

FUJILOVE

ALL THINGS FUJI X

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Food Photography In The Oldest Café In The World

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I AM A STREET PHOTOGRAPHER FROM ULM, GERMANY

I initially started photography in order to shoot quality photos of my daughter back in 2013. However, there is more to it than that. I want my daughter to pick up my pictures in 20 years and recall the stories behind them.



Ulm is a small city in the south of Germany, situated on the River Danube and located between Stuttgart and Munich. It is internationally renowned for its Ulm Minster, the church with the tallest steeple worldwide. Moreover, it is the birthplace of Albert Einstein.

Founded around 850 AD, Ulm is rich in history and has a beautiful old city. Nevertheless, Ulm has recently been affected by the latest building boom. As a result, construction sites are almost everywhere. From a bird's eye view some parts of Ulm must look like a gaping wound in which modern buildings and excavators are in constant battle with the old timbered houses. To me, it feels like my hometown is struggling to keep its unique soul.

In summer 2016 I visited the photographic exhibition "Eyes Open! 100 Years Of Leica Photography". I was deeply impressed by the work of the old masters of documentary and

street photography such as Henri-Cartier Bresson, Robert Capa or Robert Frank. They all played an important role as they were all chroniclers of their time. If it had not been for those avant-gardists, we would lack the memory of how everyday life looked in the past.

The local architectural changes, noisy construction sites and frequent traffic jams inspired me to document this transition, as well as people's everyday lives. Therefore, the focus of this project will be the interaction between humans and their urban surroundings. Furthermore, this project intends to raise the awareness that it is not a must to travel to metropolises like New York, London or Paris in order to shoot the streets. I believe that inspiration can be found anywhere since the sky is the limit of human creativity.

I don't want to explain my artwork/photography. Instead, I want the city to tell the story itself. It was for this reason that I started my long-term photography project titled 'My hometown'.





During the planning stage of this project, I did some groundwork by checking the legal situation regarding street photography in Germany. These restrictions cause an extra challenge as they force me to limit myself. For instance, I have to capture backlit subjects that appear as silhouettes or are blurred by motion in order to be in accordance with the law. In addition, I got myself business cards. Thus, I could easily introduce myself to pedestrians as a street photographer in case someone were to be identifiable in one of my shots.

My artist's signature is emphasised by the gear that I work with. I prefer using the 35mm and 50mm equivalent lenses. The 35mm focal length provides the opportunity to get close to my subjects and at the same time leave enough background to tell a visual story. On the other hand, the 50mm focal length allows me to maintain a certain distance to my subject. The gear I am mostly using in this project is my X-T1 equipped with either the XF23mm f2 or XF35mm f2, and my beloved X100T. However, over time, the X100T became my go-to camera mainly because of its compact size and unobtrusive nature. After some substantial use I got comfortable with working predominantly with the 35mm focal length.

