

Mark Cohen

A desarmonia harmoniosa de Shooting from the hip.

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Abstract

Mark Cohen is a photographer that at the beginning of the 1960s, developed a new approach to street photography. By refusing to use of the viewfinder, and simultaneously using flash on daylight circumstances, he developed a new possibility of expression on photography. This process based on the trial and error street photography procedure, allowed Mark Cohen to developed a new aesthetic approach on photography, based on a half random process. To achieve his goal, Mark Cohen needs to approach physically his subjects on a very short distance. This fact, plus the use of flash, makes this working method very aggressive and intrusive towards the photographed persons. The result of this radical new approach to street photography is a body of work of very dynamic compositions of cut bodies, often at the level of the head. Because it is an intrusive method, and the results include in its majority cut bodies, the common sense, and the aesthetics of the 1960s, considered at the beginning, the procedure and its results disharmonious. However, due to its quality and innovation, the body of work created in this way by Mark Cohen, is now considered a new and valued aesthetic approach, and a harmonious principle, as it happens usually with all the artistic avant-garde movements.

Keywords: Photography, flash, intrusive, cut.