



[DiNA ALFASi \(@dinalf\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

## **DiNA ALFASi uses Her Work Commute to Snap Portraits of Strangers with Her iPhone**

Many of us commute on public transportation and wish that the minutes would fly by. [Dina Alfasi](#) makes the most of this typically boring experience with her creative pursuits. Based in Israel, she spends plenty of time riding buses or trains to get to her engineering job at a hospital. During these trips, she pulls out her iPhone and captures compelling moments in the everyday lives of strangers. Alfasi's iPhone photos depict quiet portraits of people as

they try to pass the time. Many of her subjects stare out the window and appear deep in thought. Their stillness allows Alfasi to carefully compose her images so that they are elevated from quick snapshots into the realm of fine art photography. They showcase a range of emotions and moods, from hope to determination to sadness to boredom. Edited to highlight their deep shadows and an exquisite desaturated colour palette, it's beyond what we might expect from photography on a smartphone

This habit of photographing people in transit has extended beyond her daily commute. She has also snapped pictures of folks traveling on airplanes, and Alfsai's portfolio is peppered with people who are out and about on city streets.



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Memphis Tricycle © William Eggleston

## Why This Photograph is Worth \$578,500

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Last week, a collection of 36 prints by William Eggleston was [sold for \\$5.9 million at auction](#). The [top ten list of most expensive photographs ever sold](#) doesn't contain a single work worth less than a cool million. Just a few months ago, Andreas Gursky's 'Rhine II' [became the world's most expensive photograph](#), selling for \$4.3 million. Every time news like this reaches the Internet, the comments sections of photography blogs explode with righteous indignation. The common sentiment in these reactions seems to be that the art world is populated by rich fools buying the emperor's new clothes. Some commenters underscore this idea by expressing how unremarkable they think the photograph in question is, or how it fails technically or esthetically. In the case of the recent Eggleston auction, the photograph 'Memphis (Tricycle)' that sold for \$578,500 was dismissed by several commenters as a snapshot that 'any fool with a camera could have taken'.

Whenever I read those comments I imagine how frustrating it must be to have such a limited and cynical understanding of how art is valued. It must seem like the world has gone mad. But while it is probably true that not everyone in the art world is equally sane, there are in fact some sound reasons why some photographs are more valuable than others. Once you understand what those reasons are, your appreciation of art will grow and the frustration will go away.

© David Cohen de Lara



Stray Dog, Misawa 1971 © Daido Moriyama

## Daido Moriyama wins the 2019 Hasselblad Award

written by [Diane Smyth](#)

Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama has won the 2019 Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, which is worth SEK1,000,000 (approximately £80,700). Moriyama will now have a show at the Hasselblad Center in Gothenburg this autumn, and a new book of his work will be published by Walther König.

Born in Osaka in 1938, Moriyama studied photography under Takeji Iwamiya before moving to Tokyo in 1961 to work as an assistant to Eikoh Hosoe. Producing a series of images titled *Nippon gekijō shashinchō* [published in English as *Japan: A Photo Theater*], Moriyama created an impressionistic take on the dark side of urban life that soon became synonymous with *Provoke* magazine, a publication he helped produce in 1969. Celebrating images that were “are, bure, bokeh” [“grainy/rough, blurry, and out-of-focus”], and giving a critical view of post-war Japan, *Provoke* was short-lived but profoundly influential both at home and abroad.

## DPS WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- 2nd Speaker: Mike Fuller - Smartphone Photography: Snapseed demo and The DPS Newsletter.
- 9th Competition (Print) - OPEN MONOCHROME - Judge: Malcolm Sales.
- 16th Members evening - 10 in 10
- 23rd Guest Speaker: David Lowe - A guide to Long Exposure Photography.
- 30th Members' Travelogues or Personal Projects - Linda (and Bob) - South America; John Lewis - Fast Jets in Wales.

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Jaguar Cup Competition - May 21st  
Hollis Trophy Entry Deadline - Sunday 29th September  
Badby Challenge Cup - November 19th

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## DPS COMPETITION THEMES 2019-20

April - **Open Monochrome Print** - as usual  
May - **Shop Windows** - projected  
June - **The Colour Orange** - projected  
July - **Long Exposure - Print**  
August - **Open Untouched** - Straight from the camera - Projected  
September - **Fish (Dead or Alive)** - Projected  
October - **Borrowed Art - Print**  
November - **Creative** - The Peter Cosentino Trophy - Projected  
December - **Curves** - Projected  
January 2020 - **Open - Panel of 3 Prints**  
February 2020 - **Food** - Projected

**If you have anything that might be of interest to fellow members then speak to Mike or just send an email, if you have a comment on the content then pass it on.**

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