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上海



上海

Shanghai

Dennis Letbetter













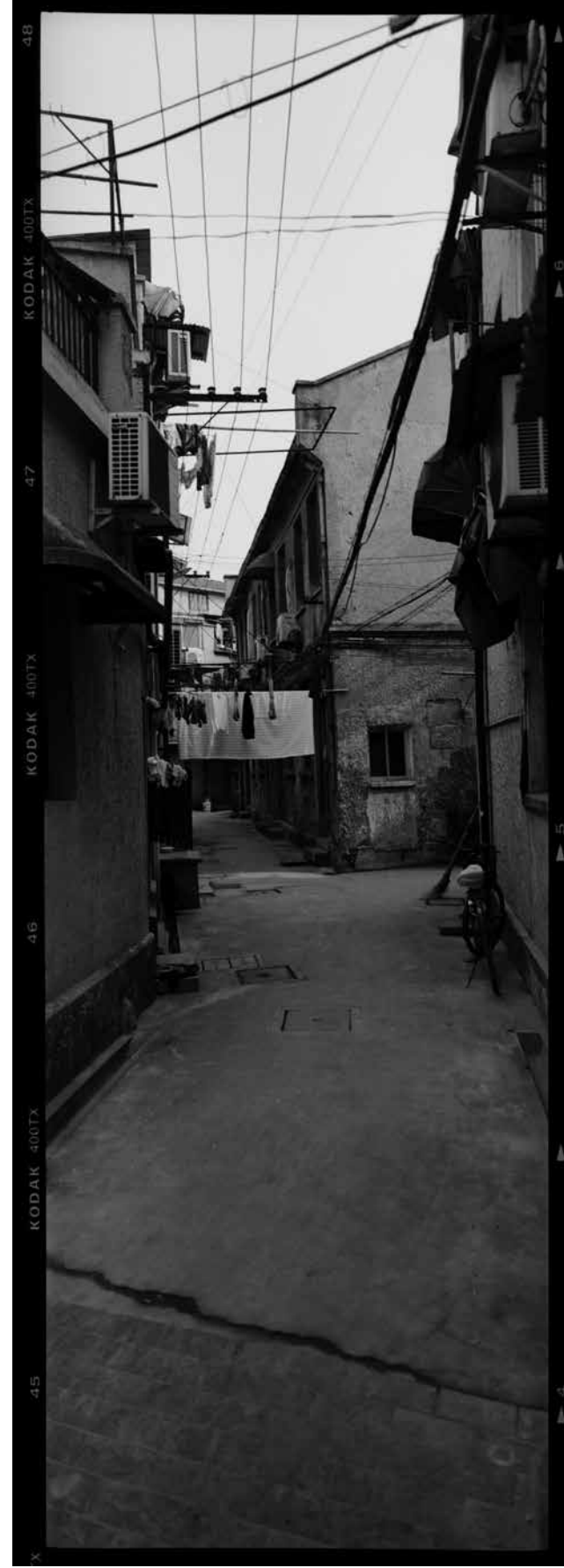




























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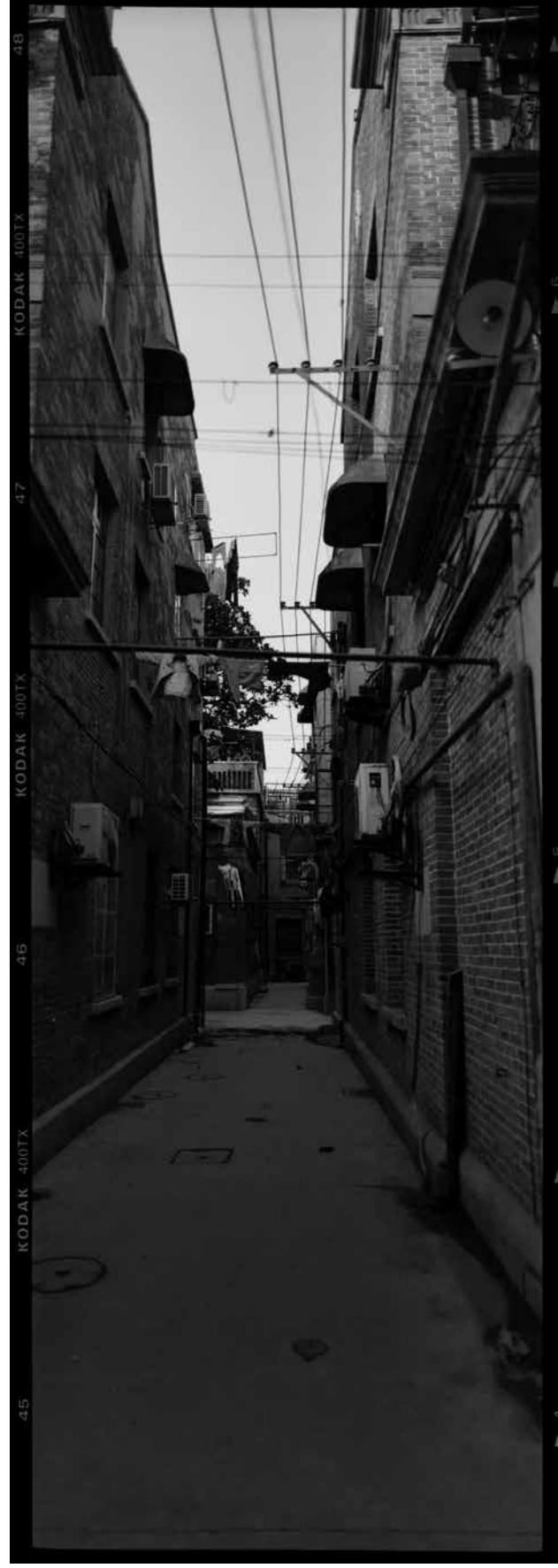




































