

Dennis LETBETTER MOSCOW



Dennis Letbetter is a celebrated American photographer and gallery director, with an impressive list of solo and group exhibitions to his name. His work has been widely exhibited within the US as well as in Europe and Russia. He also has several books featuring his work and a series of six CD-ROMs published by Editions Michel Eyquem. His work is held in numerous private and public collections and has been published widely in magazines.

The portfolio of images of Moscow shown here is a small selection from an extensive study made during his meanderings through the City. He was invited to Moscow for the first time in 1999 to exhibit some of his photographs of nudes and dogs. Initial fears for his safety and well being were soon removed by the warmth and hospitality extended to him and by the generosity of media coverage and depth of interest in his photography – "a depth of discussion and thoughtful criticism I had never encountered in the west".

Dennis has since returned twice to Moscow for months at a time, holding further exhibitions of his work and embarking on his project of capturing the spirit of Moscow's streets on film. Dennis at first considered using a 10x8 view camera, but was advised (wrongly as it transpired) that film availability would be a problem. Inspired by the work of Josef Sudek in Prague, he settled instead on a Linhof panoramic 6x17cm format. This is a format he had used for some years to photograph the natural forms of Ocean Beach, but he realised that city spaces would present different demands. "I shot daily for months in San Francisco, learning how the camera sees city spaces... By the time I arrived in Moscow I felt prepared as an athlete might – the Linhof a natural extension of my hands and eyes, my feet easily walking to the proper vantage and stopping at just the right place for my eyes before exposure."



DENNIS LETBETTER does not use titles with his images. We have, simply, chosen around 20 images from well over 300 photographs in his Moscow portfolio and present them without additional comment. As we do not run images across the magazine spine (a policy of which Letbetter expressly approves), the reproduced size of these images is rather small, but we hope will still give the flavour of the large original prints. Further information on Dennis's work is available on his website: <www.studioletbetter.com>.

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