

## Klaus Fritsche Protective umbrellas - Street Photography in Rain and Snow

Dear reader,  
umbrellas are the main protagonists in this book. Shooting them in rain and snowfall has often led to me getting pretty wet as a photographer.

How did I come to this topic?

Since last autumn, I was looking for new focal points for my photographic journey. So I started to focus more on street photography. I came across the work of [photographer Saul Leiter \(1923-2013\)](#), which appealed to and inspired me - especially his pictures taken in the rain and snow. I didn't have to wait long for the rain. And so, just a few hundred metres from my front door, I took the pictures on pages 2 and 3. Since then, I have often been out and about in the rain. And in addition to all the rain, there were also three days of heavy snowfall, which I was unfortunately only able to use for a few snow pictures (from page 14).

In this booklet, I concentrated on the "umbrellas" motif. But even here the choice was not easy. And to be on the safe side, I didn't want to include some pictures for legal reasons (personal rights). With one exception, all the pictures were taken between October 2023 and March 2024. One picture, however, which shows the pitfalls of using an umbrella in a storm, was taken in 2017 (page 17).

As already said umbrellas are the main protagonists in this booklet. However, they can also be used as parasols and were even used primarily as such for many years. As a curious person, I did a little research and it turned out that umbrellas had far more functions in history than just protection from the sun or rain.

And so I searched further - and found 1.22 million links. Of course, I couldn't look through them all. So I'll limit myself here to a quote from the website of the Gignese Umbrella Museum on Lake Maggiore



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"The umbrella can look back on ancient origins. The oriental influence is undisputed, but it is not known in which country the umbrella was invented. Both China and India claim to be the inventors of the umbrella, both citing more or less reliable evidence for their claims. One common element is the symbolism of the umbrella. From the beginning, the umbrella was a symbol of power and was sometimes attributed to the gods. In China, the ceremonial umbrella was one of the characteristics of the emperor, in Persia only kings were allowed to use umbrellas, while in Egypt all nobles were permitted to use an umbrella.(Source: <https://de.lagomaggiore.net/23/schirmmuseum.htm>.)"

Anyone wishing to delve deeper into the cultural history of the umbrella will find many sources, such as the book "Der Regenschirm. Eine Kulturgeschichte" by Alexander Kluy. This book is available in German only, but there are lots of pages in English in the web, see i.e. „[The History of the Umbrella](#)“

But the pictures also show that the adventure of photography in rain and snow is worthwhile. I hope you enjoy looking at them.

If you would like to purchase one of these pictures, please contact me.

Klaus Fritsche, Essen in March 2024

PS: I'm sure the umbrella journey will continue for me. 🌂 ☔

(Translated with DeepL.com (free version))

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