

# Creative Energy Questionnaire by Jim Beecher

[photokaboom.com](http://photokaboom.com)

## Introduction

There are 38 questions in this survey

## **Section A - BIG Questions**

Just jot down a few words. We'll come back to these questions later.

### **Why photography?**

Please write your answer here:

**Write down some ideas for a photography project. If you're doing a project, how can you extend the project in some way?**

Please write your answer here:

## **Section B - Basics**

These are easier questions than those in the first section.

### **What camera(s) do you use?**

Please write your answer here:

### **What editing software do you use?**

Please write your answer here:

### **What tools and techniques do you want to learn more about?**

Please write your answer here:

**What do you wish to explore in photography?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Editing
  
- Black & white
  
- Mixed media
  
- Alternative processes, such as cyanotype
  
- Exhibit
  
- Book
  
- Web
  
- Social media
  
- MeetUp groups and camera clubs
  
- Other

- Other

- Other

**Do you do photography by itself, or with another medium?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Collage

- Text

- Book

- Music

- Video

- Installation

- Web

- Social media

- Other
  
- Other
  
- Other

## **Section C - Your Sniglet**

On the following pages, there are questions about subject, genre, location, type of camera and process, theme, and "ism."  
Your photography is largely a combination of these categories.

*Sniglet* is my term for this combination. Each photographer has his or her unique sniglet.

### **Do certain subjects attract your attention/interest/passion?**

Please write your answer here:

### **Do you like a particular genre?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- People
  
- Landscape
  
- Still life
  
- Documentary
  
- Abstract/formal

- Other

- Other

- Other

**Take your top genre, and elaborate using the categories below.**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Tools
- Techniques
- Expectations of the photographer
- Expectations of the viewer
- Guidelines, conventions, styles
- Purposes/meanings
- Point-of-view

- Audience
- Feelings
- Money
- Value

**Do you like a certain location?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Geographic
- Corporal
- Affective (such as disgust)
- Verb (such as having activism)
- Memory
- Future
- Other

- Other

- Other

### **Do you identify yourself with a certain type of camera or process?**

**Help:** Perhaps the type of camera or process that you use, is who you are, as a photographer. One of my best friends identified herself as a pinhole photographer. She also could have called herself a Calotype photographer, as she made her own photography paper using this process.

Please write your answer(s) here:

- Type of camera
  
- Type of process

### **Do you have a theme to which you return often?**

**Help:** There are zillions of possibilities. Look at the information and entertainment that you encounter for ideas about your photography themes. For example, what sorts of books appeal to you? There may be a common theme. Or, look at the who, what, where, when, and why, of what you do at home, out in the world, and in your relationships.

Please write your answer here:

### **You may identify with an "ism," philosophy, or a belief system. For example, "I'm a feminist photographer." Or, "I'm a cynical-existential-optimist."**

**Help:** An ism, philosophy, or belief system, can change the way we experience ourselves, others, the world, and our photographic way-of-working.

Please write your answer(s) here:

- ism
  
- Philosophy
  
- Belief system

- Other

- Other

- Other

## Section D - Personality

This section is about you more personally.

There are polarities. Define what the polarities mean to you, and check the number that represents where you are, photographically, between the two polarities.

Recognize that our personalities are not constant. Personality depends on the context in which we are at a particular time. You may be a "3" behind a camera, and a "5" at work, for example.

Remember, being a particular number is only "bad" if it gets in the way of your photography.

### Are you more *x* or more *y*?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

1   2   3   4   5

Risk-taking: Low (1) versus high (5)

*Sit on the sofa (1) versus sky diving (5)*

Tolerance for ambiguity (1) versus desire for certainty (5)

*The dead-end road looks interesting. (1) versus I want navigation. (5)*

Ability to concentrate: What's this! (1) versus Whatever. (5)

Tolerance for mistakes/frustration (1) versus judging self strictly (5)

*I'm fine. (1) versus I must not, ever, make a mistake. (5)*

Level of craftsmanship required: Messy (1) versus Perfection (5)

Level of control preferred: Steps 1, 2, 3 (1) versus Flip a coin (5)

Preference for analysis (1) versus intuition (5)

*The reason why is . . . (1) versus I don't know why I did it that way. (5)*

Instant gratification (1) versus the long road (5)

*Now! (1) versus Pacing (5)*

Love of novelty (1) or comfort with the tried-and-true (5)

*Vroom! (1) versus Put, put, put, put, put . . . (5)*



1 2 3 4 5

Procrastination (1) versus decision making (5)

*Where's the remote? (1) versus Let's get out and try . . . (5)*

Planning & knowing (1) versus spontaneity & curiosity (5)

*I have to do this, and then I'll do that. (1) versus I wonder what would happen if . . . (5)*

**Pick out one of the above traits and write a few words about the trait.**

Please write your answer here:

**What motivates you?**

Comment only when you choose an answer.

