

Fall Photography Project

Photography Project Websites

<http://www.photographymonthly.com/Tips-and-Techniques/Inspiration/Photography-Projects-21-great-ideas-for-creative-photos>

<http://clickitupanotch.com/2012/12/photography-project/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/12/30/13-awesome-photography-projects-for-2013/2/>

<http://content.photojojo.com/tips/7-new-year-projects/>

<http://www.5figurephotography.com/33-easy-photography-projects/>

<http://improvephotography.com/881/15-creative-photography-projects-to-get-you-shooting/>

<http://shutterstoppers.com/10-personal-photography-project-ideas/>

<http://www.beyondmegapixels.com/2012/02/10-personal-photography-project-ideas/>

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15 Creative Photography Project Ideas to Get You Shooting

 MAY 16, 2011

 [10 COMMENTS](#)



Winged Rock - Jim Harmer

You have all undoubtedly heard of the 365 project. The project encourages photographers to get out and take one picture every single day, and then to post that photo online. It is a fantastic way to improve your shooting skills; HOWEVER, I have seen so many 365 projects lately that I am beginning to wonder whether so many photographers are doing it because they want to improve their skills, or whether they are all doing it simply because they haven't discovered the unlimited number of creative photo projects that can be done.

I created this compilation of photography projects to help inspire you to get shooting.

Photography Project #1: Highlights of your life. Re-create significant moments from your life and shoot them in a series: that time Jimmy Johnson next door gave you a black eye, hiking to a lighthouse with your father,

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going off to college, getting baptized, etc. Even cooler if you have your kids step in as the actors.

Photography Project #2: One landscape. Find one location where you enjoy shooting landscapes, and then visit the location about 10 times over the course of a month. Photograph the same location in different weather conditions, different light, and using your new creative ideas each time you go.

Photography Project #3: Homelessness. Thomas Hawk is a photographer who does a \$2 homeless photo project. Whenever a poor person asks him for money, he pays them \$2 to pose for a photo. Then the person will have earned the money by working for a few minutes while the photographer shoots, and he gets great photos of interesting people. I really hate business cliches, so I'm not sure if I should call this a win-win, or synergy. Either way, it's a fantastic project.

Photography Project #4: Fairy tales. Take classic stories such as Little Red Riding Hood or other folk tales and take photos to illustrate the story.

Photography Project #5: Geophoto. Do a project to shoot the geocaching locations around your city. I guarantee you'll find fantastic new locations. If you're new to this idea, [check out this post where I explained how it works](#).

Photography Project #6: Self Portraits. Take one self-portrait each day that shows your emotions and happenings of that day. If you do this one, please keep yourself fully clothed. There are quite a few well-known female photographers on Flickr who seem to think we want to see you naked or half naked.

Photography Project #7: Your city's architecture. Go shoot the beautiful buildings around your city at all different times of the day. I bet you'll find some interesting buildings that you'd never noticed before.

Photography Project #8: Your meals. Take a picture of one meal a day for a month. Not only is this a convenient way to count calories, you can really learn lighting by learning food photography.

Photography Project #9: Food fight. No, I don't mean throwing food. I mean to let your imagination run a little wild. Imagine little stories with the food in your refrigerator and shoot photos to illustrate the tales.

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Photography Project #10: Downtown fashions. Do street photography of the most interestingly dressed people in the downtown area of your city. No matter where you live, you'll find more interesting people than you might expect. Spend several nights downtown and you're guaranteed to get some fantastic shots.

Photography Project #11: A day in the life. Find someone you find interesting and shoot their whole day. Alternatively, you could do a day in the life of a group of people. For example, you could do A Day in the Life of Brigham Young University students. If you were doing this project, you could take pictures all over campus at different hours of one day and show all the interesting things that happen there.

Photography Project #12: Photojournalism. I loved working for a short time as a photojournalist. Where will you find the news? If you live in the United States, you can download a free app for your smartphone that gives you access to the police radio channels. That will help to find interesting things! Just make sure you do it legally...

Photography Project #13: Social Issues. Find a social issue that is important to you and take photos to highlight the struggle. For example, you could do a photo project about teen obesity, the elderly, immigrant farm workers, etc.

Photography Essay Idea #14: Working hard. Think of a few interesting professions around your home and take an environmental portrait of many people while at work. You might recall [my photo shoot of a cab driver](#) last month as an example.

Photo Essay Idea # 15: The middle of the day. I see too many photographers using "I can't shoot because it's the middle of the day" as an excuse. You can make terrific photos during the day if you learn to do it right. Go shoot during your noon lunch hour for a month and you'll learn how to do it. I did this last summer every day on my lunch break and I captured a some beautiful shots.

Want to push your photography to the next level? Consider taking an [online photography class](#) with me!

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About Jim Harmer

Jim Harmer is the founder of Improve Photography, host of the popular Improve Photography Podcast, author, and photography addict.

[View all posts by Jim Harmer →](#)

10 PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT IDEAS

Wednesday, 29th February 2012

Written by: [steve](#)

By Steve Russell

If you take photography classes or attend photography school like the New York Institute of Photography or the New York Film Academy, you will be assigned photography projects. An example of one from the syllabus of the New York Film Academy is:

Conceptualize, shoot, edit, and print a cohesive, conceptually unified fine art exhibition.

