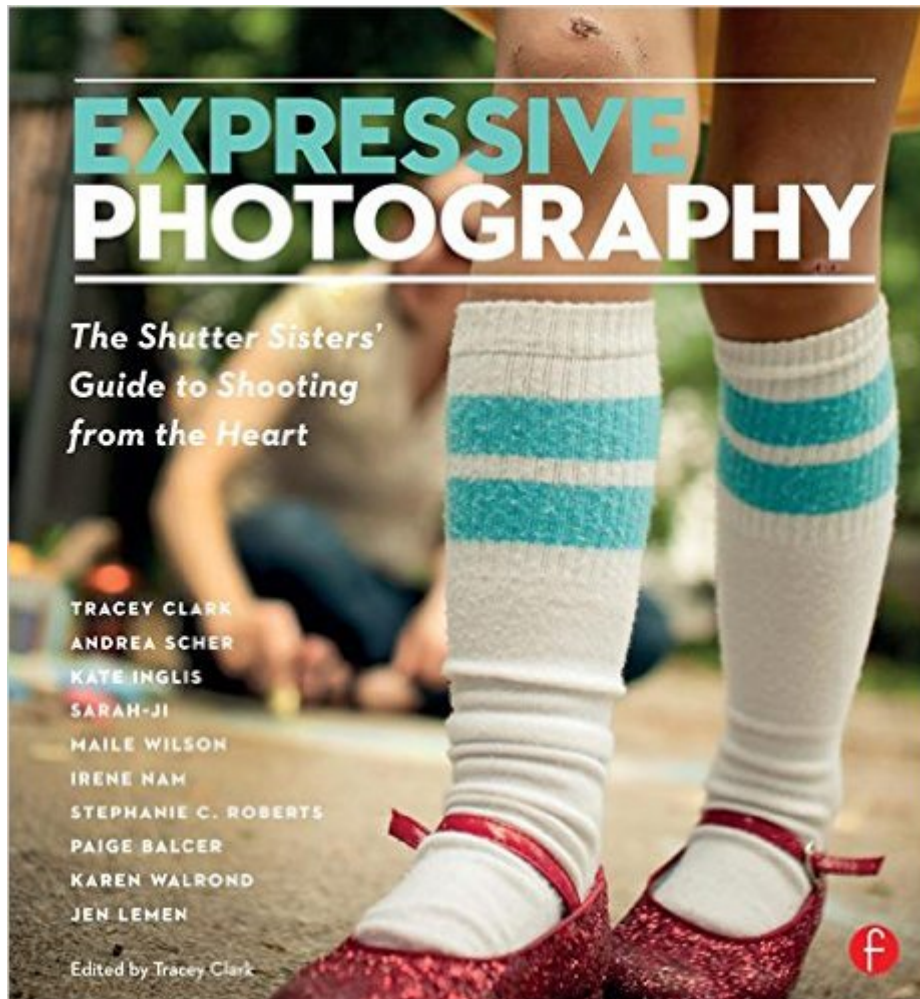


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# Expressive Photography: The Shutter Sisters' Guide To Shooting From The Heart



## Synopsis

When a photograph captivates you and stirs your soul, you know it instinctively. You not only see the image, you feel it. But how do you capture shots like that with your own camera? How do you make your photographs worth the proverbial thousand words? From portraits to landscapes, still-lives to documentary shots, Expressive Photography will not only show you why certain images sing, it will also teach you how to create your own compelling photographic images--one click at a time. Visually stunning and unique in its collaborative approach, this book brings the spirit of the immensely popular Shutter Sisters' blog to the printed page through the voice and photography of its founding members. Written by the immensely popular Shutter Sisters, Blogger's Choice Award nominees for best blog Themed chapters containing the voices of several photographers give artistic insights into any shooting opportunity Evocative imagery that captures the emotion of the moment Compositional tips and recommendations throughout

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When my daughter was 14, her best friend and she borrowed flutes from her school's music room, even though neither had ever played the instruments. As they sat trying to learn the fingering and to play a duet, I took a couple of dimly-lit photographs. Thirty years later, those images still hang on my wall, reminding me of that moment of friendship and experiment. Visitors often ask me what the photographs are about. I was reminded of this as I read "Expressive Photography: The Shutter Sisters' Guide to Shooting from the Heart". The Shutter Sisters are a group of women who operate a

photography blog. Ten of the sisters have joined forces to create this book. Each of the sisters writes one chapter on a subject including such genres as Portraiture, Stillness, and Togetherness. Each chapter is illustrated with images taken by the writer and other sisters. There are also excerpts from the Shutter Sisters' blog and sidebars telling us to "See It!" with shooting data and "Shoot It!" urging us to experiment with a certain type of photograph. Basically the book is a collection of random tips and motivational words about the importance of photographing from the heart. The pictures vary in quality from highly interesting to bland family snapshots. There is little of a technical nature in the book, and there is little that tells how to apply technique to one's vision, other than reminders that technique can help the photographer to capture what is in his or her heart. Occasionally, one of the authors will go on for a page about the difficulties of being a homemaker, or the anxiety and joy of being a mother. While I acknowledge the validity of these sentiments, the authors often failed to make the connection with creating a good photograph.

Expressive Photography is a book written by the "Shutter Sisters" about shooting great pictures from the heart. This is not your typical photography book; you will find little about technique in this guide. Instead, this book focuses on helping you find the emotional side to your technique. There are jillions of technique books out there, so I was happy to find a book that offers an alternative discussion. This book assumes that you already have a bit of technical proficiency and are looking to expand the heart of your images. Unfortunately, this book falls a bit short of being a useful guide that I would find myself turning to over and over. So the pluses and the minuses. Good:- Lots of images, many with accompanying "Set It!" information (ISO, Exposure, Aperture, Focal Length).- A blurb on each photograph that explains why, at least to the photographer, each image works.- Lovely prose introducing each section and each topic. Bad:- Not all of the images do actually work. Many seem as though they simply evoke the photographer's emotions and were included for this reason.- A lack of real detailed information. Many of the tips and suggestions seem to fall under the umbrella of "shoot things that make you feel emotion." A nice sentiment, but it doesn't really help me become a better photographer.- Perhaps too much of this book is occupied by the author's reflections on parenting, working from home and homemaking. Make no mistake, there are tips in this book about shooting, many tried and true and some new ones, but there is a lack of any real direction about how to use that technique to create a picture that reflects the emotion.

I really wanted to like this book. And I do. Just not as much as I wanted to. I'm an advanced hobbyist photographer, and have noticed a lack of emotion/expression/story in my images. I want to

fix that. This book helped. But it didn't really resonate with me. Written by a collection of women (one per chapter), I found it hard to connect with. I'm a male scientist, and this book was a bit too poetic for my tastes. Each chapter is structured identically: two pages each for Introduction, Approach, Perspective, Composition, Lighting, Details, and Processing. By the fifth time I got to "composition", it got a little repetitive. The images are okay... and they are expressive. The writing, however, occasionally seemed to lack substance. A little too floofy and ethereal. And much of it was presented at a level more appropriate for beginners. If you're a mom who's recently obtained your first SLR with a kit lens, you're about the perfect target audience for the book. If you're giving a camera like that to someone (especially female), this book would accompany it perfectly. Well, this one and Understanding Exposure, 3rd Edition: How to Shoot Great Photographs with Any Camera, which focuses on the basic technical stuff more. Similar "how to be creative" photography books that I enjoyed more and feel that I got more out of included

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