



Back Alley Photography

Some Thoughts
and ideas

Lack of specific videos

- Back alley photography, as a challenge, is a bit more specific than most of the YDAPC challenges
- We will see some (semi-related) videos later in the program
- Today's program will be more of an interactive experience
- Interruptions with constructive criticism and suggestions will be welcomed
 - Disregard any annoyed facial expressions the presenter may seem to exhibit
- Goal – to make back alley photography a fun and fulfilling experience so the May 2020 Challenge becomes one of our best

Some areas to investigate

- Definition of a back alley
- Components of back alley photography
 - What subjects to look for
- Elements of the photograph to pay attention to
- Where are some alleys in Prescott
 - How to find alleys in Prescott
- Examples of back alley photography
- Some video enlightenment
- Questions, comments and discussion

Definition of a Back Alley

- “In the case of back alleys, this can be seen in everything from the graffiti artist who sees not a brick wall but a blank canvas (Brighenti 2010) to the homeless person who stakes out a living space or from the guerilla-gardener who creates productive spaces to the child who enters an imaginary world in the quasi-wilds of the back alley”.
- From ...



Urban Encounters: Art and the Public (Culture of Cities Book 6)

by Martha Radice and Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier

What might you encounter and photograph in a back alley?

Remember ...
We are the Yavapai
Digital Arts
& Photo Club

- Walls
- Fences
- Garages
- Hedges
- Puddles
- Shadows
- Flowers
- Signs
- Doorways
- Graffiti
- Pavement
- Trash
- Dumpsters
- Textures
- Patterns
- Discards
- Old furniture
- Toys
- Weeds
- Back doors
- Shops & stores
- Electric boxes and wires

Think Light

- Scout location ahead of time to determine light direction and shadows
- Time of Day: might have to work with half light and half shade
- When capturing detail try to decide how much shadow and light tells the story

Consider depth of field.

- Decide how much you want in focus - what tells your story
- Perhaps there is one focal point to keep sharp and make the rest blur out (use a wide-open aperture f2 or f4.5?)
- If you want the entire photo sharp, use narrower aperture (smaller hole, larger number – e.g. f22?) and/or focus stack several photos and combine in post processing

Show detail

- If the big picture lacks impact, try getting in close.
- Texture of brick and metal add interest
- Use macro lens
- For graffiti, show the surface or the paint or both

Add a sense of scale

- Size matters—use something to show scale, if its important to the message.
- People, cars, bikes, signs are helpful

Show context

- You can use wide angle lens to capture more of the scene
- Why choose this location to photograph?

Back Alley Photography Suggestions

- Color or Black & White
- Day or Night (or Dawn or Dusk)
- Local or National or International
- Low-key, high-key, macro, minimalism, landscape ...
 - **Photography Types | From Abstract to Wildlife**
 - <https://expertphotography.com/types-of-photography/>
 - **Types of Photography -15 Top Photography Genres that you need to know**
 - <https://blog.shawacademy.com/top-15-genres-of-photography-that-you-need-to-know/>
- In other words – the Challenge is **OPEN** in **Back Alleys**

Where are some alleys in Prescott?

