

John Barclay
Discovery & The Creative Choice
Lecture Notes

<http://barclayphoto.com>

Key Concepts

- Do not worry about what others are seeing and or doing. TRUST in your own vision.
- AVOID feeling inadequate. What others are feeling, doing or seeing is about THEM not about you. Be well with where you are in your journey, learning from others along the way.
- Recognize we bring to the act of photography F.U.D. Fears uncertainty and doubt.
- Think beyond the handshake.
- Do not let anyone tell you what you can or can't do. Break the rules is you must!
- Be careful of expectations
- When you arrive at a location ask yourself questions that might help you understand what it is you are being drawn to.
- Be still and let the images come to you.
- Be open to the gifts offered to you.
- Pick subjects outside of your comfort zone and assign projects.
- Spend time and be patient with what you are drawn to. You'll find more.
- Think in terms of a Folio
- There is almost always more than one right answer.
- Add to your visual memory bank
- Develop your vision.
- Work on your technique
- Know your equipment

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Quotes from Discovery & The Creative Choice

“You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, and the people you have loved” - Ansel Adams

“Do just once what others say you can't do and you will never pay attention to their limitations again.” James Cook

“I believe we should photograph what makes our hearts sing!” John Barclay

“Gear is good, vision is better”. David DuChemin

“The best camera is the one you have with you!” Chase Jarvis

“The next best image is right where you are.” Unknown

“What if no one has ever seen this before? How can I share its beauty?” Bill Strom

“With Color we look at the photograph. With black & white we look into the photograph.” Unknown

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“A photograph is neither taken nor seized by force. It offers itself up.” Henry Cartier-Bresson

“Photography is more than a medium for factual communication of ideas. It is a creative art”. Ansel Adams

“The limitations of photography are in yourself, for what we see is only what we are.” Ernst Haas

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” Henry David Thoreau

“You have experiences and talents exclusive to you, trust (BELIEVE) them”. Stephen R. Covey

“Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they are great because of their passion” Martha Graham

“To take a photography is to align the head, the eye and the heart. Its a way of life” Henri Cartier-Bresson

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"Develop your vision; master the technical aspects; but above all, engage your heart.

Connecting with your emotions will allow your images to sing!" John Barclay

"Be Still and let the images come to you" John Barclay

"Be open to the gifts offered to you" John Barclay

"The miracle is not to walk on water. The Miracle is to walk on the earth in the present moment and appreciate the peace and beauty that are available now." Thich Nhat Hanh

"I just walk around, observing the subject from various angles until the picture elements arrange themselves into a composition that pleases my eye." Andre Kertesz

"Cameras don't create images, you do!" John Barclay

"There is not necessarily one right answer, however, there is almost always another right answer." John Barclay

"Your best image is our next image" Dan Sniffin

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“The Voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”

Marcel Proust

“What is vision? It is the sum total of my life experiences that makes me see the world in a particular way. Because my experiences are different than yours, my vision will be different than yours. And since my vision is based on my experiences, it will change with time. Vision is what makes me see an image that others may not see, or see it differently. Have you viewed a great image that was created where you had never been before? I used to wonder why someone else could see that image and I could not, I believe it's because we have different visions. The good news is that it works both ways and sometimes you'll see an image where others do not. The important point is that you should pursue your vision and not try to see what others see.” Cole Thompson

“We need to understand technique so well, that we are freed from its constraints and liberated to pursue our vision.” John Barclay

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