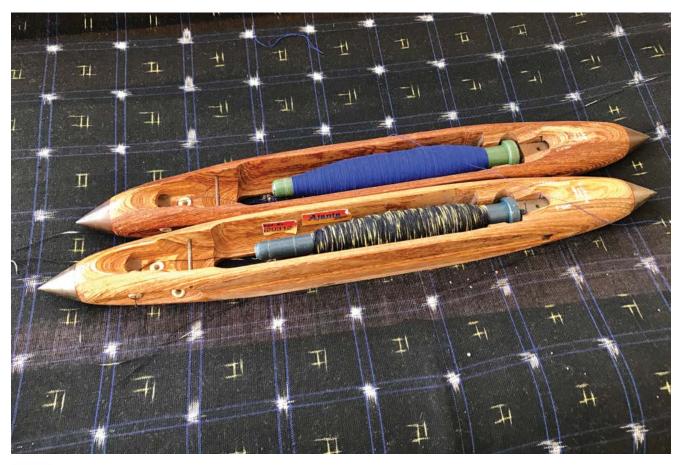




Textiles – Woven identity. From saris to shawls, I learned color and pattern here.



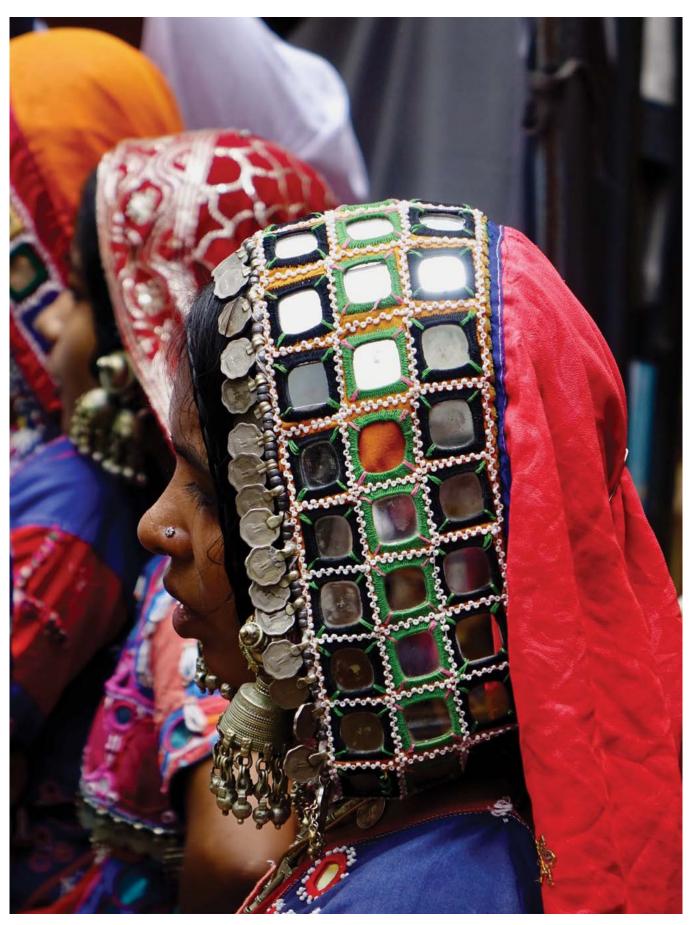


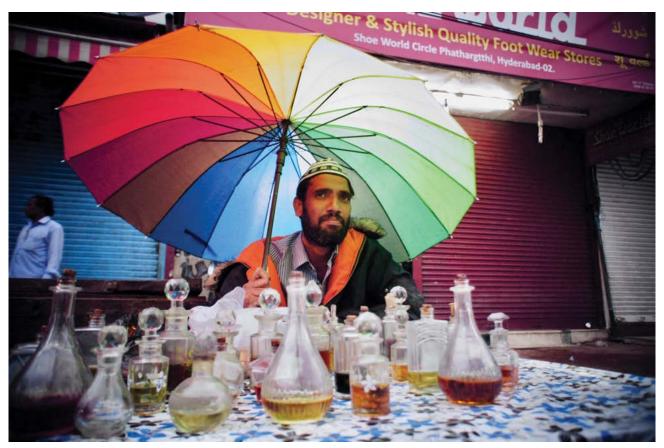


S ISO - 50, L - 3mm, F/1.8, S - 1/17s, 🔒 Varanasi (UP)



