

Photos & Stories

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by BEN
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**I dedicate this book to my mother and my late father.
I owe my days to them. I want to express my gratitude
in these lines.**





**RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION CARRY ON
ARAŞTIRMALAR VE SORUŞTURMALAR
DEVAM EDİYOR**



RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION CARRY ON

**This phrase captures my approach to photography
as a continuous search.**

**Every frame becomes a small investigation: a
gesture, a quiet emotion, a story hidden in the details.**

**Some images reveal themselves instantly; others
remain silent and mysterious. But each one carries
something worth discovering.**

That is the spirit behind this book.





**Each photo has a story in it. It is sometimes up to us to
reveal it.**

BEN





Behold the entrance to one of Istanbul's most famous streets: Istiklal Street, located in the bustling district of Taksim. The view at night is mesmerizing, with an array of reflections combining to create an intriguing composition. The random alignment of people on the street creates a sense of vibrancy and constant motion - life truly never stops here. It's no wonder that photographers are often drawn to this spot, capturing amazing compositions that are entirely unique and unexpected.



The rain had stopped hours ago, but the street still glistened under the orange lamps, revealing layers of the city most people never noticed. The photographer stood at the corner, lens fogged with breath and curiosity. He wasn't after the obvious—the light, the buildings, the passing lives—but something hidden beneath the usual glare. Years of weather had carved textures into the walls, each layer whispering a memory, each reflection bending truth into color. In the right light, reality slipped its mask, and the street became a confession. Life always hid something underneath, and tonight, through his camera, it almost let him see.



When you examine urban life closely, it becomes clear that it often causes chaos and confusion for everyone involved. Amidst all this chaos, people forget to truly live and enjoy life, leading to an existence that feels meaningless.



Imagine a thrilling race on a dark road, where the only source of illumination is the glowing street lamps. The car zooms past its rivals, determined to reach the finish line first. What lies ahead at the end of this exhilarating competition? Perhaps a glimmering reward awaits, like the lights that adorn the victorious car. The outcome of the race may be uncertain, but one thing is clear: the driver is focused on defeating their challengers and emerging triumphant.



The people in this photo were in a hurry to cross the street, and the traffic light had just turned green. However, something in my brain signaled me to take action and capture them in their natural state.



I hope to develop my skills to the point where I can capture captivating photos even in low-light situations. In this particular photo, the dog appears to be looking at the man with a watchful gaze, almost as if he blames him for the unhappy and unnatural environment they find themselves in.



Its heartbreaking to see this child, who is likely homeless and hopeless, struggling with loneliness in a world that can be so unforgiving. Perhaps the only thing that can provide some solace for them is the chance to be a street musician, even if only for a fleeting moment.



FIGI BIRA

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There are some places that seem to evoke a sense of obligation within us, even if we cant quite explain why. Its as if something unknown is stirring deep within our souls, compelling us to go there. And as we stand there, gazing at the walls adorned with intricate designs, we cant help but wonder about the history and stories they may hold, as they remain shrouded in mystery and intrigue.



The clouds are truly awe-inspiring, with their varying colors and shapes that almost resemble a fluffy pillow. Taking a walk among the clouds is a surefire way to unwind and relax. As you stroll amidst the clouds, youll feel a sense of release, as if youre blowing off steam and leaving your worries behind.



Another perspective of Istanbul that is truly captivating is the way the waves are shaped and how all things seem to come together in perfect harmony, creating a sense of convenience and decency. Its a beautiful sight to behold and truly showcases the unique charm of this wonderful city.



The use of color in photography can completely change our perception of an object or scene. Street photography is one of my favorite genres, though there is always room for improvement. I especially enjoy capturing the mesmerizing dance of lights on the streets.



Experimenting with camera settings such as ISO, shutter speed, and white balance can yield diverse outcomes. One may even discern facial features in the patterns of a bark of tree, subject to individual interpretation.



There is something truly enchanting about mosques at night - the way the lights accentuate the beauty of their intricate architecture is simply breathtaking.



Despite the obvious manipulation of the photo, one cannot help but be captivated by the intricate textures on the tree. It serves as a reminder that beauty can be found in unexpected places, and that we should always be open to seeing the world in different ways. The play of light and shadow in this image is also noteworthy, highlighting the importance of perspective and how it shapes our perception of things. This serves as a powerful metaphor for life - that there are hidden treasures waiting to be discovered if only we take the time to look beyond the surface. So let us all take a moment to reflect and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us, even in the most unlikely of places.



This piece is an experimental work that intentionally plays with the perception of the viewer through object and light manipulation. Despite this intentional manipulation, it raises the question of whether or not manipulation is simply a part of reality, as even our daily lives are often filled with manipulations of various kinds.



