

Text: **TESSA CHAN**

FEATURE

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Smartphone cameras are ubiquitous, but will they ever replace traditional photography? We invite two very different snappers to share their thoughts and images



THE ANALOGUE PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the things Luke Casey loves most about shooting on film is the element of suspense.

"The excitement I get when I process film and see the images for the first time is truly magic," he says. "It's like the feeling I used to get when I opened up a pack of football stickers as a kid."

The 28-year-old photographer grew up with disposable cameras and believes the way we enjoy photos today has become more fleeting. "We're experiencing moments through the screen of our digital cameras instead of experiencing them first-hand. And there's less magic in the way we relive the moments."

"We have thousands of images hidden in files on our computers and it's incredibly hard to manage them. Sharing images online is great, but there

is something much more personal about sitting around with your family and flicking through the pages of a photo album."

Casey, from Devon in southern England, started shooting in Japan around 2010. His first professional gig, for *Dazed & Confused* magazine in London, served as a springboard for his career. Last year he held his first exhibition here, "Portholes" — a record of the three and a half months he spent touring the world on a ship with Japanese NGO Peace Boat.

While he enjoys new technology, he prefers the analogue process when it comes to shooting. "It's also about aesthetics. You don't need any software, apps or filters to get great photos. The colours, grain and contrast are beautiful in their very nature."





I still love the
feeling of going out
and shooting all
day and not really
knowing what I
have captured

LUKE CASEY

48 HOURS July 3 2014



BEAUTY IN THE MUNDANE: light floods through windows at the Lamma ferry pier. Photos shot by Luke Casey with a Nikon Fm2n and 50mm 1.8 lens.

With film I am so much more controlled about when I push the shutter. Each shot is sacred, so I take time to frame the image and wait for the perfect moment

LUKE CASEY



OLD FAITHFUL

The camera: I've had the Nikon FM2n almost four years now and I have no desire to shoot with anything else. It's simple, well made, and nothing feels better than the heavy clunk when you push the shutter. You can get amazing analogue cameras in the Champagne Court in Tsim Sha Tsui. Start with a 35mm camera as the film is cheap and you get a lot of shots for your money. When you are a bit more confident, consider a medium format camera which lets you create much larger prints.