The traditional dress of the Lambada (also known as Banjara) people is vibrant and distinct, known for its intricate embroidery, mirror work, and heavy jewelry.



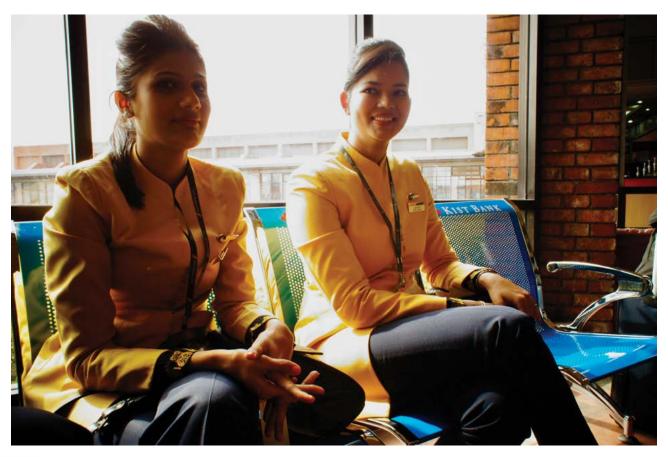








S ISO - 3200, L - 10mm, F/1.8, S - 1/60s, Moscow (Russia)





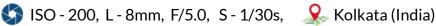




Urban Decay: Beauty in Breakdown

Rust, peeling paint, broken windows-there's something deeply human about places falling apart. I once visited an abandoned train station, overrun with ivy and dust. It was haunting, but strangely peaceful. Urban decay isn't just about destruction-it's about memory. These places hold echoes. And with a camera, you can listen to them.













S ISO - 400, L - 8.8mm, F/5.6, S - 1/15s, 🐊 New York (USA)



Vehicles: Movement and Memory

A vintage Vespa parked under a tree. A bicycle leaning against a café wall. A bus disappearing into the fog. Vehicles tell us where we've been, and where we're going. I love capturing them in stillness or motion—they're always a part of the story, whether we're riding in them or just watching them pass.









Blausee is a small, enchanting blue lake in Switzerland known for its exceptionally clear, turquoise waters, visible tree trunks, and a submerged statue. Located near Kandersteg in the Bernese Oberland.





for Water

"Listening to Liquid Silence"

Watching water, in its many forms, offers a transcendental pleasure.

Watching water is meditation, a plug in to the world's rhythms, whether in the stillness of a glass or surges in ocean currents.

It's feeling the pulse of the planet.

One of the greatest pleasures of watching water lies in its ability to induce a sense of calm, something the Japanese know about with their koi ponds.

There's something inherently therapeutic about the lapping move-ment, however gentle, that transcends time.

Observing water can provide a respite from the ebb and flow of daily life.

Moreover, water possesses a remarkable versatility. From delicate patterns formed by raindrops on a windowpane, to the dynamic power of waves crashing against the shore, it constantly reminds us that beauty and awe are contained in all things big and small.



