

My Passion for Photography – Will Cheung FRPS

Will has been involved in photography magazines, editing several leading titles over a period of 30 years and is currently editor of Photography News. He has been taking pictures for even longer and is happy to say he is a specialist at being a non-specialist.

While he appreciates that many photographers stick with one or two subjects throughout their career with a camera, Will prefers to enjoy a broad range of subject matter.

“I don’t label myself a landscape photographer nor a people photographer nor a street photographer. I’m a photographer, pure and simple, who just loves taking pictures,” he explains. “For me, it’s that straightforward and all I do is give myself as many reasons as I can to get me out with the camera.”

These reasons come in the form of self imposed projects, usually without any predetermined time limit. “These projects can last a day, a few weekends or several years - or until I get bored. I have a project on photographing the country’s piers,” he says, “and this has been in progress for nearly two years. To date I’ve visited 30 piers but I am only happy with my shots from 25 of them so that means a return visit to get what I want. The thing is you don’t always get the weather, tidal conditions and the light so that means the effort and cost of going back.”

“Setting myself projects means I am rarely short of something to photograph and ultimately my aim is to enjoy myself with the camera. If I had a secondary interest such as steam trains, nature or airplanes, I might have specialized but I don’t, so I simply try to shoot pictures I am pleased with - and that is a big enough challenge which keeps me fresh and motivated.”

Currently, Will has ongoing longer term projects on London’s DLR railway and the Appleby horse fair but other themes he is working on include brollies, phone and camera users among many others.

His talk goes into his photographic philosophy and features a wide range of his project work, old and new, from street and portraits to urban and landscape, covering a variety of different approaches. It is sure to inspire everyone keen on photography.