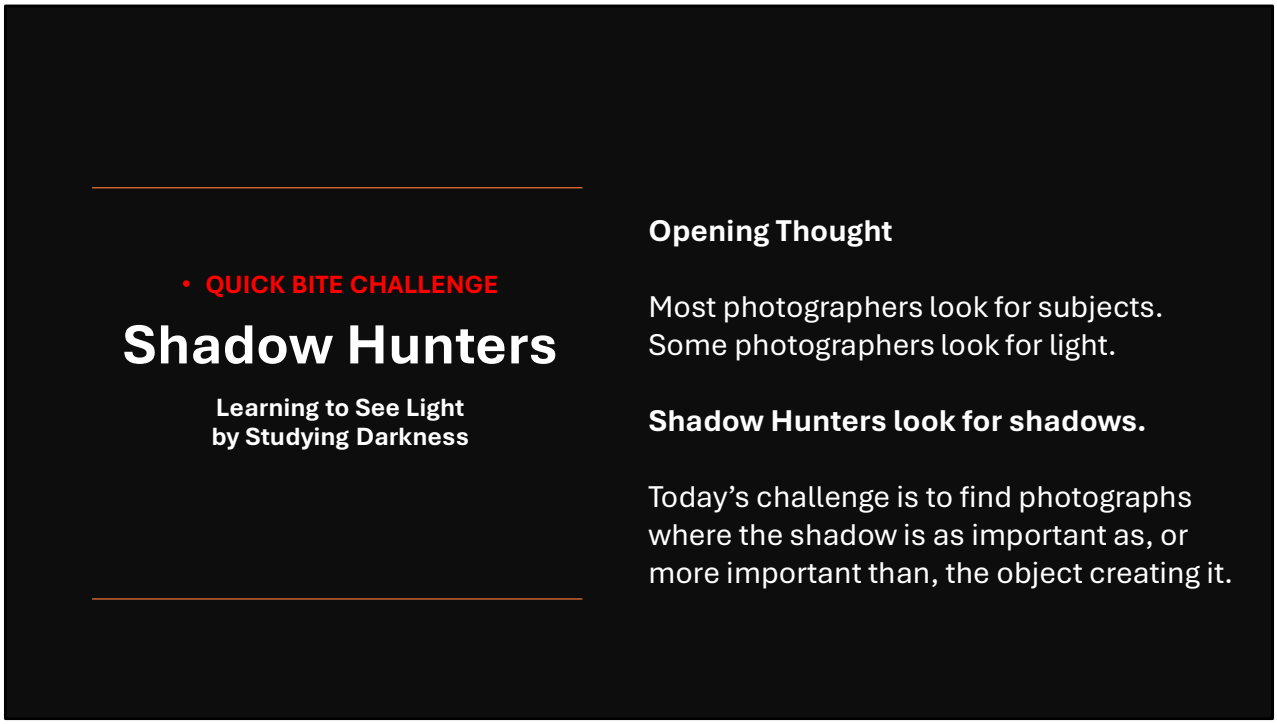



## Opening Thought

Most photographers look for subjects.
Some photographers look for light.

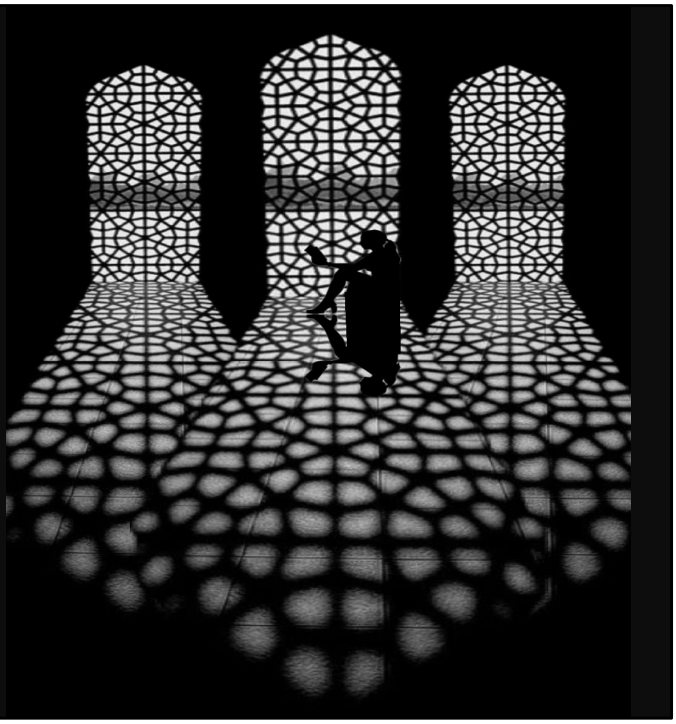
## Shadow Hunters look for shadows.