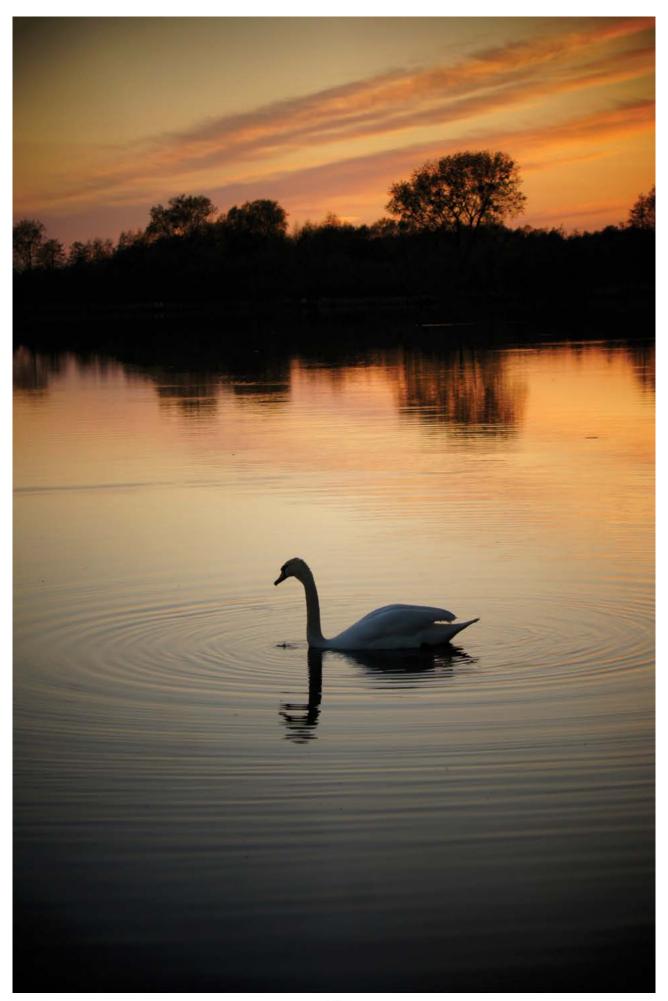
Iceland is home to gorgeous waterfalls, and Skógafoss is one of the most majestic ones. Located in southern Iceland, it is one of the biggest and grandest waterfalls in Iceland and has a drop of 60 meters and a width of 25 meters.





S ISO - 25, L - 3mm, F/1.8, S - 1/50s, 🙎 Grundarfjorour (Iceland)





















S ISO - 100, L - 37mm, F/8, S - 1/160s, 🔎 Amsterdam (Netherland)



Located along the VItava River on the bank by Kampa Park, the 34 yellow penguins are made from recycled plastic bottles, symbolizing a warning against the use of disposable plastic and highlighting the threat to their species from global warming and melting ice

