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Micro Expressions

David Rockwood

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- Through 100 candid, ground-level black-and-white photographs, ***Micro Expressions*** reveals the subtle human interactions, fleeting gestures, and shared spatial rhythms that define urban life in Honolulu, USA and Da Nang, Vietnam
- **Cross-Cultural Urban Comparative Study:** Bridges two distinct Pacific Rim cultures—Honolulu, USA, and Da Nang, Vietnam—by highlighting shared human commonalities, street-level dynamics, and spatial rituals
- **Architectural & Urban Theory Lens:** Written and photographed from the perspective of an architect, urban researcher, and former Fulbright Scholar, replacing top-down urban analysis with ground-level human ecology
- **Intimate Street Photography:** Features 100 high-contrast, candid black-and-white photographs that focus on unselfconscious moments, gestures, and urban textures
- **Distinguished Architectural Foreword & Introduction:** Includes insightful essays by Dr. Kazi Khaleed Ashraf (Bengal Institute) and Dr. Ngoc Hong Nguyen (Da Nang University of Science & Technology) that situate the work within modern urban theory and street photography traditions

In ***Micro Expressions***, architect and photographer David Rockwood explores the intimate, unscripted life of two Pacific Rim cities he calls home: Honolulu, USA, and Da Nang, Vietnam. Moving away from the traditional architectural impulse to analyse cities from above, Rockwood brings the camera down to eye level to capture what urban theorist Jane Jacobs termed the "street ballet"—the fleeting glances, resting postures, vendor exchanges, and daily movements that give a city its true pulse.

Captured across 100 black-and-white photographs, the collection filters out visual noise to foreground rhythm, light, shadow, and expression. Rather than seeking dramatic climaxes or idealised urban form, the images document the unselfconscious, porous interactions where public space and human life intersect.

Accompanied by a foreword by Dr. Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and an introduction by Dr. Ngoc Hong Nguyen, ***Micro Expressions*** offers an evocative visual commentary on psychogeography, urban ecology, and the universal human commonalities that bridge cultures across an ocean.

David Rockwood was educated at Princeton University and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He conducted a Fulbright Specialist grant and a Fulbright U.S. Faculty Scholar grant at Da Nang University. He is currently investigating urban life using the medium of photography.

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