

DEVELOPING THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE, HEART AND MIND

INSPIRED EYE

ISSUE XXIX



TO INSPIRE AND TO BE INSPIRED BY ALL OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY

JOE BUERGI



INTERVIEW BY DON SPRINGER

Please tell us something about you, your life and interest etc.

My name is Joe Buergi and I'm from Berne, Switzerland. I work as a project manager for internet and new media for one of the biggest transportation companies in Switzerland.

I got into photography a long time ago. Now, I'm just obsessed about photography. My work is mostly in black & white.

What inspired you to become a photographer?

Traveling and photographing new places inspires me a lot. Also meeting people and getting in touch with them. The thrill of that one epic shot is another point which I am hunting for.

What age are you and at what age did you start your journey as a photographer?

I just turned 50 last October. My journey as a photography started as a kid, with one of my fathers old film cameras.

Would you mind sharing some of the things you feel helped you along the way with your photography, (lessons, workshops, books etc)....and also some of the things that may have





***hindered you that you
overcame on this journey?***

I only joined a few workshops. What I do a lot is studying other photographers work four hours.

And of course following some interesting youtube channels. I also follow a lot of photographers on facebook.

***Do you feel photography
enhances your life.
If so, how?***

Yes I do. After a stressful day at the office when I wander through the streets of my hometown I get the calm I need. This is relaxing and I can dive into another world.

***If we are speaking
specifically of
photographers, which are
the ones of the past and
present do you admire?***

Well Ansel Adams is one I really love. But also Michael Kenna, Josef Hoflehner, David Yarrow and a few others. And of course Daido Moriyama which I really admire.

***What purpose
does photography
serve for you?***

As I said before - I can dive into another world of black & white.

Do you do photography for hire or as an art form?

I do it just as a hobby for myself.

What do you do for work and how does photography fit into that?

I have a degree in engineering and work now as a project and team leader for internet and new media themes. This is a good combination, both has to do with usability and user interaction.

What Genre' of photography are you most comfortable working in?

Well, I don't know. I use to do a lot of landscapes, people photography and also street photography. I'm still on the run to figure it out which one I like most.

When you work, are you working on different series or just finding photos that fit the way you feel at the moment?

I don't go out and working on a series or a certain project. I go out and hit the shutter for whatever I like.

Can you describe a few of your trigger mechanisms that make you want to stop and shoot?





Interesting people, stunning and awesome landscapes.

How strong of a connection do you have with your subject matter and can you describe that connection?

I don't have a certain connection. I like it or I don't like it. It's that easy :-)

What are your recurring themes?

Landscapes of strong mountain scenes - dark with a lot of clouds - moody and dreamfull.

What is the distance to your subject you are most comfortable with while working?

Well street photography is often a bit complicated for me. Getting close is not very easy. I like to go closer, but I it's hard sometimes.

What is your favorite Focal Length or Field of View?

I am a 85mm guy.

What camera are you working with currently?

I own a Canon 5D and a Fujifilm X100S. Recently I bought a Sony



A7 II for my wife. I shoot a lot with that lately.

How do you see the relationship with your camera? Is it a friend, tool or whatever?

The camera is a third eye for me. Or sometimes a place to hide.

Are you self taught, educated or a little bit of both?

I am self taught with a few workshops.

How do you feel about being photographed?

I don't like it :-)

Do you like to work by yourself or to have someone with you? Please explain why.

I am always on my own when I photograph. So I can go on my own pace and stuff.

Do you listen to music while you are shooting? How do you feel the music enhances the visual experience?

No music.

Do you have a preference for images as an analog or as a digital state?

I only shoot digital.



Where in the world are you located?

Switzerland, Berne.

Where is your favorite place to work?

My favorite place is in the mountains or in far away countries.

When you're feeling somewhat slow or lost, how do you find your way back to find inspiration to get working again?

I don't have the feeling that I have to go for images. Sometimes I don't touch my camera for 10 days or so.

Do you exhibit your work in any form?

No.

Do you go to exhibitions or do so on the web?

I run a website <http://joebuergi.photography>. This is my view for the world.

Do you collect other photographers work?

Yes I buy a lot of books and ebooks for my inspiration.

How do you feel about the current state of photography?

I feel very comfortable, but I have no idea if others like what I do.







How satisfied are you in your current state of photography and what would you like to improve upon?