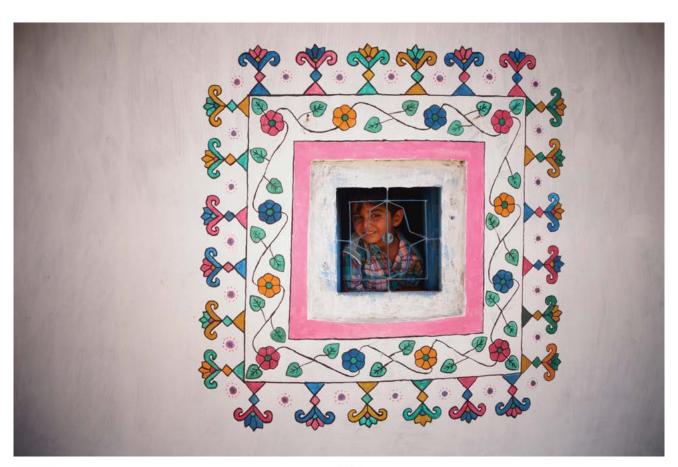


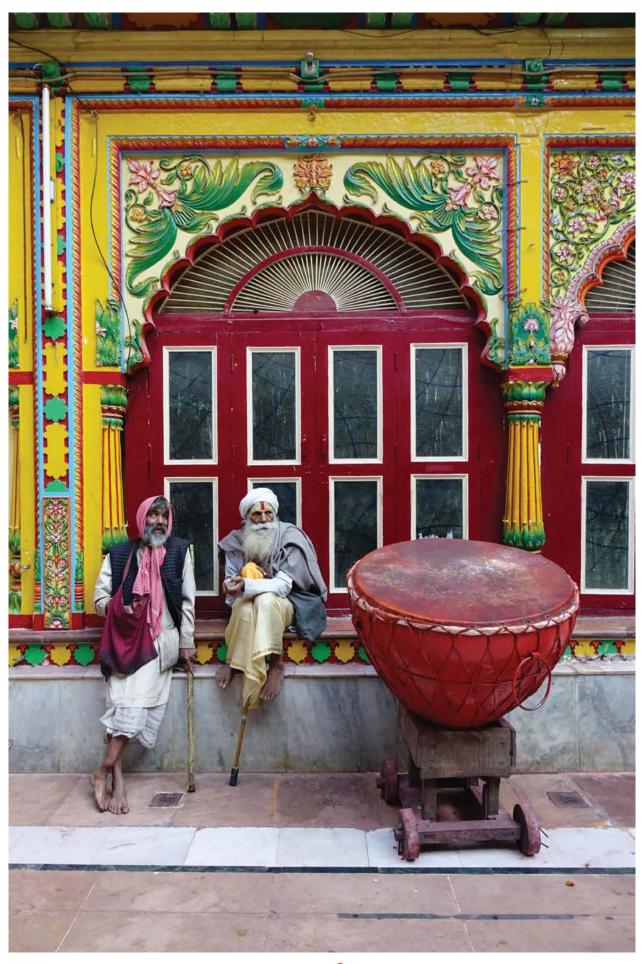
🔇 ISO - 1600, L - 16mm, F/ 2.8, S - 1/60s, 🐊 Prague (Czech Republic)

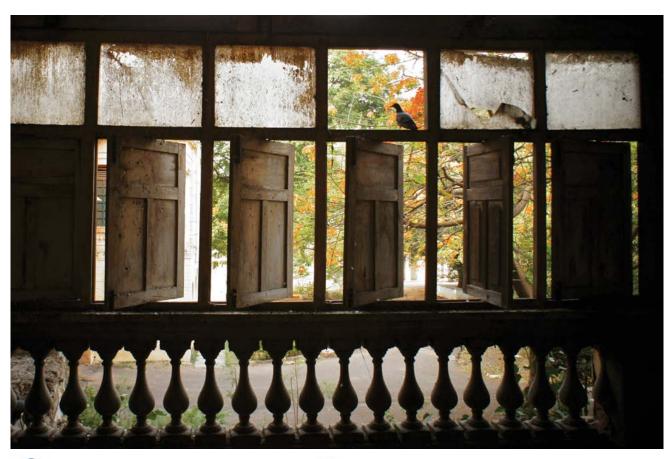




S ISO - 200, L - 55mm, F/9, S - 1/1000s, R Tel Aviv (Israel)