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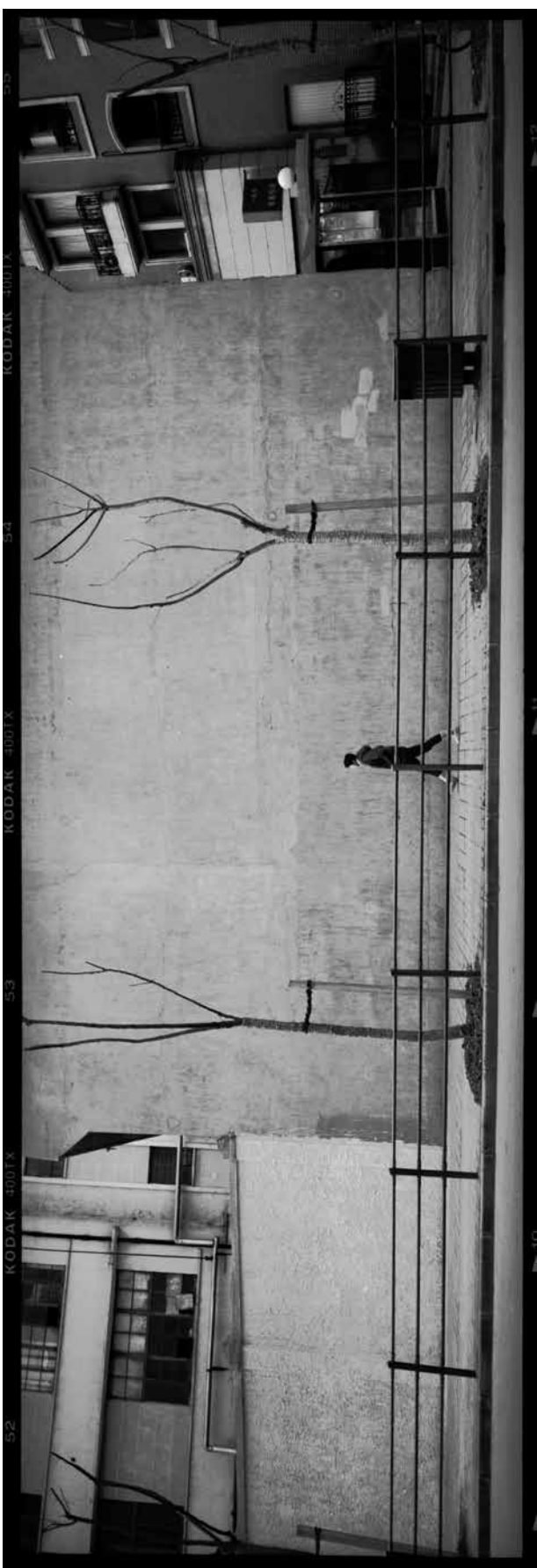














































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## 6 x 17

Each morning after breakfast in my Shanghai hotel, I would ask someone if they knew a good destination to visit. Traveling with the Philharmonie Südwestfalen, I was gratefully free of their time-consuming performance demands. I would launch out in a taxi with my sister Sharon and a magically good-natured 13-year-old boy named Benjamin. We were the most unlikely companions, but found ourselves perfect for unimagined adventures. Wandering aimlessly for as long as our feet would support us, we would then fall again into a taxi, proffering the driver with a card for our hotel. We occasionally arrived back in time for dinner designed for westerners presumed to be devoid of a discriminating palette. Our best meals were in finding what we could in cafes, restaurants and street food, all while having a euphoric flâneur's dream in a foreign locale. Knowing only some of the city and without a word of Mandarin, we thrived.

I have persisted in photographing cities in 6 x 17 cm format against the prejudicial grain of curators, generally with black and white film. The closest to the way I see the world is that of a 35 mm Leica. In the middle, perverse and aggressive is the square format, best exploited by Penn and Hujar. Sudek laid down the gauntlet for seriously considered panoramic imagery and Koudelka is perhaps the other landed shoe of its integrity. Whom amongst us cannot thrill at the light-hearted beauty of Lartigue's explorations? My photographs are an instinctive, near involuntary shutter response to that which intrigues me. The form demands that I consider a city and its complexities with much, much frustration in editorial in-camera choices.

Dennis Letbetter

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18