

How Emelia Heisey captures elusive moments

How we want to freeze and preserve the elusive moments of our lives. How we want to keep the imprints of our joys and first victories. How we would like to catch smiles, laughter, and tears of happiness and turn to them when we are sad, when we are happy, and simply when we begin to forget...

Catcher in the eye

Emelia Madelyn Heisey, a student at Penn State University Capital Campus, has a deep passion for photography. Her journey into the world of photography began in high school, and as the years passed, she decided to wholeheartedly pursue this passion.

Emelia's love for photography extends to both film photography and the art of spontaneous capture, which is often referred to as candid photography. For her, it is more than just a hobby, it is a way to freeze moments in time and tell stories through her lens.



Emelia sitting in her living-room

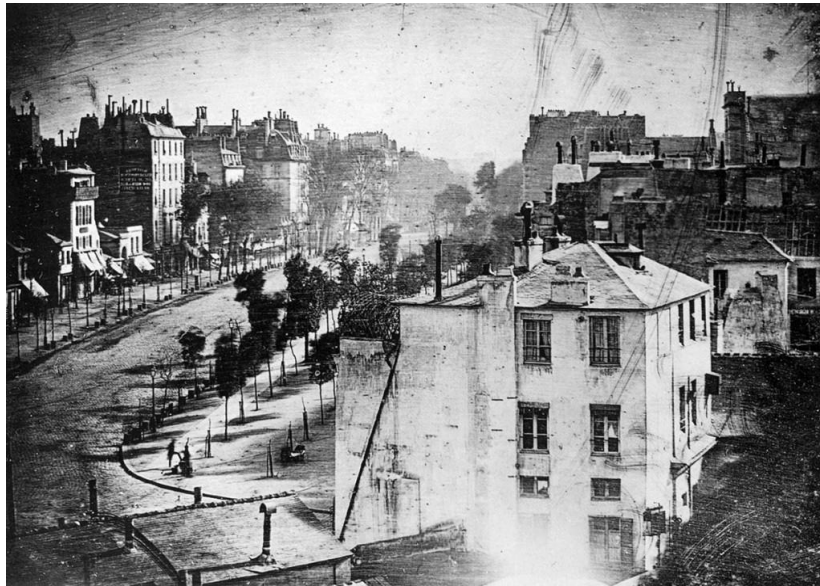
"I got into photography because it was a way to freeze moments in time and preserve memories. As the youngest of my family, I wasn't around for every adventure and I don't remember all of my relatives, but my family saved photos and put them in photo albums. I was able to feel connected to the family I've never met and witness everything that I missed out on".

As she looked through these family photographs, she felt a deep connection with relatives she had never seen. The pictures, carefully preserved in family albums allowed her to relive the past, capturing smiles, places, and the shared love that defined her family in those moments long before she came into the world. She realised that photography had the power to immortalise those fleeting moments and ensure that they would be remembered for generations to come.

Discovering the world's first street photo

Have you ever wondered how the very first photograph came to be? The story begins with a picture called ["Boulevard du Temple in Paris"](#), taken by Louis Daguerre. This photograph is

special because it's considered the first one to include a human figure. In the early days of photography, capturing moving subjects was quite a challenge. Exposure times were long, often lasting several minutes. As a result, people and objects in motion seemed to vanish from photographs, making city scenes look empty.



The first street photo in history made by Louis Daguerre

(Source: <https://www.unjourdeplusaparis.com/en/paris-insolite/premiere-photo-etre-humain-paris-en-1838>)

However, “Boulevard du Temple” changed this. In the photo, a shoe shiner and a client stood still for about ten minutes, allowing their images to be captured. This marked a significant milestone in the history of photography. It paved the way for street photography to capture everyday moments, events, and more, preserving precious slices of history.

First steps in capturing the essence

What was Heisey's path to photography? Her mother played a pivotal role in cultivating her love for storytelling through the lens of a photo camera. A passionate cinephile, her mother's love for narratives and film possibly sparked her daughter's interest in capturing stories through the art of photography.

"My brother bought me my first camera as a Christmas present because I showed interest in our family vacation one year," - this gift marked a turning point, opening the door to her burgeoning journey as a photographer.

Determined to improve her photography skills, Heisey discovered that her high school offered a photography class. However, this class was only available to older students. Her passion for photography was so strong that she approached her teachers and requested early entry into this class. Her teachers, recognizing her dedication and enthusiasm, agreed to make an exception.