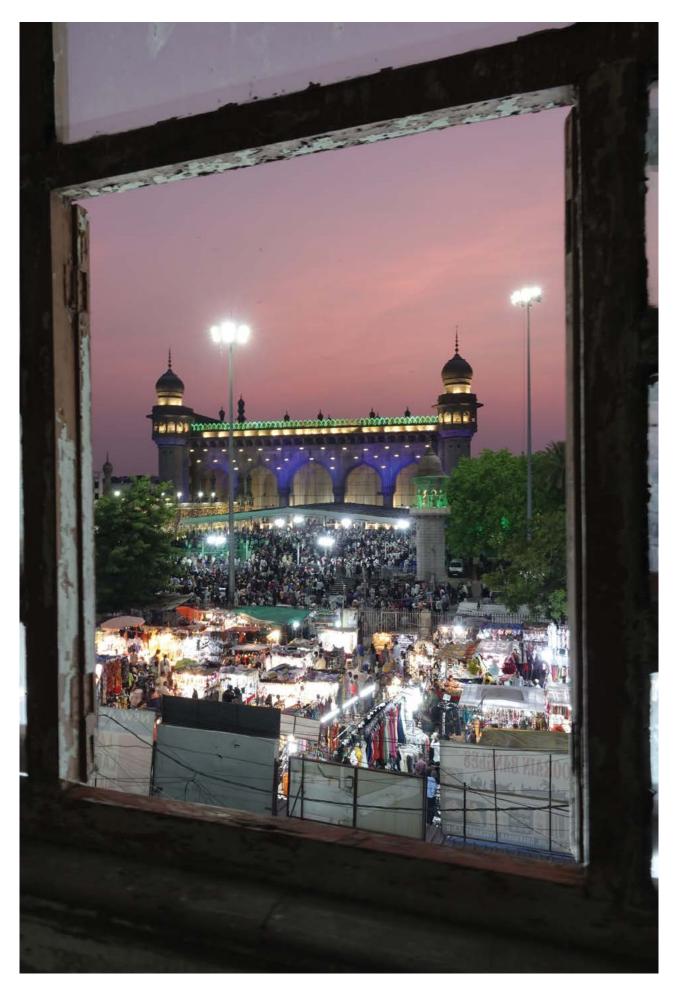






S ISO - 200, L - 16mm, F/4.5, S - 1/80s, . Hyderabad (India)







X-Factors: The Unexpected Gift

You're focused on a flower, and suddenly a butterfly lands. You're photographing a door, and a child peeks through. These unplanned moments—your "X-factors"—are what make photography magical. I've learned not to chase perfection, but to welcome surprise. That's where the soul of a photo often lives.





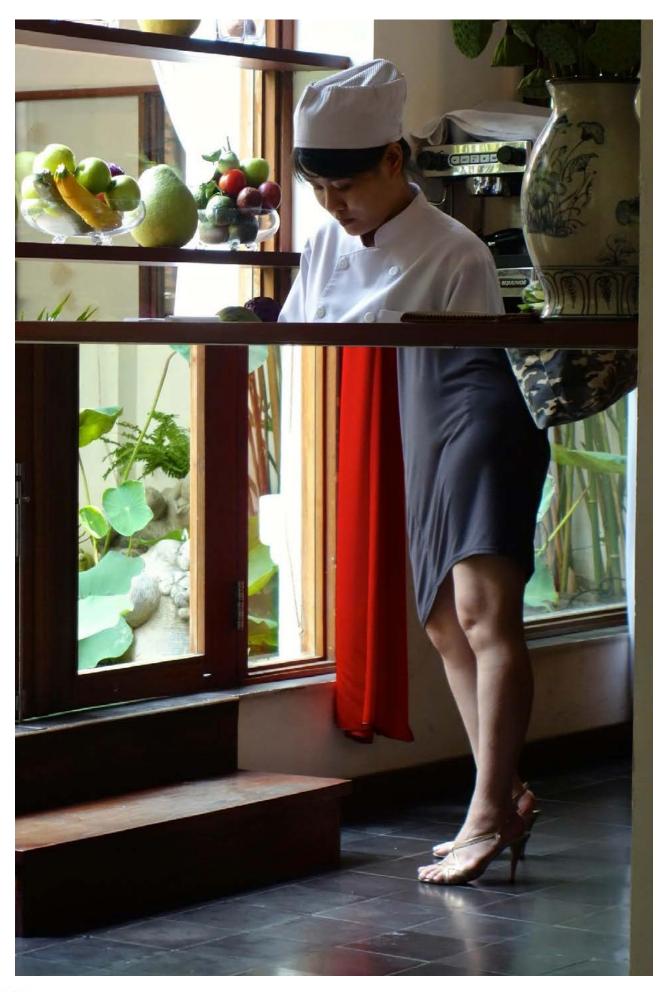


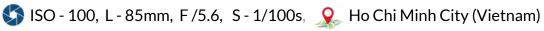




S ISO - 1600, L - 52mm, F/5.0, S - 1/200 🔒 Hyderabad (India)

