

Elena Shumilova

As I was pondering whether to start my photography course, I was browsing the Internet for some inspiration that would hopefully give me the motivation I need to take the leap. It was during this time that I came across the artist and photographer, Elena Shumilova.

There are two things that immediately grabbed my attention when I saw her body of work and read about her:

1. Her subject matter and style
2. How new she is to photography – having only started in 2012 when she got her first camera

In one of her interviews, what she said struck a chord; “I do not want to miss out on her growing children”. Photography is starting to become a passion of mine and I know that it takes time and dedication to hone one’s eye (especially for someone like me who is not artistically inclined and not very creative). However, like Elena, I do not want to miss out seeing my 2-year old daughter grow. She is my primary passion and my favourite subject (together with our pet dog). Elena seems to have been able to combine her two passions (her children and her art) beautifully.

I love that her subject matter is predominantly her children and her animals. From as far back as I can remember I have always loved looking at photos of animals and children, especially the candid ones. I am not one for art-directed photography as it usually comes out forced and unnatural (not everyone is a born model, after all). The softness and naturalness of her photos are striking. Her photos are emotive and one can really feel the depth of emotions that were present when the photos were taken. Elena Shumilova’s photos also have a lot of texture; from the thickness of her dog’s tail, the softness of the rabbits fur, the crunchiness of snow and the softness of her children’s skin. It is almost possible to be able to touch and feel these different textures. Her photos seem to have an element to it that transports you to another place. For me, this is what photography is all about. It is hard to take ones eyes off her images.

Furthermore, her photos seem to have all the areas of photography that really interest and inspire me – the innocence of youth, the beauty of animals and the amazing landscape.

Although I realize that Elena is already a gifted artist (having studied at Moscow Institute of Architecture), it is motivating to know that she has only really started taking photos in 2012. This fact inspired me to finally take that leap and study photography. It has also encouraged me to keep taking photos, even when all I seem to do is take “bad photos” for I know that photography is never-ending; constantly evolving and that there will always be room for improvement.

Below are some of my favourite photos of Elena Shumilova:

Maria Grice  
Lesson 2 Assignment  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2014



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