Some individuals appear to be in their element when fishing in the dark, enjoying the experience to the fullest. These snapshots of life offer a glimpse into the joys of simple pleasures and the beauty that can be found even in the darkest of moments.



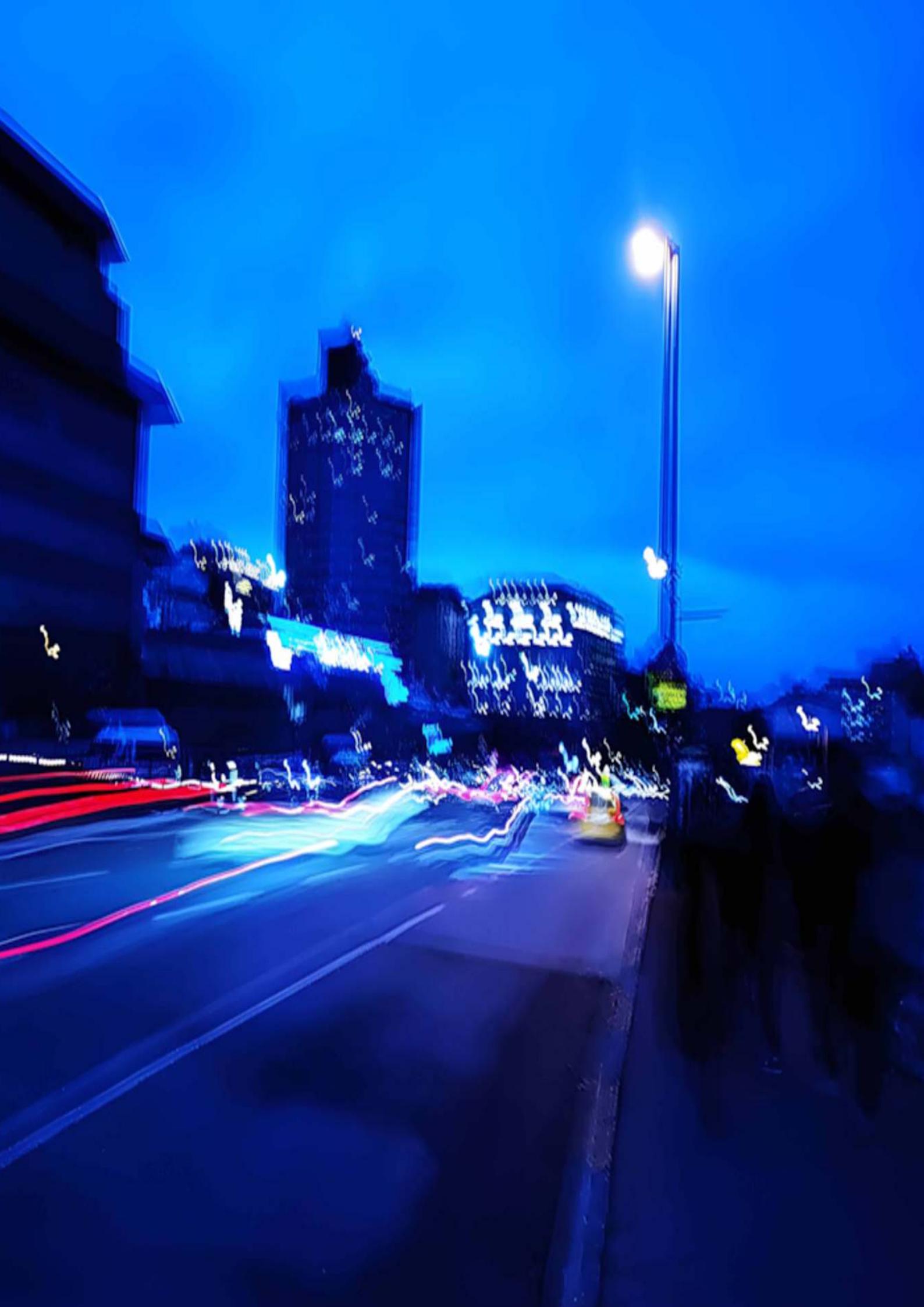
The fish looks incredibly fresh. Colourful pieces, shiny and carefully arranged, create a beautiful pattern. Different types are placed side-by-side, making it look as good as it will taste. It's a pretty design that shows the ingredients are valued. The dish looks special, promising a treat for your eyes and your taste buds.



The interaction between cars and lights creates an uncanny effect, as seen in the elongated light trails produced by moving vehicles. Can you perceive this phenomenon with your own eyes?



Under the cover of night, a mosque stands illuminated by faint lights, casting an eerie yet enchanting aura over its surroundings.



