

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

September 22, 2006

FAQ: Do I take pictures every day

Filed under: [FAQ's](#) — alecsothblog @ 12:17 pm

In my post asking for [requests](#), Eric asks:

I'm curious about your photographic rhythms. Do you shoot every day with some kind of camera or do you go many days without touching a camera of any kind? If you take a break from your photography, do you find returning renews your energy and eye or slows you down while you try to recapture your rhythms?

I don't come close to shooting every day. For better or worse, I don't carry a camera with me everywhere I go. I liken my process to that of filmmaking. First I conceive of the idea. Then I do pre-production and fundraising. Then shooting. Then editing. Then distribution (books and galleries). As with most filmmakers, the shooting takes just a fraction of my time.

4 Comments

1. Can you go a little into what pre-production would include..?

Comment by Theodore Williams — September 24, 2006 @ [5:03 am](#)

2. [...] Photographing Like a Filmmaker If you carry a camera almost everywhere like I do, you might be interested in this post on Alec Soth's blog in which he details how he photographs like a filmmaker. Soth doesn't carry a camera everyday, but rather plans his projects from concept, funding, shooting, and publication. I'm not actually a huge fan of Soth's photography, but I can appreciate how well he thinks out and executes his ideas. I've been thinking about this topic off and on for a while now. Carrying a camera everyday has become something of a crutch for me. I get some cool shots of random things, but its one of the things preventing me from taking on bigger projects. Processing all those random shots takes up time and just enough of them are good enough that I can get those warm fuzzy feeling for a job well done. This is a pale substitute for a coherent portfolio, a published book, fortune, and fame beyond my wildest imagination. Perhaps I should stop carrying a camera everyday. [...]

Pingback by www.1pt4.com | [The Blog » Archive » Photographing Like a Filmmaker](#) — September 27, 2006 @ [9:16 pm](#)

3. Seems to me like a good method, or at least a method I have found useful as well. I, personally, find lugging a camera around all the time to be more trouble than its worth both in the extra bulk and expense of film. And especially since I just moved up from 4x5 to 8x10. But, I am sure, for some Photographers/artists their work method (I imagine Nan Golden to be this way) may be to nearly attach a camera to their forehead and let life pass in front of it.

Comment by [Harlan Erskine](#) — September 28, 2006 @ [12:18 am](#)

4. The funniest part about this post is while in Grad school a classmate said I wasn't a photographer because I approach photography in much the same way you do. Ah yes good times those were.

Comment by Ryan Adrick — March 14, 2007 @ [6:09 pm](#)