Heisey's brothers and sisters shared an incredible closeness with her, united by a web of common interests and passions. Movies, television shows, art, love for animals, and of course - photography - were the threads that bound them tightly together. In the eyes of many, her family is a testament to what it truly means to be close. It's not just about blood ties, but also about shared experiences, laughter, and dreams that bind them together.



Emelia and her family

Her photographic journey was driven by a desire to connect with her family's history even more, preserve the fleeting moments, and find the beauty in the authenticity of candid photography. It was a means of bridging generational gaps and keeping the memories that would otherwise fade into the mists of time.

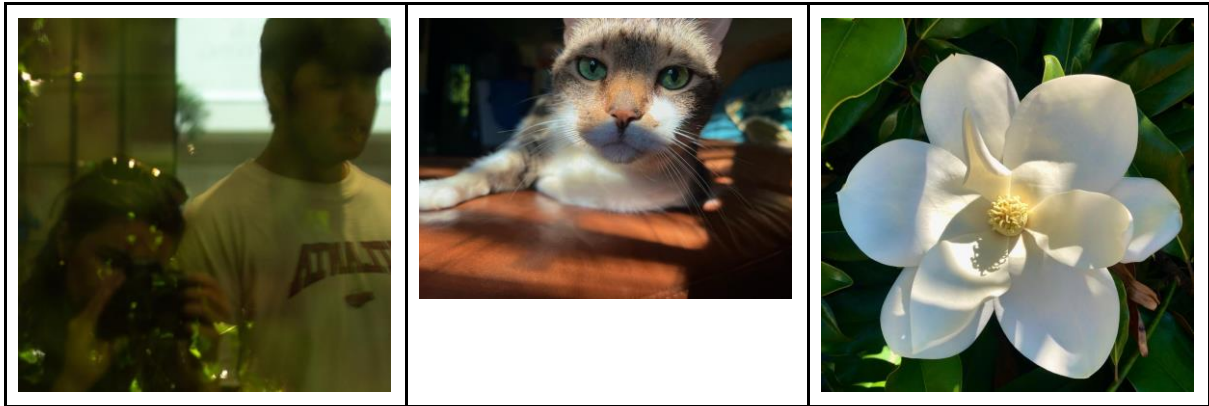
Why candid style?

"[Candid](#) pictures are those which are clicked when people smile heart fully without being conscious about the camera. Whereas normal photography involves posing and smiling in a certain way normal photography is all about group pictures candid photography is all about capturing emotions."

Heisey's camera is more than just a tool – it is her faithful companion on the journey of life. It is there with her, whether she is documenting the ordinary moments of everyday life or embarking on new adventures. Heisey's camera is her window to the world, allowing her to see its essence and find beauty in the everyday and she is on a mission to save these special moments.

Candid photography held a special place in her heart. The genuine and unposed nature of candid shots fascinated her. It is all about capturing life as it unfolded, devoid of artificiality.

"Candid-style photography speaks to me the most because I feel like it's the most genuine form of photography. Your subject doesn't have to pose and there is no overthinking about how you look. Candid photography shows beauty in its natural habitat."



Photos made by Emelia Heisey

If you're also passionate about photography and want to immerse yourself in this style, here are some of important tips from [Adobe](#) to improve your candid-style:

- Take inspiration from photojournalism, emphasising unposed, natural moments and surrendering control to capture life as it unfolds.
- Be adaptable to different surroundings, use available lighting, and immerse yourself in the scene for authentic captures.
- Continuously observe and capture candid, unscripted moments. Your eye will become attuned to recognizing and preserving authentic moments as they occur.

There may lie a dormant love in you for an art form, a hobby, or a passion waiting to be awakened. Suddenly, you may find yourself drawn to the idea of preserving these fleeting moments in life, and these tips will come in handy.

As for Heisey's ongoing academic pursuit at Penn State, her passion for photography continues to be a significant and influential aspect of her life. It guides her towards creative horizons and opportunities for story-making.

With her camera in hand, she embraces the spontaneity of life, skilfully transforming each moment into a captivating work of art. Each click of her camera shutter has become a small act of defiance against the relentless passage of time, a way to hold onto the nuances of life that often slip away unnoticed.

Heisey's journey in photography teaches us that sometimes the most significant stories are hidden within the ordinary. It's a reminder that we do not always need exotic destinations or extravagant events to create meaningful memories and beautiful works of art. The magic exists in everyday life, in every smile, in every tear, in the cheerful peals of laughter.