

looking at the other side in this world *photo-storytelling*
Progressive-zine

Israeli Photographers

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Dafna Yosha, Dana Caspi, Dov Oron, Gabi Ben Avraham,
Ilan Ben Yehuda, Kevin Unger, Lil Steinberg, Maya Rahamim,
Miki Schauder, Neta Dekel, Ohad Aviv, Omri Shomer, Ori Levi,
Orna Naor, Raviv Meyouhas, Sagi Kortler, Shimi Cohen,
Vered Sadot, Yael Gadot, Yulia Olshansky, Zohar Ferro*



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– Adult Content –

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The idea that all Israelis are villains is a childish idea.
Israel is the most deeply divided, argumentative society.
You'll never find two Israelis that agree with one another
- it's hard to find even one who agrees with himself or herself.

Amos Oz



6/15



Anat Shushan

16/21



Aviram Bar-Akiva

22/29



Bruno Lavi

30/37



Corinne Spector

38/43



Dafna Yosha

44/51



Dana Caspi

52/59



Dov Oron

60/67



Gabi Ben Avraham

68/75



Ilan Ben Yehuda

76/83



Kevin Unger

84/93



Lil Steinberg

94/101



Maya Rahamim

102/109



Miki Shauder

110/119



Neta Dekel

120/127



Ohad Aviv

128/135



Omri Shomer

136/145



Ori Levi

146/153



Orna Naor

154/161



Raviv Meyouhas

162/169



Sagi Kortler

170/179



Shimi Cohen

180/187



Vered Sadot

188/193



Yael Gadot

194/199



Yulia Olshansky

200/206



Zohar Ferro



Neta Dekel

*I was born 58 years ago, I grew up in Atarot –
a small village in the center of Israel, near Tel Aviv, –
and I currently live in the same place, Moshav Bnei Atarot*

1) *The state of Israel compares in population to both New York City and Seoul, and yet a culture of street photography flourishes there. How do you account for the appeal of this form of expression?*

I think that, in general, the people in Israel are very creative – both in high-tech (we are called the start-up nation) and in various areas of art. Photography is very popular in Israel, in a lot of areas, and thus the street photography is also popular.

2) *Many of these photographers use chiaroscuro or at least light. Is geography destiny?*

Israel is a very sunny country. Most of the year, even in the winter, we have sunny days. As we all know, the sun gives hard and very contrast light. The street photographers that are not using lighting-aids (like flashes, reflectors) need to learn how to use the existing light for photography. Thus, you can see a lot of photographers that specialized in high-contrast street photography.

3) *Where is the greatest activity of street photography in Israel: Jerusalem, or Tel Aviv – or is it not confined to the large urban areas? What's the difference for you?*

Obviously, the big cities has the largest activity of street photography. Jerusalem is one of the best places for photography in general and street photography in particular. The special places, the interaction between the religions, the massive amount of people and tourists are unique.

Personally, I do photo a lot in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but also other special cities – like the old city of Acre.

4) *Do you identify with other Israeli photographers? Or you can take a completely objective – and be independent of a national identity?*

I cannot be completely objective, since I am an Israeli with political opinions, which lives in a very tensed environment. I do have influence from other Israeli and international photographers.

5) *In Israel, there are many ceremonies for the three major religions that regard Jerusalem as a Holy city. What makes photography unique in these ceremonies? How are these different religious practices depicted in your photography?*

Photography in religious ceremonies is very complex. There are

a lot of people in a small or narrow places. The density is extreme. In addition, the security is very important, and there are a lot of policemen and other security forces that limits the access to the center of the ceremony.

The last factor is the light – lot of the ceremonies are at night, or indoor places (eg. churches). You need a good camera, with fast wide angle lenses and be very skilled and fast with the camera.

6) *What is your relationship with your territory and if you travel, how do you relate to the places you visit? What do you find interesting and different when photographing in Israel or in other countries?*

I think that the most important issue with photographing people, anywhere in the world, is give respect. I respect my subjects, getting their consent, if needed and possible (even with a smile or a look, without words). Be sensitive.

Photographing in Jerusalem is sensitive due to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the fear to be hurt. Extra sensitivity to the surrounding is needed.

7) *Digital and analog photography: how does this affect the world of street photography in Israel?*

Digital makes it easy and accessible. You can be focused on the subject, composition and exposure, without worrying about the number of shots and replacing the film every 36 exposures.

- *What is your camera of choice for street photography?*

Mirrorless. I use now Nikon Z7 + 35mm. Before that I used Fuj X-T2 + 23 mm.

- *What is your favourite technique (lens choice ... fill-flash)?* Wide angle prime lens. Usually 35 mm on full frame body. No lighting aids at all. Only existing lights.

- *How do you manage color and B/W?*

I shoot in raw. I prefer colors, since we see the world in colors. I turned to B/W only when it is better for the specific photo.

- *What is your primary software for post-production?*

Lightroom. Nothing more. Minimum changes.