The first word, conceptualize, is a very important and powerful part of a photography project. It means you know what you're going to do before you ever touch the camera. It means that every shot you take

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for the project has meaning and thought behind it. It means that you're being a photographer and not just shooting with your camera.

In the case of photography classes or school, there's a reason and purpose behind the project that's been assigned to you. Outside these venues there may be other reasons for a project. In commercial photography it's usually because a client has hired you for a specific project that they want completed for their own use. In wedding photography, like commercial photography, a client has hired you to photographically document their wedding and associated activities and events.

Where do you start with a project of this nature? The following steps should be a good beginning:

1. What's the intent of the project? – Is it artistic, journalistic or documentary?
2. What's the subject matter? – It could be a person or persons, a place or a photography discipline like landscape, macro, etc.
3. What makes it cohesive? – If it's a project it has an intent and subject matter. I say this to distinguish it from a collection of photos. Still, it all has to hang together. If it's a wedding the cohesive part, at least on the front end, is easy. But, let's envision a project that you've decided is documentary and the subject matter is landscape. Landscape alone won't make it cohesive; you have to be more precise. It could be Landscapes of Yellowstone or Sunrise in Monument Valley, or Autumn in Vermont.
4. What's the end result and format? – The digital world is wonderful. I love the digital world. It's so easy to put together a collection of photos, save them to a DVD or other storage medium, maybe put music to them and display them on a wide screen TV or on a computer. I do it all the time including on my iPad which is a wonderful tool for showing "proofs" to a client. Still, I don't think that any digital

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format carries the impact of a set of professionally produced prints presented in a book or album.

The above comments are all related to what I would call a “formal project” and I highly recommend you give it a try.

You can also undertake a photography project for your own purposes and enjoyment. Whether you aspire to a level of photography that monetarily compensates you for photography projects or not, completing a project of your own will increase your knowledge and help you to become a better photographer. You can apply much of the discipline of formal projects to any photography project for any purpose. I call these “informal projects” or “fun projects” not that formal projects can’t be fun as well. A few of these are:

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1. Project 365 (or 366 this year) where you take a photo every day of the year. This type of project has become so ubiquitous that it's almost pedestrian. Nevertheless, if you've never attempted it before it can be a wonderful project experience. After about the fifth or sixth day you really have to start thinking about what you want to photograph. Don't forget that you can also have fun with the photos like in the image above.

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2. Take a photo of a favorite prop in different locations, especially locations where the presence of the prop provides a degree of incongruity. I've seen many different props used and placed in really interesting locations – a red wooden chair in the middle of a plowed

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field, red high-heeled shoes on the dinner table, etc. In this project you can let your imagination go wild.



3. Self-portraits in many different locations and situations – For this project I would really recommend the use of a tripod and timer or remote shutter release. Looking at photographs in a mirror with the camera showing and a large washed-out area where the flash is reflected gets old very quickly. The photo above is an example although the photographer in this case captured the photo this way on purpose.

4. One of my favorites that I've even written an article about is a lifetime project – For example, if you have a young child or plan to have one in the future, photograph the child, with the parents, each year on the child's birthday. You can find the article [here](#).

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5. Find a subject or object you really like and photograph it once a month or once a week. This can be especially fun outdoors but you have to stick to the schedule regardless of the weather. Depending on the main subject rain and snow may make for an even better photo.

6. Get up close and personal with macro. You can have “tons of fun” with this in your backyard. Macro photography introduces a completely different world than we normally “see” in our day to day environment.

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7. With spring just around the corner in the northern hemisphere, now would be a great time to photograph flowers, especially wild flowers as they come into bloom.

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8. Night photography can be fun and result in some very interesting photos. Earlier this month I attended a presentation about night photography by David Wille, a Dallas, TX area photographer. He made two comments I thought were a very interesting way to explain night photography. First, in daylight photography the camera can't see all your eye can see. In night photography the camera sees more than your eye can see. Second, in daylight photography the camera is

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capturing a point in time. In night photography, because of the longer exposures, the camera is converging time. Because of this, night photography can be very rewarding.

9. When I was a child, my siblings and I would play games in the car when we were taking a long trip. One that I remember was finding words that begin with each letter of the alphabet on billboards. The words had to be in order and only one word from a billboard. Try the same approach with your camera. Each day take a photo of a subject that starts with a different letter of the alphabet, in order. One photo a day. Plan ahead so you know what day to go to the zoo to catch a zebra.

10. Take 50 posed photos of complete strangers. Posed means they know you're photographing them so you have to ask first. Street Fairs, Sidewalk Art Shows, Chili Cookoffs and other public festive events are great places for this project. Carry model release forms with you and get them to sign it. If you can get through this one, you'll be much more comfortable asking for a model release when it really matters and, who knows, it may really matter during this project.

These are only a few of the possible photography projects you can embark upon and enhance your enjoyment of photography. You can even combine some of the projects above into a single project. For example, put numbers 1 and 2 together and photograph the prop in a different location every day of the year. If you decide to work on a project, share your progress with us on our [Facebook page](#).

Photo Credits:

Day #121 My mother, wasp and wine by [mygothlaundry](#) on Flickr Creative Commons

Red Shoes in Birdcage by [sunfrog1](#) on Flickr Creative Commons

Self Portrait by [Warm sunny days](#) on Flickr Commons

Wildflower – Teazel by [Mick E. Talbot](#) on Flickr Creative Commons

Wroclaw by night by [Fergal of Claddagh](#) on Flickr Creative Commons