

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Street Photography by Ave Pildas

Elisa Leonelli · Tuesday, August 18th, 2015



I became friends with [Ave Pildas](#) shortly after moving to Los Angeles in 1973, and when I was ready to express my creativity through photography, he provided encouragement and practical tips.

The 70s were an exciting time for LA. I was welcomed into a group of talented artists: writer Eve Babitz, magazine editor Coleman Andrews, graphic designer [John Van Hamersveld](#), visual artist Paul Ruscha, performance artist Lowell Darling, photographers Don Peterson, Antonin Kratochvil, Brian Leatart, Gary Krueger, and many others.

I lived in Beachwood Canyon and rented a studio on Yucca, so Hollywood Boulevard was my downtown, one of the few streets in Los Angeles where people walked and you could observe a varied humanity. It was one of Ave Pildas favorite places for his street photography. A selection of his B&W photographs from the 70s is now exhibited at [L.A.C.E.](#), an art gallery not coincidentally located at 6522 Hollywood Blvd.

Street Photography was a popular style in the 70s; it had been inspired by Henri Cartier-Bresson,

who photographed in post-war France and Italy, his stated goal to catch the “decisive moment” with his noiseless Leica.

Pildas explains that it was a much more naive time for photography 40 years ago, when very few people owned a professional camera, than now, when everybody can take a picture with their cellphones; so most of the people he asked, agreed to have their picture taken. Recently he has gone back to shooting in B&W, with his digital cameras, and he teaches a class on Street Photography at Otis College.

Last fall Ave asked me to speak to his students about my B&W Street Photography work from the 70s, so this summer, when the LA Library invited me to give a talk for their “[Photographer’s Eye](#)” series, I chose those photographs as the theme.

If you want to see this photo exhibit by Ave Pildas, don’t delay, it closes on September 13; and while you’re there, why not take a walk on Hollywood Blvd with your camera? You may get inspired and create some interesting images.

To see some more photos, click on reviews from [The Guardian](#) and [Zocalo](#).



Ave Pildas (c) Elisa Leonelli 1976

Top image: Woman 2 Pix (c) by Ave Pildas

This entry was posted on Tuesday, August 18th, 2015 at 10:00 am and is filed under [Photography](#), [Visual Art](#)

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