A primer on how to take candid shots on the beaches of Rio

by Rogério Reis, published on Nobody's Nobodies book.

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1. So you don't have to give all sorts of explanations, keep moving, be discreet, use auto focus, and stick to taking only horizontal photos. Rotating the arms to vertical format draws attention and gives away the shot.

2. Be tolerant of bathers, vendors, and police. They're unaware of your artistic motivations.

3. If you're approached by boys or girls who want you to take their picture, it's because they want fame and success. They think you're celebrity paparazzi, a facilitator of dreams.

4. Always be on the lookout for outlaws. They're aggressive, not easy to spot, and often willing to assault you to prevent you from taking photos. If this is the case, delete your photos in front of them. They think that you're a local building inspector or collaborating with the police.

5. Don't count on preventive action from the Municipal Police and/or Military Police for simple issues such as the public toilet queue, etc. Given how full the beaches often are, they're more concerned about the possibility of disturbances.

6. If you don't have a friend who's a lifeguard, give up on asking for permission to use the observation decks of lifeguard rescue stations. The angle is excellent and safe for panoramic shots, but be aware that the bureaucracy of the Civil Defense system is hellish.

7. If you notice that you're being observed by a suspect individual, make gestures that simulate you're communicating with someone from a distance. It might work.

8. Always keep in mind the phrase Banksy, the English street artist, uses concerning his actions in public spaces: "It's always easier to get forgiveness than permission."

9. One way to protect the identity of the people you photograph is to apply small geometric figures over their faces. This can often produce a curious and ironic aesthetic. For examples, you can refer to the poetic works of the Hungarian artist, László Moholy-Nagy, and the American, John Baldessari.

Good luck,
Rogério Reis