

#47 Feb. 2020
Cameraderie
Ara Güler
(1928-2018)



Ara Güler passed away last year, and I am sorry to report that I did not catch on until this year. So here is an article on him that I have long planned to write.

The Turkish photographer, Ara Güler, was known as “The Eye of Istanbul,” for his incisive photography of everyday life in Istanbul, and throughout Turkey.

Here is the Wikipedia article on Güler:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ara_G%C3%BCler

Here, from the Wikipedia article, is a statement of Güler’s philosophy of photography:

Güler attached the greatest importance to human presence in his photographs and described himself as a "visual historian". "When I'm taking a picture of Aya Sofia, what counts is the person passing by who stands for life", he said. He believed that photography should provide a memory of people, of their lives and especially their suffering. While he considers that art lies, he believes that photography can only reflect reality. He embraced the identity of a photojournalist because he did not attach much value to photography as an artistic pursuit, which to him would have little value. He did not consider photography to be an art.

Güler’s official website is <https://www.araguler.com.tr/>. On its home page, there are links to wonderful collections of Güler’s photographs, in the following categories: Istanbul, Color,

Celebrities, World, Discoveries, and Anatolia. Each of these connects to one, two, or three pages of fabulous photographs. Please spend a little time looking at these, especially the black/whites on the Istanbul link. Here are a few of those Istanbul photographs, without commentary.

