What makes a good photograph?

“I would say a good photo in general is that one that communicates effectively its purpose. Another thing is what images we care about. I am now more interested in the complexity of human existence and nature, and I want to see nuanced stories that inspire me and elevate the positive things of human beings.”

Edu Bayer
www.edubayer.com
Award-winning documentary photographer and photojournalist.

“Every single day we are inundated with an abundance of visuals and photographs, often depicting something we can’t connect to - celebrities, news of sadness and violence, and easy read photographs that don’t ask anything of us - all of which are simultaneously vying for our attention. For me, a strong photograph dances with emotion, light, and composition to create something magnetic and poetic. It demands me to pause and feel something. I am looking for elements of tenderness, intimacy, a moment that brings me back to my own humanity. This creation requires immense emotional presence and understanding, instinct, and technical skill.”

Sara Hylton
www.sarahylton.com
Award-winning Canadian freelance photographer.

“To me, a good images cause tension. They have contradiction, and they cause us, as viewers, to struggle with their meanings, their symbolism, leaving us with more questions than answers. To frame a striking, aesthetic image is not simply enough. Truly good images reference some deeper struggle of reconciliation within us. I also think that these images invite us into a vulnerable space that is not solely a window into another person’s world or perspective, but offer also a mirror of self-critique where we struggle with ourselves in the end. They create recognitions.”

Sarah Blesener
www.sarah-blesener.com
Documentary photographer based in New York City.

“A good photograph makes you stop, ponder and read beyond the two dimension. A strong image is capable of moving us and evoking emotions. It could be love, happiness, laughter, pain, resilience or courage.”

Smita Sharma
www.smitasharma.com
Independent photojournalist based in Delhi and Kolkata.

“A good picture provokes a strong emotional reaction, whatever this emotion might be.”

Benjamin Petit
www.benjaminpetit.com
Dysturb co-founder, 2019 JSK Journalism Fellow.