

## WRITING 1 – INSPIRATION



My inspiration in snapping fascinating shots of street photography by my own is mostly from both the tonal contrast and the moment captured in "Busy Battambang," by a photographer Dominic Stafford. Firstly, Stafford uses tonal contrast to create a dramatic scene of Battambang market in Cambodia. With his use of 10-22mm wide angle lens, he squeezed the entire front of a market to fit in an entire sidewalk or square and arranged a good mixture of light and dark tones within the composition. Such tonal contrast highlights the lights and shadows casting on the scene, a couple of vendors and their foods at the front. Unlike the colour photography, such use of black-and-white removes the busyness of colours and quickly leads my eyes to the main subject of the picture. Secondly, the choice of black-and-white depicts a strong mood and atmosphere of the moment captured in the picture. From left to right, the vendors are preparing their foods on bamboo baskets, almost ready to welcome herds of buyers. The lack of colors and reduction to a wide tonal range instantly give the viewers a sense of calm and peacefulness, the actual mood and atmosphere of Battambang market before the opening hour of each day. In conclusion, by the use of such tonal contrast and the portrayal of mood and atmosphere, a black and white street photograph is an excellent showcase of beauty, even where the dulllest of scenes such as local market is expected.