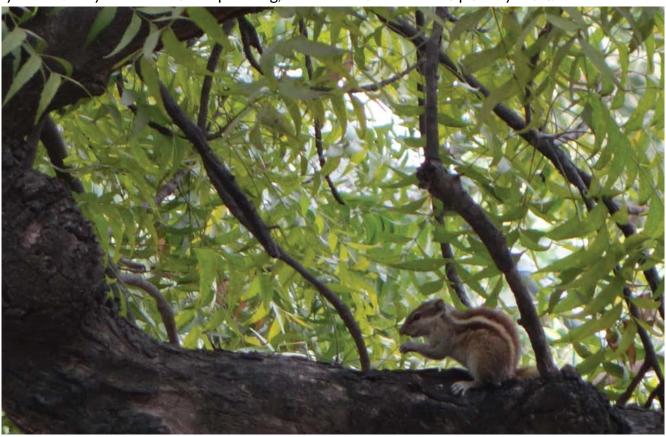






Yards: The Familiar Unseen

Your own backyard, or someone else's. We often overlook what's closest to us. A forgotten swing, overgrown grass, the way sunlight hits a garden hose—it's all photo-worthy. Yards are personal. Quietly lived in. They remind me to keep looking, even when I think I know a place by heart.



S ISO - 500, L - 37mm, F/4.9, S - 1/100s, 👤 Hyderabad (India)