Good at the moment. But I like to shoot more and more in far away countries.

Can you describe how you judge the success or failure of your work?

I don't know. If I get some likes on Facebook I'm ok, if not I'm ok too.

Is there a question that you would like to answer that I haven't asked?

Not at the moment.

If you would like to make a closing statement, we'd love to hear what you have to say.

I like to mention a quote from Huineng - THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO SEE - And that says it perfectly.

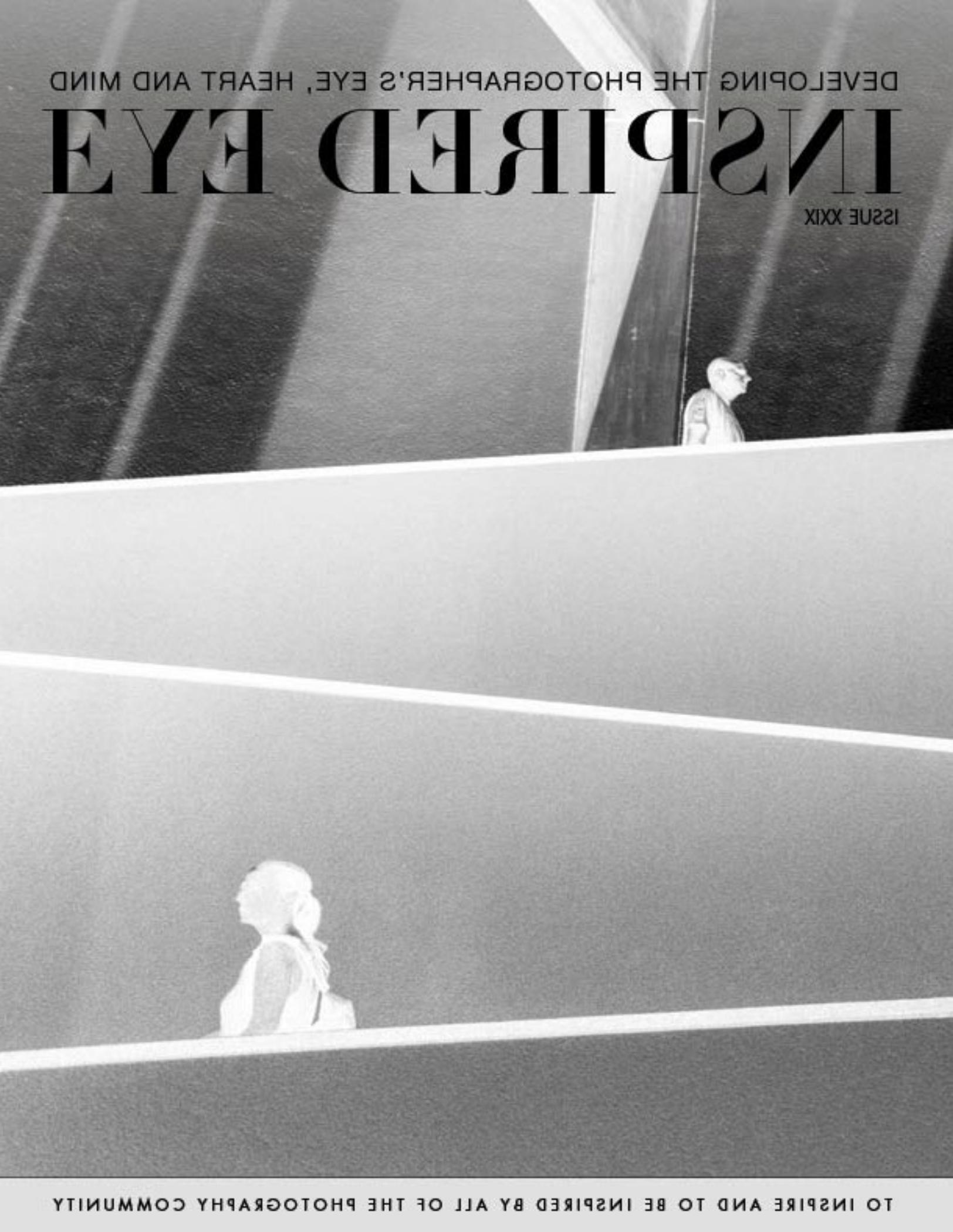
Thank you a lot for being in the magazine. It's really an honour for me.

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