The photographer confesses a fondness for blurred photographs, particularly those captured under the veil of night. In this moment, light manipulation transpired amidst a traffic jam, resulting in a captivating visual spectacle that held gaze of a photographer.



I find myself alone in this catastrophic place, feeling hungry as I try to eat what little food I have left. Please keep your distance from me, as its painful enough to exist in this hostile environment. Its hard to believe that not long ago, there were some green things on this street, but now the real environment has been wiped out by people. They should be held accountable for their actions.



The dog watches as people brazenly violate the red signal rule, observing their every move with a curious and watchful eye.



The sky looks absolutely pristine today, with a stunning array of purple clouds that seem almost too perfect to be real. And as I watch the birds soaring through the open expanse, I cant help but feel envious of their unbridled freedom.



Two dogs stand in the middle of a busy cafe. One sits and one stands, both looking around. The low light makes a huge, dramatic shadow on the floor near the round counter. This shadow looks a bit like the shape of a staircase or a set of steps. Even with the big dogs and the interesting shadow, the people in the cafe are still moving, talking, and ordering—life goes on around them.



The cat was sitting on something shiny, maybe a car, and looking very focused. It had thick, two-toned fur —black and white. The light on its face was a bit moody, which made its eyes look dark and thoughtful. The cat's whiskers were long and seemed to be feeling the air. It was perfectly still, like it was posing for a picture or quietly observing its surroundings.



A man and a woman were walking down the street in opposite directions when a frantic bird became stuck in the middle of human traffic. The bird seemed to be waiting for the right moment to spread its wings and fly away, which could have been time-consuming for onlookers. However, this waiting process gave me the opportunity to bust it out and capture some incredible photography. As a photographer, it is essential to wait patiently for the perfect pose and timing to capture the best shot. In this case, it was definitely worth the wait!



The sun was almost gone, painting the sky in deep orange and gold. The three of them sat quietly on the boat, watching the light fade behind the lighthouse. No one spoke much; words felt too heavy for a moment like this. The waves moved gently, rocking them in rhythm with the day's last breath. For a while, everything felt still — the sea, the air, even time itself — as if the world was holding on to one last bit of warmth before night arrived.



The setting sun illuminates several towering structures, signaling the onset of evening and prompting an urge for socializing and exploring.



As darkness descends upon us, we seem to be trapped with nowhere to run. The windows and structures around us loom ominously, but we can still find our way to the light if we stay vigilant and avoid any obstacles that may slow us down.



This is an excellent vacation spot. You can count on me to vouch for its serene and tranquil waters. The sea is calm, and you may see some ducks, seagulls, and other seabirds as you relax. When you swim in the sea, youll experience its gentle and soothing nature. And during the day, the island will unveil its different faces for you to behold.



This alternative replaces some of the more informal language with a more professional tone while still conveying the same idea of a striking combination of colors in a dance-like manner.



The sight of a bird in flight, with its wings spread out wide, is a truly awe-inspiring moment that can be difficult to capture on camera or fully appreciate with just our eyes.



He saw the cat sitting by the closed shop, its white fur glowing under the streetlight. It didn't move, just watched him with calm eyes that seemed to know more than they should. The photographer lifted his camera, careful not to scare it. Through the lens, the street looked different—quieter, almost alive. The cat stayed still, like it understood the moment mattered. Maybe this was what he had been looking for all along—not a perfect picture, but something real hiding in plain sight.



The pigeons were perched in a neat row, their leader clearly distinguished by its upright posture. While the others remained seated, the leader stood tall and alert. Perhaps It could have been a family gathering or a crucial meeting. Agility wasn't their primary concern; they were focused on observing their surroundings as people rushed by, unnoticed, not even seeing the those birdies. Mayhap they should stop and look around. This world isn't just for us, it's for them too. We build so much stuff, but where do the birds go?



For foodies looking for a unique culinary experience, this local grocery store comes highly recommended. The store boasts a broad selection of mouth-watering fruits, each with its own distinct flavor profile. It is definitely an experience worth trying out.



The filtered and saturated picture presents a different perspective from what we usually perceive. It raises the question of whether our visual perception is an accurate representation of reality or merely one layer among many. Considering this apocalyptic portrayal of the world we live in, it becomes evident that the meaning of words depends heavily on their context. Therefore, it is important to assign new meanings to this unique context.



PHOTOS && STORIES 1

A poetic interpretation of photography and its story. An exploration of new forms of expression by merging the visual with the verbal.

This essay, which centers the human experience, is an original work that draws you into the stories while preserving its poetic language.

Berat Emre Nebioğlu — Photographer && Writer