

In 2025, I got my third Nikon camera, its newest flagship, the Z9. While I still shoot in Manual mode, this is the first camera smart enough that I trust it with autofocus and exposure.

Did you find having to learn computer tools difficult/different from learning film or have you always been a digital photographer? The move to video/AI, does that take some of the joy from perfectly timed photo? Do you have a studio or office where you develop film, if you do that?

I have never developed film by myself. When it comes to editing, you can say I was born already in the digital era. I do enjoy the process of editing the pictures, even though it is time consuming – I usually spend twice as much time editing as shooting.

What is the most famous event you have photographed? Who would you say was the most famous person you have photographed? Which World Champions have you been able to photograph?

Well, I haven't done much photography outside of chess, but in our sport I have photographed basically everyone who has mattered over the past 25 years. I even have a couple of photos of Boris Spassky, with whom I spent some really nice moments. Karpov, Kasparov, Magnus, Ding, Gukesh... It has been quite a journey to document almost two decades of chess history.



Baku Olympiad, Round 8, NORWAY Magnus Carlsen, 2016-09-10.

Do you get to know your subjects very often or is it just “the picture?”

I try to talk to them afterwards, or I learn about them when I look them up later, once the event is over. Bear in mind that years before I took an interest in photography, I was a journalist, a writer. Curiosity runs in my blood. I was already a storyteller before I acquired the ability to take portraits good enough to illustrate my articles.



Paris, Grand Chess Tour, Garry Kasparov b&w, 2017-06-20.

How do you capture the picture at just the right moment. Do you pick a board and just watch and wait or how do you determine that you're going to see something at board X, so you just start taking pictures?

I often joke that what makes my job very easy is the fact that my subjects don't move. And what makes my job very difficult is... the fact that my subjects don't move! It is harder to get a decent shot from a static activity like chess, but I still consider it very photogenic.

Henri Cartier-Bresson used to say that every scene experiences its 'decisive moment,' and that you only need to be patient. The decisive moment will reveal itself to you.

Sometimes I notice that a player has an interesting background and looks tense, as if he has just made a mistake, or his opponent has. When those two elements are there, I am happy to find a spot and wait patiently, for as long as needed. In general, like most introverts, I am good at reading people. I can sense when someone is about to do