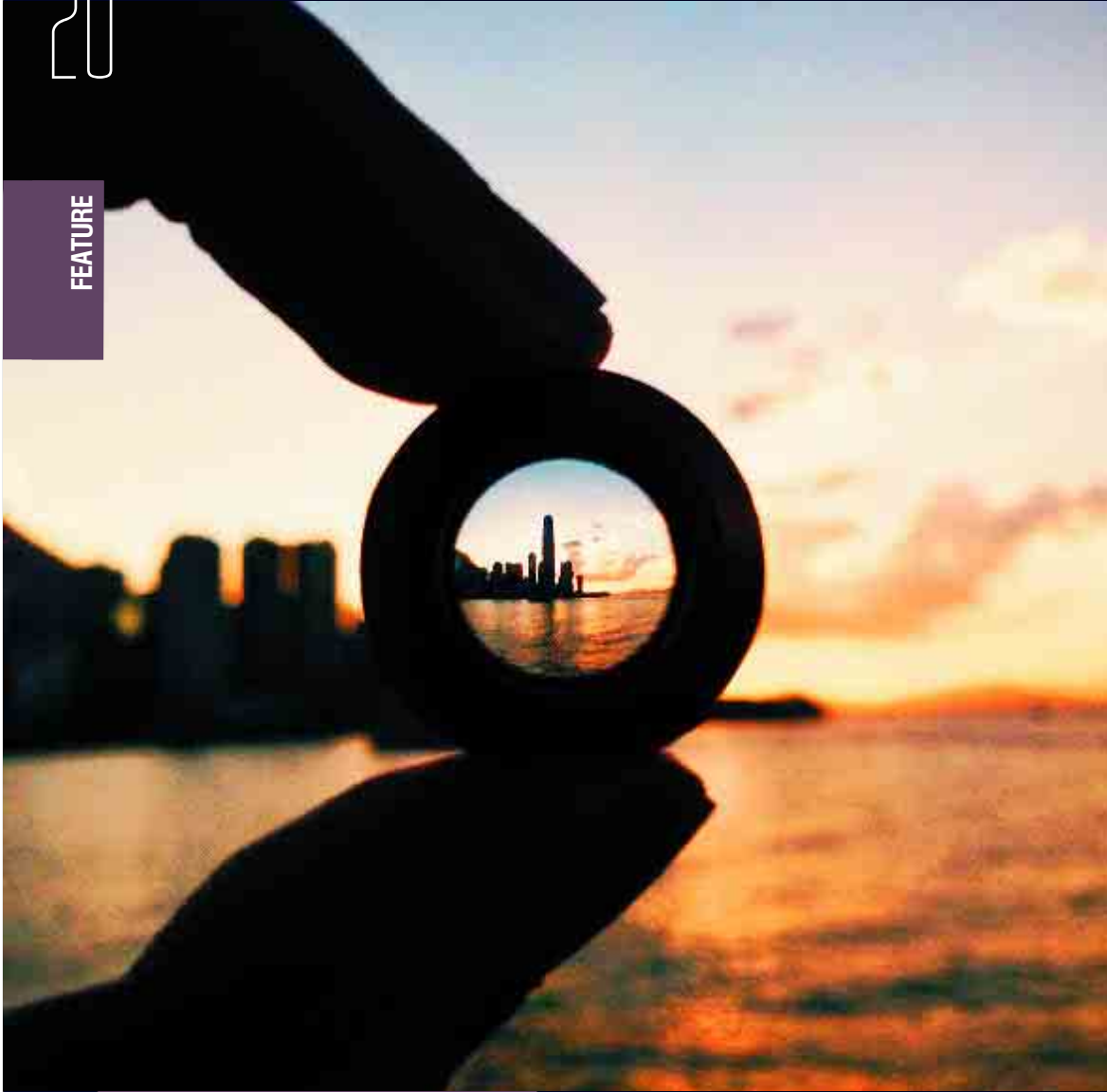
Go outside: film has the power to make everything look beautiful. Take your camera outside and shoot anything and everything and get a feel for the colours and textures you will get from film. Compare it to digital and you may never go back.

Try processing: you can easily find all the materials and chemicals you need to create your own darkroom here in Hong Kong. And look no further than online tutorials for how to do it. Processing your own roll of film from start to finish is the ultimate sense of achievement. If you are too busy for that, though, just head to Stanley Street and process a roll of film within an hour for HK\$45.

Raid your parents' drawers: they most likely still have their old cameras laying around somewhere at home. You might find a real classic.

Get to know your camera: mine has no auto setting or autofocus at all, so you need to take your time and think a little. This is a great way of educating yourself about how a camera works and applies to all types of photography. Master film and you can master any camera.

Luke Casey



Using imagery to communicate enables an alternate form of expression. It provides more opportunities for people to use their creative capabilities and be equally inspired by the creativity of others

VIVIEN LIU

GOT SMART

Gear up: I use an iPhone 5s; an Olloclip wide-angle lens, and a Joby Gorillapod, to provide stabilisation for time-lapse shots and slow shutter speeds.

Keep it simple: using a smartphone to shoot may seem reductive to those who are used to more complex cameras and equipment, but that is also the beauty of it. I think the attitude for creating an intriguing shot would be the same regardless of what camera you're using – you need patience and a heightened awareness of the things that are happening around you.

After effects: one of the differences with iPhoneography is that a lot of post-production can happen at your fingertips on a smartphone. Editing apps that I use most often include VSCO Cam and Snapseed.

Vivien Liu

A DIFFERENT LENS: miniature Hong Kong sunset captured through an Olloclip. An old building in Shek Kip Mei is given new life (below left); high density living (right). Photos: Vivien Liu