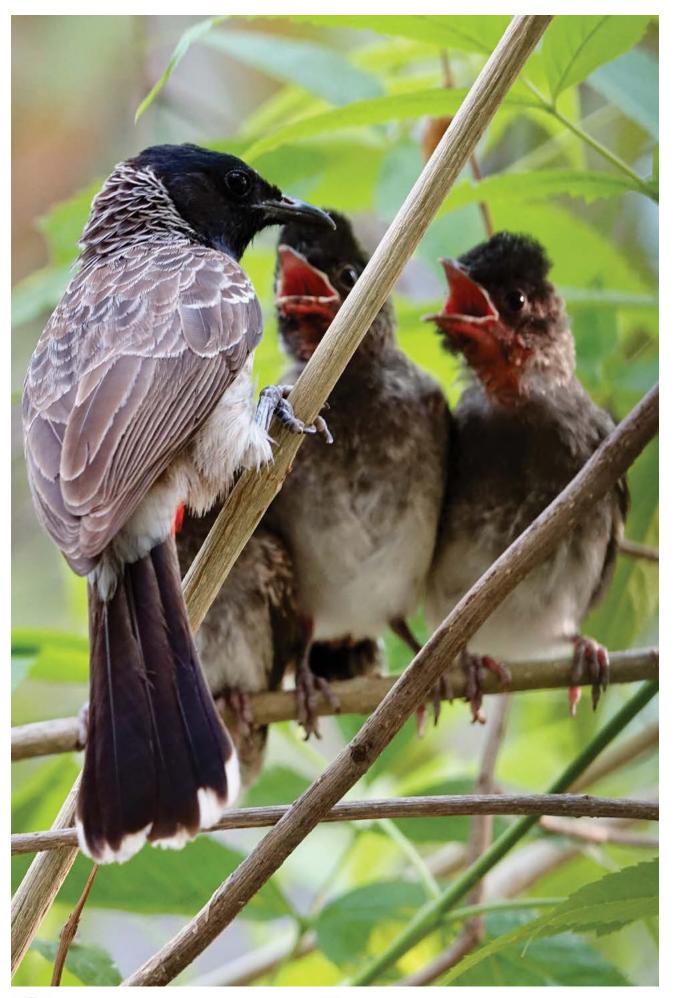






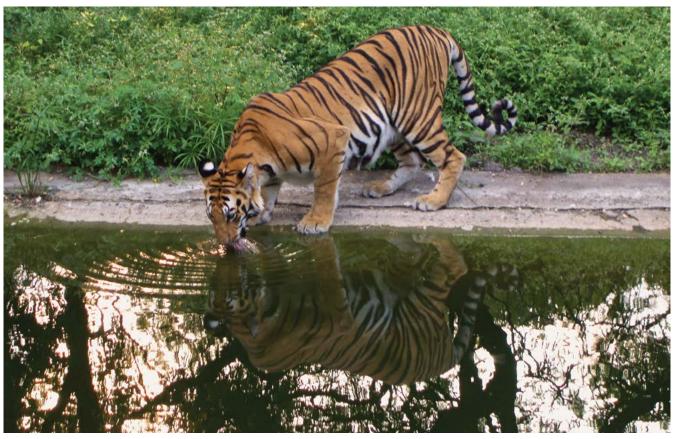
S ISO - 400, L - 46mm, F/4.5, S - 1/30s, 🔎 Hyderabad (India)





Zoos: Eyes Behind Glass

I have mixed feelings about zoos. But I can't deny the wonder in a child's eyes watching a giraffe, or the quiet dignity of a tiger pacing. Photographing animals in captivity requires care and respect. You frame to avoid the cage, to find the spirit inside the confinement. And sometimes, in the eyes of those creatures, you find something achingly real.



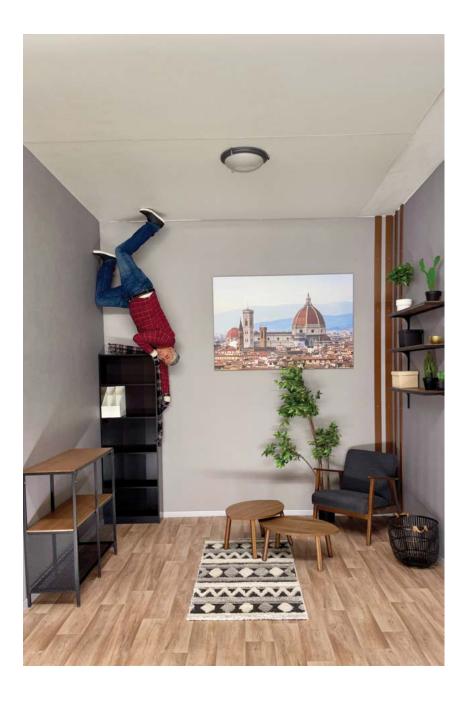
🔇 ISO - 320, L - 37mm, F /4.9, S - 1/100s, 👤 Hyderabad (India)











Epilogue

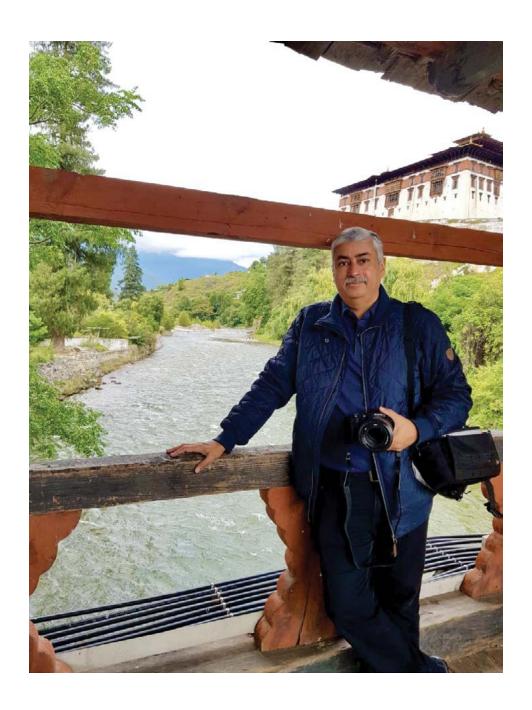
As I close this book, I think of all the frames I didn't take.

