

What makes a photograph good?

Composition, light, and emotion. And if there is a connection between the photographer and the subjects, I consider it good.

What character qualities should the photographer nurture and develop?

Be gentle when you shoot. Don't be overbearing...show your genuine self and your subjects will do the same.

Advice for the aspiring photographer?

Don't let digital take over your life. Pick up a film camera and start there. Really master your camera and know your lighting and color so that you don't have to do anything on the computer, which takes you away from being the photographer. Once you have this down, shoot from the heart. Don't let anyone tell you how to shoot. The business will follow; create beauty first.

Greg Lawler

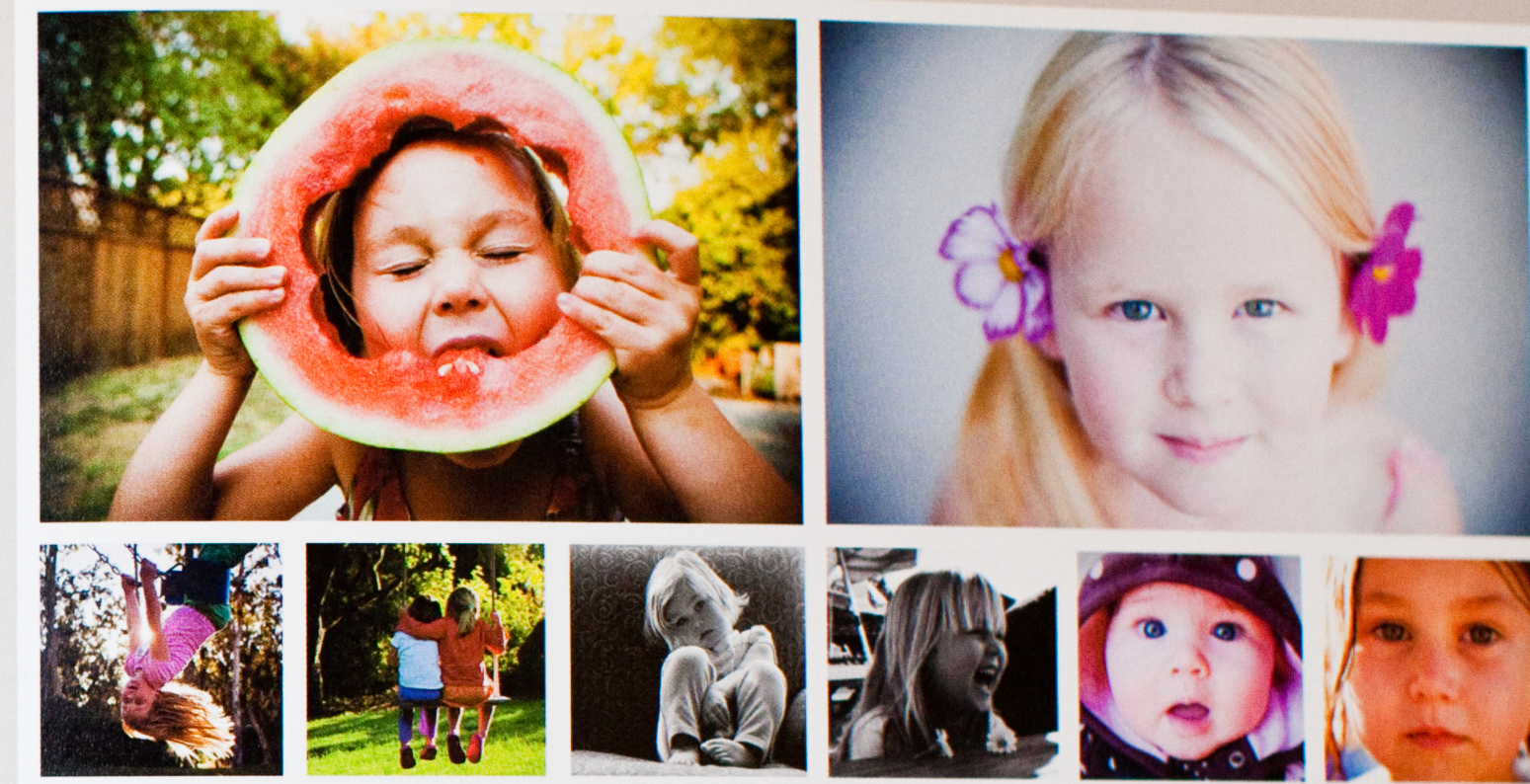
Greg Lawler is a creative, unorthodox, and dedicated artist. His photographs embrace life as it is, not as it should be. His work is down-to-earth, generous, accessible, and warm. Here's the best part—Greg isn't a legend. He doesn't own fancy equipment and never went to photography school. He is a dad and has many passions beyond his profession. Greg brings a camera everywhere he goes and makes pictures of his life, family, and friends. Each year we beg him take our family photos. And many of these photos are my all-time favorites. To view the last set visit www.visual-poet.com. For more information on Greg, visit www.greglawler.com.

What inspires you?

Those magical moments when whatever it is that you are looking at—a photograph or painting, skyscraper or sunset—is calling out: You can create! or You must create! When the light is hard and the angles are sharp or when it is as soft and tangible as silk, all these things inspire me to pick up my camera and participate. Photography inspires me to capture life being lived and remembered. Using a camera to preserve a moment or a gesture is inspirational.

What makes a photograph good?

A good photograph demands that you remember it. You have no choice. You are permanently changed and you will think of that photo, the emotions that it stirred or the message it communicated, as long as you live.



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What character qualities should the photographer nurture?

Perseverance and self-awareness are important. Learn about yourself. Follow your heart and work hard to overcome the aesthetic gap between your creative vision and your technical ability.

Advice for the aspiring photographer?

Don't be afraid! Follow your intuition and see where it leads. Every human is innately creative. Remember that you are the artist and that there is no "wrong" in art. Always have your camera with you. Your favorite camera may change over time but always, always keep it close to you. Spend time with people who inspire you. Look at art and photography that makes you want to grab your camera and start shooting!