

# **HUMANS BEING HUMANS**

Photographs by

**Fabio Sirna**

**A PERSONAL DIARY OF TRAVEL AND SCALE. CAPTURING TINY HUMAN FIGURES AS THEY LIVE, MOVE, AND SPEND THEIR TIME WITHIN MASSIVE URBAN ARCHITECTURE AND WIDE NATURAL LANDSCAPES.**

Looking back at my photos from different trips over the years, I noticed a recurring pattern. No matter where I was in the world, I found myself constantly stepping back, pulling the camera away from the immediate scene to capture people as tiny figures inside a much larger frame.

Because of my background, I naturally pay attention to space, geometry, and how things are built. But when I look at these images, the giant concrete structures or the wide natural horizons are just the background. The real core of every shot is simply watching us do what we do best: **being human, living our lives, and spending our time.**

When you look at a city from a distance, the daily rush turns into a quiet, almost accidental rhythm. We build these massive, overwhelming spaces—gigantic modern transit hubs, symmetrical cathedral squares, and concrete avenues—yet we move through them as small, temporary silhouettes.

On a busy sidewalk in New York, a group of commuters walking together suddenly looks like the structural columns of a skyscraper. In front of a museum or under a giant public sculpture, the crowd slows down, completely unaware of how beautifully small they look against the shapes we design. We don't dominate these urban spaces; we just inhabit the small cracks within them, walking, looking around, and navigating our way through the day.

That same instinct follows us when we leave the city behind and head out into nature. The straight lines of architecture turn into open water, mountains, and fields, but our scale doesn't change.

*We remain tiny dots on a massive canvas.*

There is something deeply comforting about seeing how we fit into the wider world. Whether observing a group of people seeking warmth in volcanic academic waters surrounded by cold landscapes, a lone canoeist

on a quiet river, or travelers fading into the endless geometry of a purple lavender field, **we look for human connections.**

Even the sea becomes a place where time slows down. From a freezing beach in April where everyone stays fully dressed to a warm September afternoon where people just lay in the sun, we go to the edge of the water just to let the hours pass.

Ultimately, this series is not a structured assignment, but an ongoing personal observation. It is about the quiet beauty of being insignificant against a giant world. We walk, we gather, we wait, and we move on. And sometimes, even in the middle of a massive city park, that entire grand scale disappears completely, collapsing down to two people lying on the grass, lost in a single kiss, making the rest of the world fade away.



**Navesink River, New Jersey, 2025**

A solitary figure in a bright yellow canoe drifts across the wide expanse of the water, framed against the distant, tree-lined opposite shore. A moment of quiet isolation and human scale captured from the riverfront of Red Bank.



### **Geothermal Pools, Iceland. 2017**

Enveloped in thick steam rising from the thermal waters, figures find a moment of stillness within the raw, volcanic landscape. A snapshot of human presence gathering in comfort, contrasted against the vast and elemental nature of the island.



### **Tortosa Cathedral, Spain, 2025**

At the base of the towering baroque facade, solitary paths cross along the grand stone steps. A study of symmetry and human scale, contrasting the fleeting rhythms of daily life against the enduring weight of monumental architecture.



## Manhattan, New York, 2025

Pedestrians stride past the stark, rhythmic geometry of a monolithic building facade, capturing the steady pulse of the city. A snapshot of urban pace and individual paths crossing within the overwhelming architectural scale of a New York avenue.



### **Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, Valencia, 2024**

Framed by the deep shadows of an overarching structure, silhouetted figures move through the sunlit public plazas. A study of contrast, geometry, and human scale set against the monumental, futuristic architecture of the cultural complex.



### **Guggenheim Plaza, Bilbao, 2019**

Beneath the towering silhouette of Louise Bourgeois's monumental spider sculpture, \*Maman\*, individuals scatter across the wide stone plaza, filling the architectural space. A study of human scale and spontaneous movement in the shadow of contemporary design.



### **Louvre Courtyard, Paris, 2011**

Framed by the historic wings of the palace and facing the glass pyramid, everyday life unfolds in the vast public square. A snapshot of fleeting human moments and daily interactions contrasted against the timeless monumentality of the architecture.



### **The Oculus, New York, 2025**

Inside the cavernous, rib-like architecture of the modern cathedral, figures move across the vast white floor, completely dwarfed by the soaring structure. A study of daily human rhythms and scale interacting within a monumental civic space.



### **Grande Plage, Biarritz, 2019**

Under a moody, overcast April sky, figures dot the wide expanse of the sand while the distant architecture of the Casino Barrière anchors the shoreline. A quiet observation of seasonal leisure and human scale along the shifting Atlantic coast.



### Cap d'Ail, France, 2023

Along the rugged shoreline of the Côte d'Azur, people scatter across the beach, engaged in their quiet daily rituals. A spontaneous observation of leisure and human scale framed by the Mediterranean coastal landscape.



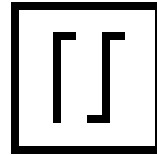
**Valensole Plateau, France, 2019**

Amidst the vibrant contrast of bright yellow sunflowers and rolling rows of purple lavender, visitors and couples pause to capture memories. A quiet observation of human joy and seasonal rituals within the iconic agricultural landscape of Provence.



**Central Park, New York, 2025**

Sheltered beneath the wide canopy of mature oak trees, a solitary couple is embraced on an immense, empty expanse of green lawn. A quiet portrait of intimacy and isolation within the vastness of the urban landscape.



[hello@fabiosirna.com](mailto:hello@fabiosirna.com)

[www.fabiosirna.com](http://www.fabiosirna.com)