

# High Performance Cameras for Ordinary People Or I Just Paid \$ 1,000 for this Camera – Now What?

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## Show Them Something New

One definition of a good photograph is one that shows people something that they have never seen before. A hundred and twenty years ago any picture of the Eiffel Tower would have been a good picture because people had never seen it before. Today, getting an image of the Eiffel Tower that nobody has seen before can be a real challenge.

Of course, one solution is to go places where nobody else has been, but that can be a bit of a challenge when even photos from outer space are blasé. A better approach is to develop a new way of seeing. Photographers call this a personal vision, or style. It could be compared to a particular approach, or style, in music.

My style for many years involved wide angle lenses. I love wide angle lenses and have owned several including some special purpose ultra-wides and panoramic lenses. I developed a style based on using wide angles with lots of depth with multiple subjects at different distances from the camera. That is just the way I learned to “see” and I like that look. By the way, this is the style of National Geographic Magazine.

More recently I have changed to using more moderate length lenses, though I still love wide-angles. This is neither good or bad, it is just a style. I am still not a big fan of telephoto lenses, though I occasionally see the need for one. If I were a sports or wildlife photographer, this would be a different situation. Some guitar players like acoustic guitars, some electric; some like distortion and some like a clean sound. It is that type of thing. Do you need to have an opinion? Yes, eventually you will have to decide what is best for you and the type of photographs you want to make.