Today's challenge is to find photographs where the shadow is as important as, or more important than, the object creating it.

• QUICK BITE CHALLENGE

# Shadow Hunters

**Learning to See Light**
**by Studying Darkness**



**Opening Thought**

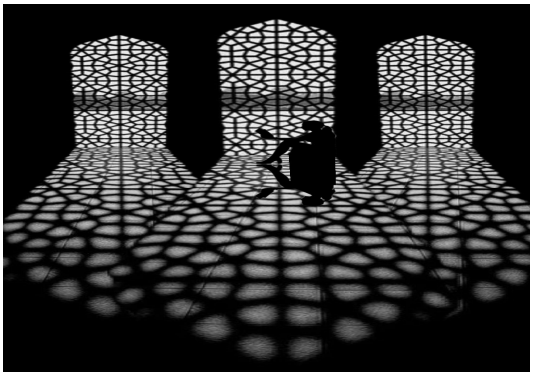
Most photographers look for subjects.
Some photographers look for light.

**Shadow Hunters look for shadows.**

Today's challenge is to find photographs where the shadow is as important as, or more important than, the object creating it.

**Welcome To The Shadow Hunter Challenge**

- There are 5 Core Challenges
- Plus 1 Bonus Challenge
- Submit one image per challenge
- Enter as many challenges as you wish



This challenge is designed to help you look at shadows differently.

There are five core challenges and one bonus challenge for those who enjoy pushing themselves a little further.

You can enter as many challenges as you like.

One challenge.

Three challenges.

All six challenges.

The choice is entirely yours.

However, there is one rule.

For each challenge, submit only your single best photograph.

Choose the one image that best represents your interpretation of that challenge.

Remember, this is not about camera equipment.

It is not about advanced editing.

It is about observation.

The aim is to develop the habit of seeing shadows creatively.

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Not ten photographs.

Not a contact sheet.

Not three versions of the same image.

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**Challenge 1 - The Shadow Becomes The Subject**

Photograph a shadow.

The object creating it should be secondary or absent.



This is perhaps the purest Shadow Hunter challenge.

Most photographs show an object and include its shadow.

For this challenge we reverse the process.

The shadow becomes the star of the photograph.

The object casting the shadow can be:

- partly visible / barely visible / completely absent

The viewer should be drawn first to the shadow itself.

Think of:

Bicycles / railings / signs / trees / people

Ask yourself:

"What would happen if I removed the original object from the frame?"

If the photograph remains interesting, you're on the right track.

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**Challenge 2 - A Touch Of Mystery**

Create a photograph that raises questions.

Give the viewer something to wonder about.



Shadows are wonderful storytellers.

Not because they reveal everything.

Because they hide things.

For this challenge, create a photograph containing mystery.

Leave part of the story untold.

Leave something unseen.

Leave the viewer wondering:

What happened?

Who was there?

What's around the corner?

What created that shape?

The strongest images often tell only part of the story.

Your challenge is to let the viewer complete the rest.

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**Challenge 3 - Shadows As Design**

Use shadows to create:

- Patterns / Repetition / Geometry / Abstract Shape



For this challenge, forget about objects.

