

Try: The corner of a painted sign, cropped tightly; Ripples on a canal or harbour; Railings, stairs or scaffolding seen from below.

Shot tip. Move closer, change your angle or focus on a small detail. Look for shapes, lines, colours and textures that become something entirely different when removed from their original context. The aim is to make an image that invites you to look, rather than immediately recognise what you're seeing.

As you go about your day, look for something you can photograph in a way that makes it unrecognisable. Turn the familiar into something unexpected.

Abstraction

01

Try: Layers of torn posters on a hoarding; Graffiti painted over again and again; Weathered shutters on an old shopfront.

Shot tip. Look for light falling across the surface from the side to reveal its texture and depth. Move around, experiment with your angle and notice how colours, marks and layers come together to form an abstract composition.

Find a surface that tells a story: peeling paint, torn posters, weathered plaster or layers of graffiti. Look for the marks left behind by time, weather and human activity.

Texture

02

Try: Commuters crossing a station concourse; Scooters through a busy intersection; Water in a fountain or a river.

Shot tip. Slow your shutter to around 1/15 second, brace against a wall, and photograph people walking, traffic or water. Keep one thing sharp: a sign, a doorway, a person standing still.

Let something move while you stay still.

Motion

03

Try: Buildings upside down in a puddle; A street layered over a shop window; The sky on a car roof or bonnet.

Shot tip. Focus on the reflection, not the surface it's in. After rain, crouch low so a puddle fills the bottom of the frame.

Photograph the world in something else: a puddle, a shop window, a car door.

Reflections

04

05

Ordinary

Make the most ordinary thing you'll see today look worth a second look.

Shot tip. Slow down and walk around your subject. Try it from below, from above and from very close, then pick the angle nobody usually sees it from.

06

Closer

Get closer than feels comfortable. Then take one more step.

Shot tip. Look for details you might usually overlook: a crack in a wall, the texture of fabric, the curve of a leaf or the marks on someone's hands. Experiment with distance and perspective to reveal something unexpected in an otherwise familiar subject.

Try: The weave of a basket at a market; A stallholder's hands at work (ask first); Lichen on an old stone wall.

Try: Your room key on the bedside table; The bus stop outside where you're staying; Washing hung from a balcony.

How to use this zine

Take it on a walk or a trip. Try one prompt a day, or all six in an afternoon.

Make ten frames of each prompt, then keep the one you'd put on your wall.

Slow down. The aim isn't to photograph more, it's to notice more.

See my work

These prompts come from my own practice. If you'd like to see where they lead, my photographs are on my website and Instagram.

WEB www.bron-eager.com
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A pocket guide to travel photography

Six prompts for looking closely, wherever you are

by Bron Eager