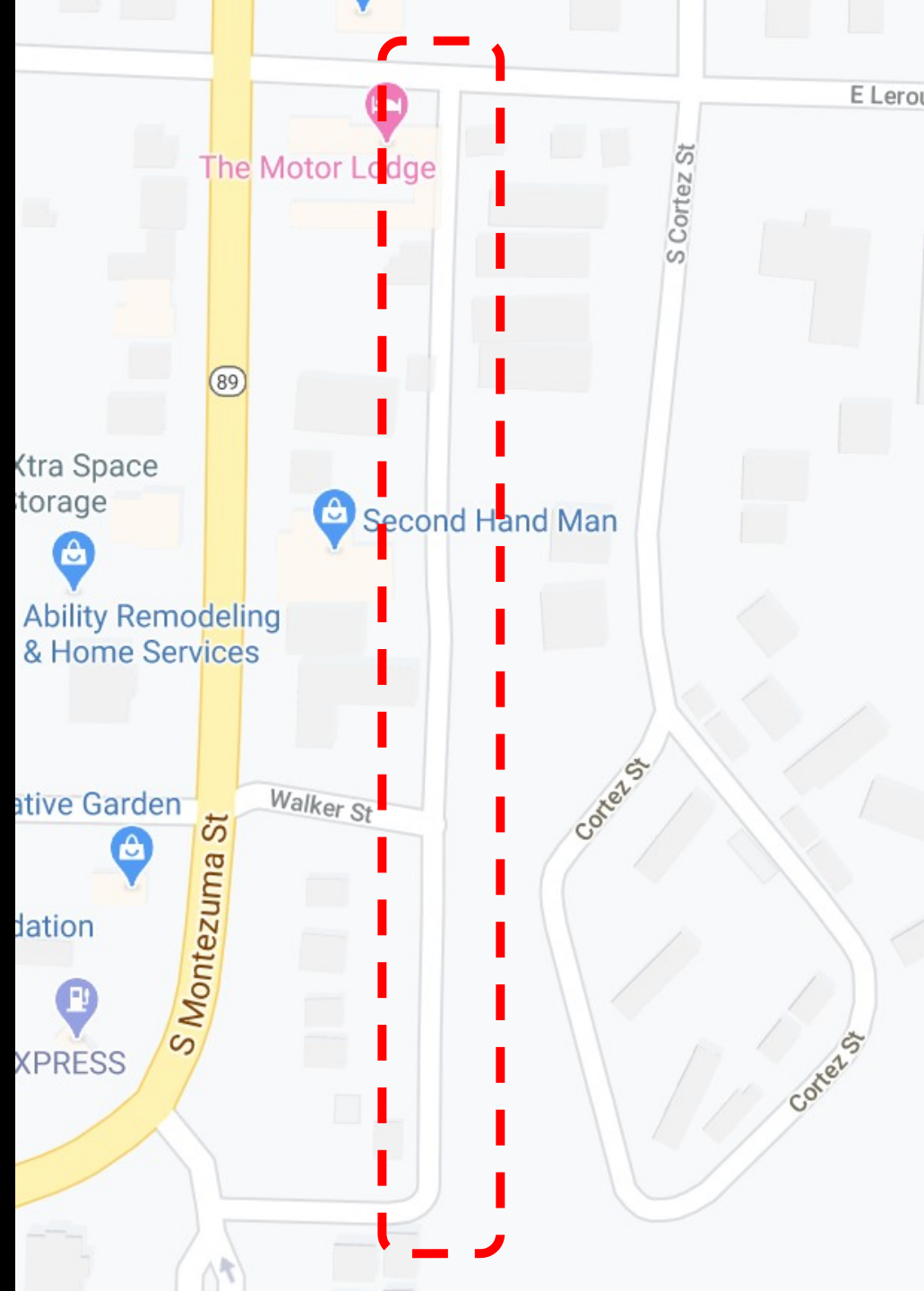
- West of Montezuma St. from north of Willis to W. Carleton St.
 - Right behind Whiskey Row
- Between Cortez and Marina from Sheldon on the north to E. Leroux St. on the south
- Between Montezuma and Cortez from south of Goodwin on the north to south of Walker St.
- Between Grove and N. Summit from Sheldon on the north to W. Gurley on the south
 - Where did I find this? Google Maps - Satellite view. Just poking around, zooming in and out.
<https://www.google.com/maps/@34.534545,-112.4695104,908m/data=!3m1!1e3!5m1!1e4>
Note: I have not visited all of these locations to see how accessible they actually are.

Where are some alleys in Prescott?

- Between Miller Valley and Walnut behind Wells Fargo Bank and Taco Bell
- Little alleys of Hillside between Miller Valley and First Street
- Between Miller Valley and Walnut St. from south of Whipple to W. Hillside on the south
- More between Bird and Ruth, Ruth and Cameron, Cameron and Lincoln, Lincoln and Campbell
- There is also an alleyway between Fourth And Fifth Street.
 - *These map treasures thanks to Jean Lopez*



Google Maps
Map View



Google Maps Satellite View