Think like a designer.

Look for:

- Lines / curves / triangles / circles / repeating shapes

Architecture is often a great place to start.

Railings, fences, stairs and windows all create fascinating patterns.

If somebody looked at your photograph and asked:

"What am I looking at?"

that is not necessarily a bad thing.

Abstraction can be very powerful.

This challenge is about shape rather than subject.

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**Challenge 4 - Follow The Shadow**

- Use shadows as leading lines.
- Guide the viewer through the image.



Leading lines are one of the oldest photographic techniques.

Roads do it.

Paths do it.

Rivers do it.

But shadows can do it too.

Look for shadows that:

- Point / guide / connect

The shadow should lead the viewer's eye towards the subject.

Think of it as creating a visual pathway through the photograph.

A good photograph guides the viewer without them even realising it.

This challenge is all about directing attention.

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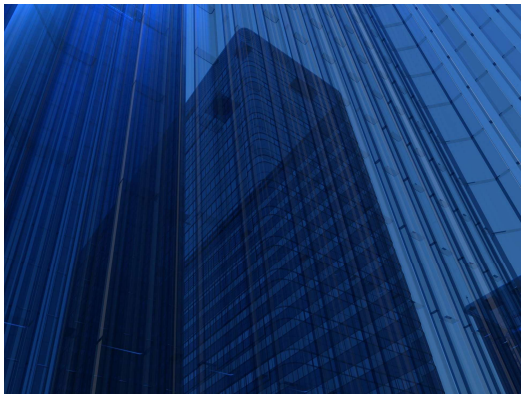
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**Challenge 5 - Architecture And Light**

- Photograph a building's shadows.
- Not necessarily the building itself.



Buildings are shadow machines.

Throughout the day they create changing patterns of light and darkness.

For this challenge, look for:

- Walls / windows / columns / staircases / modern architecture / historic buildings

Try to make the shadow the important element.

The photograph does not need to show the whole building.

Sometimes the strongest image comes from a tiny portion of a much larger structure.

Think geometry.

Think shape.

Think design.

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**Bonus Challenge - Midday Madness**

- Photograph between 11am and 2pm
- Use harsh sunlight creatively



Most photographers avoid midday sunlight.

Shadow Hunters embrace it.

This bonus challenge asks you to work during what many photographers consider the worst time of day.

Your mission is to prove them wrong.

Look for:

- strong contrast / hard shadow edges / graphic shapes / dramatic patterns

The harsher the shadows, the better.

This challenge is often surprisingly difficult.

Yet it frequently produces some of the most striking photographs.

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**Shadow Hunter Challenge Rules**

- Enter as many challenges as you wish.
- Submit one image per challenge.
- Colour or monochrome accepted.
- Any camera accepted.
- Minimal or creative post-processing permitted.



**Core Challenges**

**1. The Shadow Becomes The Subject** Make the shadow the most important element.

**2. A Touch Of Mystery** Use shadows to hide part of the story.

**3. Shadows As Design** Create patterns, geometry or abstraction.

**4. Follow The Shadow** Use shadows as leading lines.

**5. Architecture And Light** Use shadows created by buildings or structures.

**Bonus Challenge**

**6. Midday Madness** Photograph between 11am and 2pm using harsh sunlight creatively.

**Remember**

Don't look for subjects.

Look for light.

Then look for what the light leaves behind.

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Don't look for subjects.
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**Final Thoughts**

- One photograph per challenge.
- Enter as many challenges as you wish.
- Have fun.
- Become a Shadow Hunter.



Let's finish with an important reminder.

This challenge is not about winning.

It is not about perfection.

It is not even about producing your greatest photograph.

It is about learning to see.

The real prize is discovering interesting shadows you would normally walk straight past.

Submit one photograph for each challenge you attempt.

Choose your strongest image.

Take your time.

Look carefully.

Experiment.

Be curious.

And most importantly, enjoy the process.

Because once you begin noticing shadows, you may find they are everywhere.

Happy hunting.


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