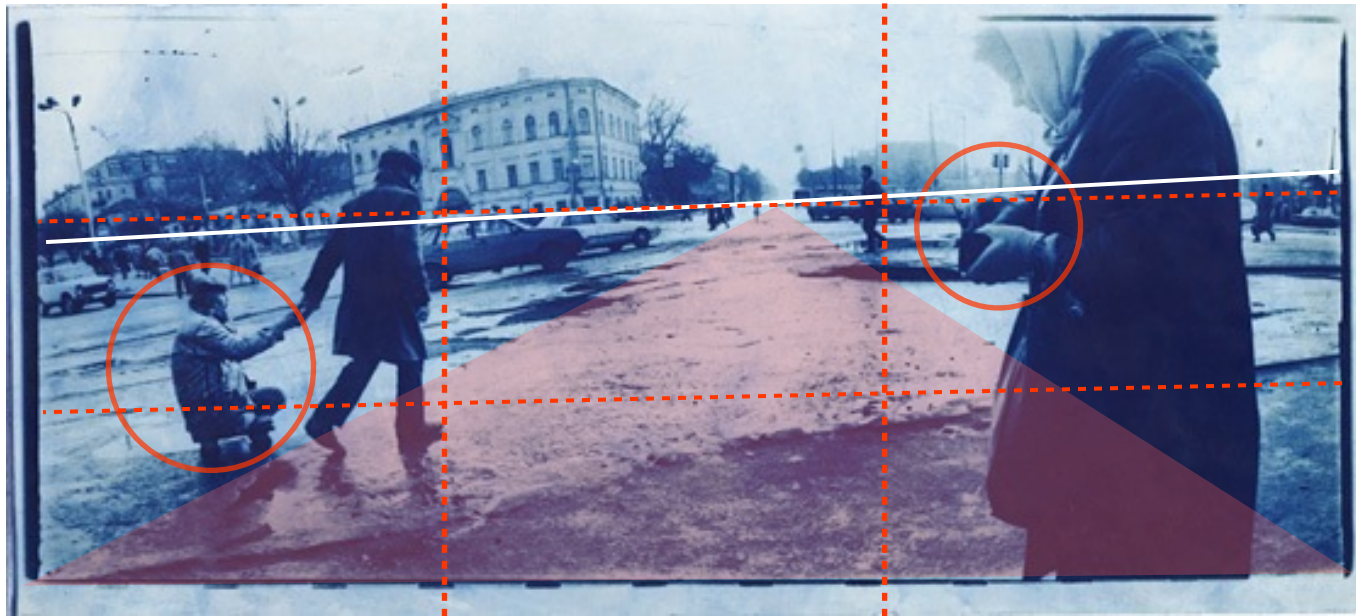


UNDERSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHS: Example #3



Boris Mikhailov, *Untitled (plate 51)*, from the series 'Die Daemmerung/At Dusk' 1993

VISUAL

A **monochrome panoramic street scene** - pedestrians and vehicles. A woman in the right **foreground (cropped)** searches for something in her purse whilst one man pulls along a disabled friend on a small trolley. Buildings in the **distance**. The **horizon is tilted**. **Empty/negative space** in the centre of the image. Sense of **deep space** - central road disappears into the distance. Winter **dusk** - between day and night. Snow on **wet streets** creates **reflections**. The image has been **toned blue** - emphasises the **cold** but also possibly the harshness of life.

CONTEXTUAL

Mikhailov is from Ukraine. He is known for his **stark** and sometimes **disturbing** images of **post Soviet life** - poverty, people on the margins of society, drug abuse etc. This **series** was created in his home city of Kharkov. He records a society in transition. Mikhailov is a **contemporary artist** who uses photography to communicate his ideas about society. He belongs to a group of **artists** who **comment** on life in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union. His work has been shown in major galleries across the world.

TECHNICAL

The artist appears to have used a **panoramic 35mm camera**. **Wide angle** - expansive view. The **black and white** print has been **toned blue**, perhaps to suggest an older image. The image has **not been cropped**. The edges of the **negative** can be seen in the dark borders and **sprocket holes**. The image appears to have been **printed quickly** and with a **deliberate lack of technical skill**. The artist seems more interested in the **mood or atmosphere** of the image than in creating a perfect print.

CONCEPTUAL

- Hybrid between a documentary and a conceptual project, recording but also staging a time that might be both 1941 and 1993, or neither (personal, historical, social, cultural, political)
- Themes of memory and nostalgia - the artist conjuring up childhood associations through the creation and manipulation of images
- The photographic series - generates a kind of narrative
- Playing with genres - e.g. street photography, documentary