

Cartier Bresson is the pioneer of candid photography. His work spans both mundane and historic aspects. He views photography as decisive moment, and this theory has influenced a lot of photographers.

Cartier Bresson is born in August 22, 1908 in France. He keened in painting when he was a teenager. He learned painting with André Lhote. In 1932, Bresson spent one year in the Ivory Coast. Not long he had his first Leica camera which is the beginning of his life-long photography career.¹ having rejected his father's business, he started to make living by selling his photographs for publication. In 1933, he travel to Spain which was three years prior to the onset of the Spanish Civil War. In the 1940 he was captured by Nazis and spent three years in the prison. He successfully escaped from the prison on his third attempt in 1943. Under Robert capa 's advice, he spent 3 years on traveling in the East. In 1952, he returned to Europe. The Decisive Moment was published which is his first book. He founded Magnum Photos with Robert Capa, George Rodger, David Seymour and William Vandivert in 1957, and since then his photographs show us all over the world: from Europe to India, Burma, Pakistan, China, Japan, Indonesia, Russia, the Middle East, Cuba, Mexico, America and Canada.

In the idea of The Decisive Moment, Cartier Bresson said that he wanted to tell a story within one image.² And the image composed with vigor and richness is supposed to sparkle the story. Bresson completed his photos with lines, curves and everything could contribute to make a photo poetic, What helped him to achieve that is his ability to capture the incredible geometric compositions, juxtapose forms and leading lines. Though the he pressed his shutter by intuition he always has rigorous arrangement in his photograph.



¹ "Henri Cartier-Bresson • Photographer Profile • Magnum Photos." Magnum Photos. Accessed October 16, 2018. <https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/henri-cartier-bresson/>.

² Henri Cartier Bresson. Henri Cartier Bresson, the man ,the image,the world, a retrospective.London ; New York, NY : Thames & Hudson, 2003.



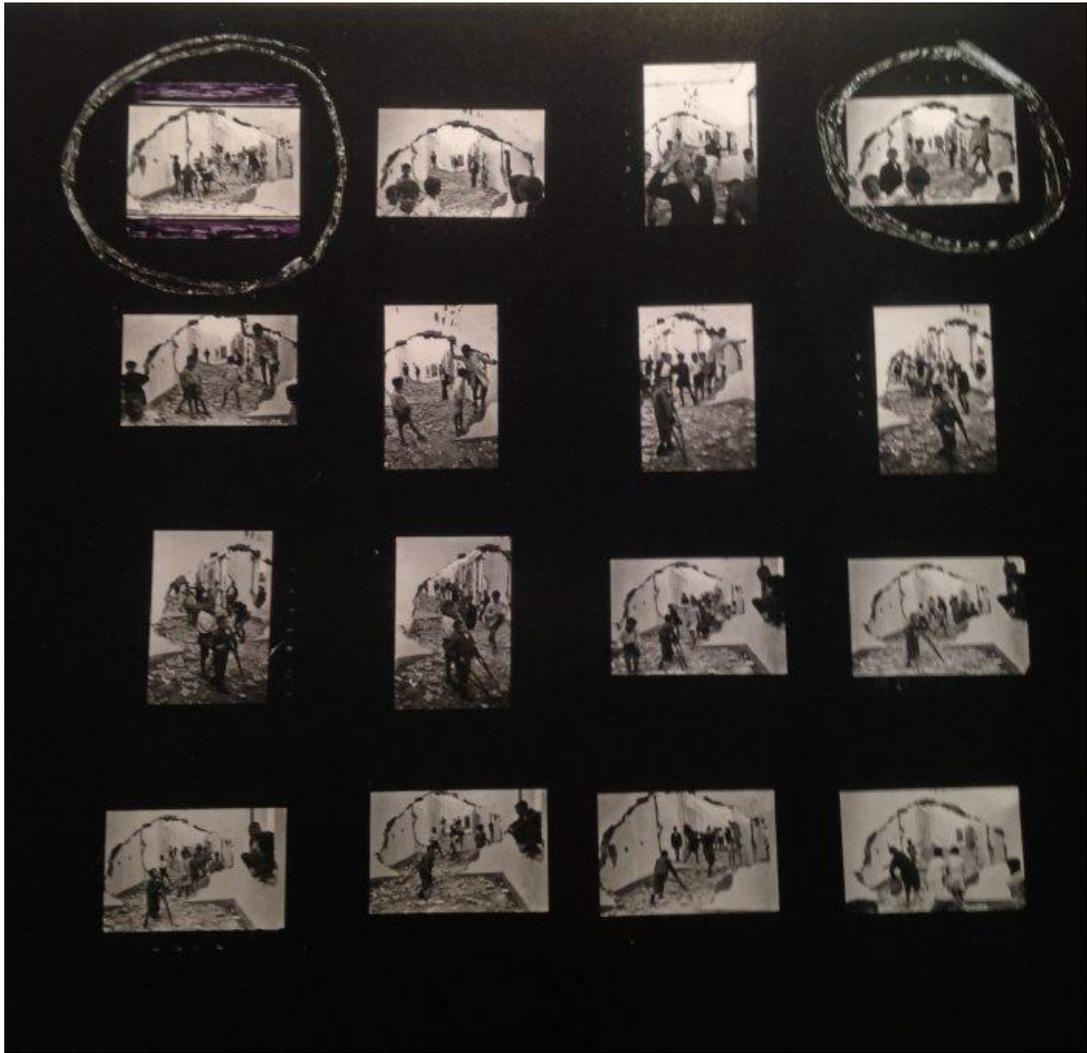
In order to emulate his photo, I chose to shoot in the Changi Airport. Firstly, because Bresson's works were taken from all over the world. And airport is a place where travelers from different countries assemble together. Secondly, some travelers are just transfer here, they are transient. It makes sense in term of "decisive moment". Most importantly, airport is ordinary but is yet out of everyday routine. I feel that I am able to seize my right moment there.

After I coming back, I found that my files reach up to 18G. However, I was only able to select out 30 images that I was satisfied with. Will the rest make sense then?

This confused me for a while. Through the research I found that Bresson's decisive moment doesn't come from just one click of the shutter button.³ Looking at his contact print, it is not difficult to find that he took multiple shot on each scene. I think this may be a common misunderstanding about decisive moment. One single image tells a story. The process to capture the image is like the way we telling a story. It will have start point, climax and the ending. The decisive moment is the climax so that it is able to make the story most attractive and compelling.



³ "17 Lessons Henri Cartier-Bresson Has Taught Me About Street Photography," ERIC KIM, February 17, 2017, 2, accessed October 16, 2018, <http://erickimphotography.com/blog/2014/12/09/17-lessons-henri-cartier-bresson-taught-street-photography/>.













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