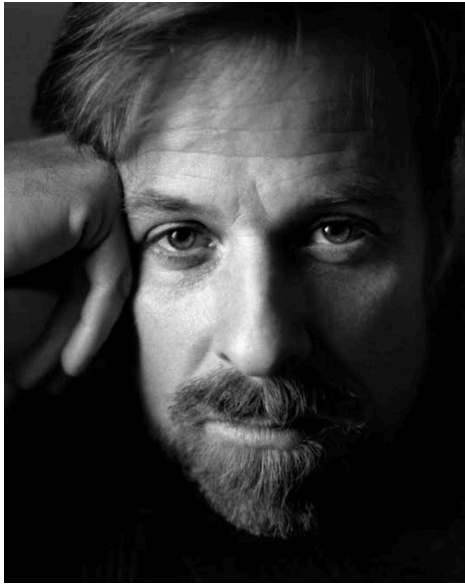


12/17

# ALEX WEBB



My choice of designer is Alex Webb, Alex Webb is a famous photographer who was born in the city of San Francisco, California on May 5, 1952 but raised in New England. His love and passion for photography started in highschool where he started to attend the Apeiron Workshops in Millerton, New York, in 1972. He later went to college and majored in history and literature at Harvard University as well as studied photography at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After he began working as a professional photojournalist in 1974 when he was 22, going on to work for the New York Times Magazine. Alex Webb is known for his bright color photographs, he usually goes for inspiration at places with political tensions, like the US-Mexico border. Later down the road he went to black-and-white photography in 1979. For the past 45 years, Alex Webb has worked in many places like the U.S.-Mexico border, Haiti, Istanbul, and many U.S. cities. Alex Webb has published 16 photography books, including *The Suffering of Light*, a survey of 30 years of his color photographs, and *Memory City* with poet and photographer Rebecca Norris Webb, his wife and creative partner. Alex Webb has received and earned many awards and grants including a Hasselblad Foundation Grant in 1998, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1990, and the Leica Medal of Excellence in 2000. He has many of his works exhibited at museums including the Whitney Museum of American Art at New York, the High



Museum of Art at Atlanta, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He's also been a Magnum Photos member, a high prestige group of photographers, since 1979. His work is in many well known magazines. One well known black and white project he did was Mound Bayou, even though he didn't quite finish the project many great pictures came from it. This project was originally a random trip that by chance turned into a project. He read a short article about Mound Bayou which is a small town in Mississippi made up of blacks, this led him to go explore. When he arrived in the small town the first thing he noticed was that it was isolated with a few stores and most of the residents live in ramshackles. This was his first time in Mississippi so there was a lot of new material. Alex Webb didn't stay in the town while working, he actually stayed in Cleveland which is nearby at a holiday inn. Alex Webb stayed for two weeks and went back a few times for the next two years after. When he first got to the town the people were open with open arms with him, Alex believes that the reason was for past white civil workers and because he was young. Alex Webb is not only good with black and white but great in color . This is the reason I decided to write about Alex Webb because I like the way he uses his background to his advantage. It gives it more of a story and most of the time it seems that his background complements the picture. An example of his work is the Suffering of Light, one of his most iconic projects. This photo is one piece of his many work in the project where he uses light to his advantage. This was taken at the us- mexico border and it shows mexicans being arrested while trying to illegally cross the border. I really love this photo because it seems like a movie or show scene, like narcos Mexico. In this photo I believe that the photographer is showing the heartbreaking side of imigration and the extent many go to. I could heartily relate because my parents are immigrants from Mexico and seeing this really breaks my heart. The framing Alex Webb used seems to be a low eyed view with a helicopter and



other immigrants for the background. This photo has amazing lighting from the sun coming down from the top right hand side, really making the whole picture pop out and giving everyone a split lighting on them. The clouds also play a part with the lighting by softening the light. Another thing that helped the scene is the bright yellow field of perennial flowers bouncing the light back onto the people in the photo. This is just one of the many great works Alex webb does, he grabs many photos that



would be too controversial for others, one last example is his well known photo from the roof of an apartment on the morning of 9/11. When the first planes crashed into the twin towers he was actually buying groceries and on his way back home he overheard others say the second one hit so he ran back to his apartment to get his camera and his other tools. The way into the city was closed and he couldn't get any closer to the towers so Alex Decided to do the next best thing and go on the top of the roof. He went from roof to roof trying to get the best angle and came across a roof that already has a crowd on top. This famous picture of the mother with her 3 month old son was taken at 11 A.M and you can see the mother was mostly worried about her child. These are only some of the examples why Alex Webb is considered one of the best photographers of his time.



## Links

The suffering of light, Magnum Photos-

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/arts-culture/alex-webb-the-suffering-of-light/>

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- <https://urth.co/magazine/alex-webb-street-photography>

Sight and Sound NYC, Albert Felix-

<https://eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/sightandsoundnyc17/2017/11/27/alex-webbs-september-11-from-a-brooklyn-rooftop/>

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The Film Study Center At Harvard University-

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Lens Culture, About Alex Webb- <https://www.lensculture.com/alex-webb-magnum>