Please choose all that apply and provide a comment:

- Fear
  
- Pleasure
  
- Recognition
  
- Please self (pride, honor, respect)
  
- Please others (who?)
  
- Extrinsic reward (money, status, power)
  
- Connecting with self, others, or ?

- A feeling or mood
- Music
- Religion or belief system
- Love of nature, cosmology, or ?
- Other
- Other
- Other

**Fear is a top motivator. What's something scary about photography?**

Please write your answer here:

**Pleasure is another top motivator. What are five aspects of photography that you find pleasurable?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- 1)
- 2)

- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

**Pick out one of your motivators and write a few more words about the motivator.**

Please write your answer here:

## **Section E - Passion, Sensitivity, & Discipline**

Passion and sensitivity go together, but discipline doesn't. Or does it?

**What are you passionate about, even, obsessed about?**

**Help:** Passion and obsession provide energy to move, and to lay down planks over the pitfalls along the way. Passion and obsession create a destination that's highly visible in your mind's eye. If you've got a place to go, you'll get there. Having a destination creates more energy.

Please write your answer here:

**Sensitivity is needed by photographers. Besides sensitivity to the qualities of light, what else are you sensitive to?**

**Help:** To others, to self, to animals, to the weather, to a memory, to a loss, to . . .

Please write your answer here:

**What are you allergic to, photographically?**

Please write your answer here:

**For creativity, photographers need some amount of discipline. At a fundamental level, we need to get a camera into our hand some way or another, often. Write**

**about any strategies you have for finding the time, for finding the mood, for photography. For example, a strategy is to make sure your camera is accessible. Look for a camera bag with a hook-and-loop flap covering your camera. Having a routine is another strategy. See the *Help* section below.**

**Help:** Routine: Writers often have a routine that they follow each day. Photographers often do, as well. Routine includes patterns in what you do and when. It also includes the qualities of your workspace. While you may not be putting on your photographer hat every day, you may want to look to see if you have a routine. If so, you can encourage the routine. If not, you may want to establish one.

Please write your answer here:

## Section F - Things to Do

There are best practices in medicine, i.e., treatments that are proven to be effective (and not just anecdotal "proof").

This section describes some of the best practices of creativity.

**Do you have a place for notes, such as a notebook, journal, or phone?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

**Do you have a place to keep *visual* notes? Visual notes are visual examples of what you want to do more of or less of. Places include a folder on your Desktop, a bookmark folder, and a bulletin board.**

**Help:** Oddly, I've never encountered this seemingly obvious concept, visual notes, in a class or book.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

**Do you have a place to keep your project that's visible, such as a folder, album bulletin board?**

**Help:** If you keep your newest work buried in your computer, you can't live with it. Living with it enables you, as you walk by, to learn more. As you look at your photographs, you'll see what's missing and what needs to be done.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

**Do you look at photographs:**

**Websites?**

**Social media?**

**Books?**

**Magazines?**

**Galleries and museums?**

**Or ?**

Please write your answer here:

**Are you connected with other photographers:**

**MeetUp group?**

**Camera club?**

**Social media?**

**Or ?**

Please write your answer here:

**Write out some immediate tasks and goals.**

Please write your answer(s) here:

- 1)

- 2)

- 3)

**Write out some long-term tasks and goals.**

Please write your answer here:

**Look at any *no* responses above. How can you, specifically, do something this weekend to turn the no into a yes?**

Please write your answer here:

**Consider writing an artist statement. There are examples in PATH: Ways-of-Working in Photography in the *Write an Artist Statement* section. What would the title of your statement be?**

Please write your answer here:

## **Section G - Revisit Those BIG Questions**

Let's look at some of the questions at the beginning of your Creative Energy Questionnaire.

**Here's what you wrote for question A1: *Why photography?***

{INSERTANS:827995X9X40}

**Add more.**

Please write your answer here:

**Here's what you wrote for question A2: *Write down some idea(s) for a photography project.***

{INSERTANS:827995X9X41}

**Add more, including actions to be taken.**

Please write your answer here:

## Section H - Print

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Print</b></p> <p>To print your answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Click <i>the Submit</i> button.</li><li>2) A window will appear.</li><li>3) Click <i>Click here to print your answers</i>.</li></ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Question</b></p> <p>If you have a question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Enter your first name, e-mail address, and the question.</li><li>2) Click the <i>Submit</i> button.</li></ol> <p>I'll contact you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Privacy</b></p> <p><a href="#">Privacy</a></p>
--

**If you have a question, please enter your first name below.**

Please write your answer here:

**If you have a question, please enter your e-mail address below.**

**(I'll use your e-mail address only to respond to you.)**

Please write your answer here:

**Please enter your question below.**

Please write your answer here:

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.