The moments that slipped by unnoticed, the shots I missed because I was laughing too hard, or because the camera was still in my bag. And strangely, I don't regret them.

Photography has taught me that not every moment needs to be captured—some are meant to be lived. What I've shared here is only a fraction of what I've seen, and what I've felt. Over four continents, across decades, through shifting seasons, the camera has been my companion, my excuse to linger, my way of saying I was here.

If these images have sparked your own memories or made you look a little longer at the world, then we've already met—somewhere between these pages.

The alphabet is complete, but the story keeps going. I'll keep looking. I hope you will too.



Gratitude to the Tools

Over the past twenty-five years, I've learned that while the eye sees and the heart feels, it is the camera that makes memory tangible. Majority of the images in this book were captured with my trusted Sony companions—the RX-10 and RX-100.

Reliable, versatile, and ever-ready, they became extensions of my vision, transforming fleeting moments into lasting frames.

The rest (less than 10%) were taken with my iPhone—a reminder that sometimes the best camera is simply the one at hand.

To Sony, I owe deep thanks for creating tools that allowed an amateur traveler like me to see the world in such vivid detail and bring it home in photographs.

Without them, many of these memories might have slipped quietly away.

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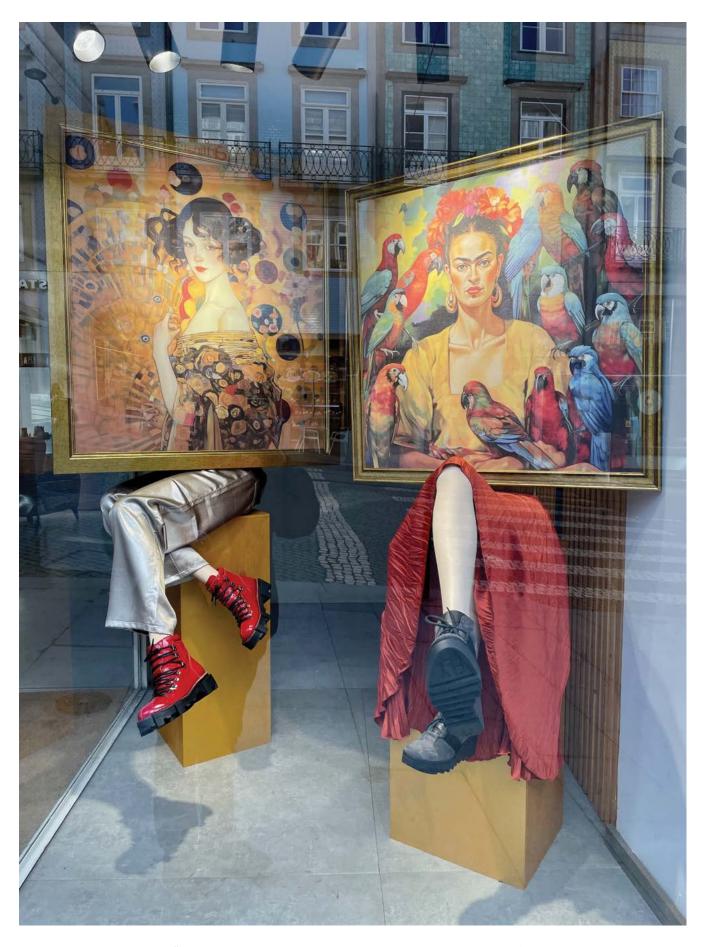
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"Idea's that kick-started my photography projects"



What began as a hobby turned into a lifelong habit—carrying a camera wherever I went. Over decades and across continents, I've gathered fragments: colours, faces, shadows, waves, and the quiet beauty of ordinary days.

This book tells those stories one letter at a time.

Somewhere in these pages, you might find a piece of your own story too.

Rajesh Pamnani www.pamnani.info (2025)





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