

## Photography keeps life alive



By Ali  
Kakadezfuli  
Managing  
Director

Between audio, video and photo, the last is definitely the most powerful format for capturing the moment. It is only through photography that the “moment”

becomes meaningful. In audio and video formats, what is recorded is the flow of moments, but in the photo, only a single moment survives.

A photo anchors us in a specific moment. In a photo, we see the image of a moment in time, yet, what we get out of it is not just that moment, but a world of concepts. We enter a place where time stands still, but the meaning is always alive and giving birth.

A photo is silent, but it speaks with its audience. Each photo creates a unique dialogue with each different audience. Neither does the photographer die, nor does the meaning that is embedded in the photo.

In a frame, a photograph not only carries a subject, but also bears the presence of the photographer. Perhaps the reason a photo is always alive is that the point at which the photographer stands is unique. The photographer steps aside and invites us to look at the world through their eyes for a moment. What a photographer sees in the viewfinder is not the only thing we see. At that instant, we can touch the photographer's whole being, all his or her mental sequences and even their feelings and emotions.

Photographers take us into their world through their cameras, so that we exist in their place and we are living in their bodies. In this sense, perhaps they are the most selfless individuals in the world at that moment. Every photograph is the artist's world when they give it to us, as described by Susan Sontag.

Photos are not only a window to the past. They are reminders to face the future better; a reminder not to forget our roots and, of course, our sufferings. Facing the sufferings of the past may not be a pleasant thing at first glance, but until we recognize our sufferings, we will not try to reduce them, and we will not live a better life.

So the photographer has a great mission, one that is more difficult than all the physical challenges of their work. World Photography Day is an opportunity to take a deeper look at photos and appreciate those who capture the most precious moments forever.



# Shots through the Heart of Chronos

Before the invention of the camera, we humans had only the written word in our fight against oblivion. However, since the modern artifact was made, it has become a powerful weapon in our hands, allowing us to take shots through the heart of time, immortalizing otherwise ephemeral moments. This special issue is a celebration of the camera and photography, without which our finite historical memory would have lost so much of its flesh, leaving unbearable lacunas in our communal existence.

## A photographer's journey ignited by Stanley Kubrick



By Mostafa  
Shirmohammadi  
Staff writer

In the heart of Iran's bustling streets, a passionate soul named Amin Qolipour emerged as a steadfast observer of life through the lens of his camera. With a

spark ignited from childhood, Amin, a 48-year-old freelance photographer, had been nurturing an unwavering love for both photography and cinema since his earliest memories. Cinema's enchanting tales had captivated him, but it was a single moment that transformed his adoration into a life-altering pursuit.

During the 1980s, an Iranian TV program about cinema showcased the brilliance of Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece, '2001: A Space Odyssey'. Amin was fascinated as Kubrick's masterful use of the one-point perspective in his shots painted a world of depth and wonder before him.

"That was the moment I fell head over heels for photography," Amin recalled, his eyes lighting up as he recounted the turning point. The technique Kubrick employed, framing a central point with precision, resonated deeply with Amin's parallel love for filmmaking. The seeds of his journey were sown that day, destined to blossom into a lifelong passion.

One of his uncles shared his fervor for photography with Amin when he gave the young boy a professional camera that would become his steadfast companion. Armed with this newfound tool, Amin soon emerged as the sole photographer among his friends.

Among the moments fixed permanently in the photographer's memory are the roaring of fighter jets, F5s and F14s, soaring overhead in a dazzling display at an Iranian Air Force aerial show. His camera captured the powerful aircrafts in all their glory.

In 2007, a revolutionary shift occurred with the emergence of camera phones. A Nokia N95 transformed Amin's days into a visual adventure, with his lens taking up to 300 moments daily – people crossing the streets, architectural marvels touching the sky, and countless structures that told stories through their silent forms.

"I'm like a hunter, waiting for that perfect instant to seize the essence of what I see. I'm a 'documentary photographer,'" Amin said, highlighting his dedication to capture life's candid stories.

With the advent of social media, particularly Instagram, Amin found a platform to share his vision with

the world. Though he had never sought the title of "photographer," the digital realm granted him recognition. However, it was an encounter with Iranian war photographer, Sasan Moayedi, who sealed Amin's self-perception. Encouraged by Moayedi's endorsement, he embraced the title he had hesitated to claim before.

