

Abandoned, Rusty, Weathered v5.0

Jeffrey Sward

Strategy

Photographs of old objects and/or sites often evoke strong feelings of nostalgia because they act as tangible time capsules, connecting us to past experiences, emotions, and relationships. They allow us to revisit specific moments, triggering vivid memories (real or imagined) and a sense of longing for those times.

Specifically abandoned, rusty, or weathered subjects could be individual objects or larger scenes such as streets or buildings.

In all cases, these subject areas require scavenger hunts to find appropriate objects and/or sites. Objects can be relocated to the studio to be photographed (Teapot, below), or photographed in situ. Luck comes to those who are prepared.

Standard location scouting techniques apply for sites. Often time does not permit immediate photographing of found objects and/or locations. It may be useful to keep a notebook (such as field notes) with found objects and/or locations for later photography.

No trespassing!!! Do not remove private property items!!!

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Abandoned: Found Object Still Life

Ruth found this teapot in the middle of a road after it was run over by various vehicles. Noting the photographic possibilities, Ruth relocated the teapot into her studio to be photographed on top of a decorative fabric.



Ruth Bernhard: Teapot [road kill]

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Abandoned: Buildings



Jeffrey Sward: Abandoned houses, Salton Sea, California

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Abandoned Ghost Town: Bodie

Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Designated as a National Historic Site and a State Historic Park in 1962, the remains of Bodie are being preserved in a state of "arrested decay." SR 270 is the best road into Bodie. SR 270 consists of 10 miles of pavement and 3 miles of dirt, via US 395 at Dog Town.

Bodie has become a pilgrimage and rite of passage for many photographers. Hence Bodie has also become a notable photographic cliché. When photographing cliché subjects, first determine the approach, such as (a) emphasizing cliché attributes, (b) attempting a new non-cliché treatment or (c) ignoring the issue.

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=509.

Professional photographers wishing to use park settings for publication for either film or still photographs must obtain a permit from the California Film Commission at www.film.ca.gov.



Bodie State Historic Park

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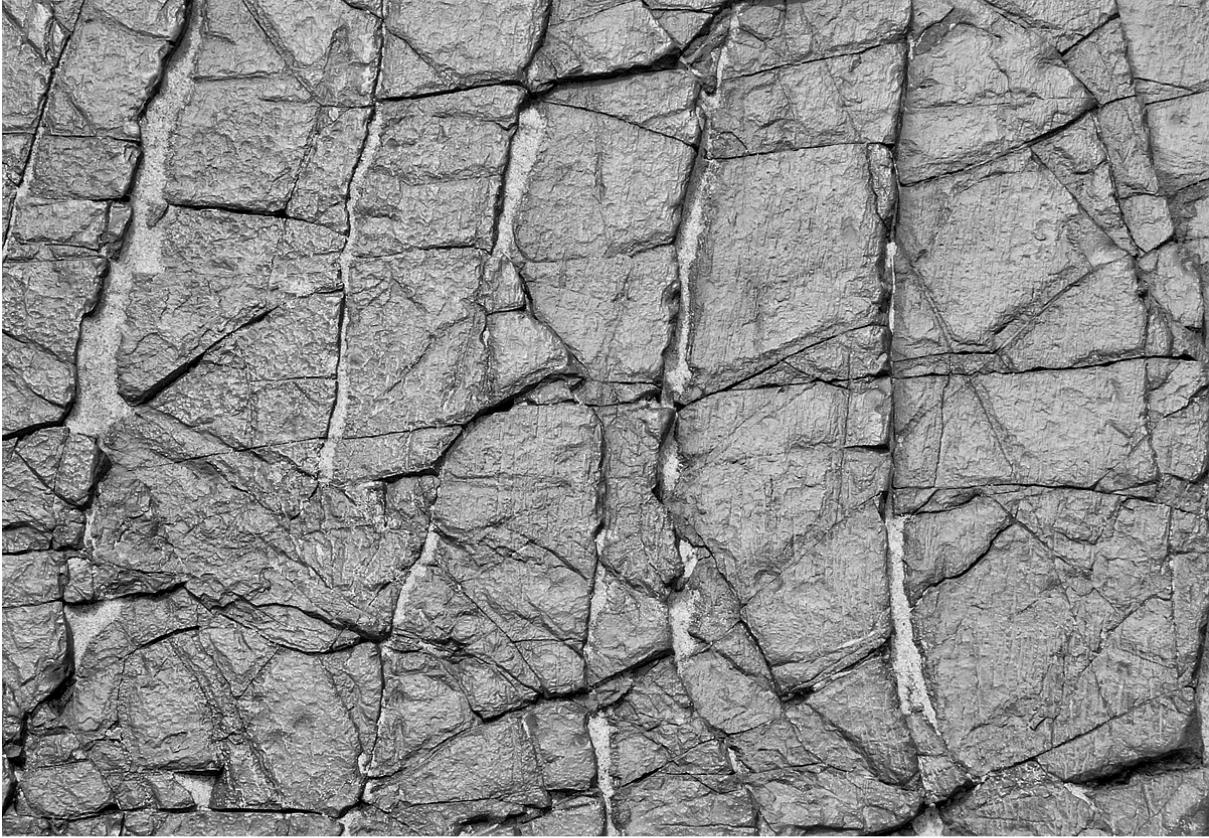
Rusty



Jeffrey Sward: Rusting tank, rural Ohio

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Weathered



**Jeffrey Sward: Eroded Rock,
Crystal Cove State Park, Laguna Beach, California**

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References

Exploratography: Bodie Ghost Town

Carter, Jamie. "How to Take Photos in Abandoned Places: A Beginner's Guide." *Picfair Focus*, 2 Sept. 2022. <https://focus.picfair.com/articles/a-beginners-guide-to-photographing-abandoned-places>