

Why Speed is Important in Street Photography

In street photography, speed isn't just about moving quickly—it's about being in tune with the rhythm of the street and capturing moments with immediacy. The slower you walk, the more you observe, but the faster you operate your camera, the more spontaneous and authentic your captures will be. Over time, I've developed an efficient workflow that balances slow observation with rapid shooting, ensuring I don't miss a moment.

Walk Slowly, Observe More, and Shoot Quickly

"The slower you walk along the street, the more that you will see. The more that you will see, the more you will make photographs."

Moving slowly lets you observe life as it unfolds in front of you, tuning into the details that make each scene unique. As long as you're making new photographs, you're a successful street photographer. But while walking slowly, it's equally important to *photograph quickly*. Don't overthink the composition; trust your instinct and *snapshot your way through the scene* with speed and intensity. This approach makes capturing fleeting moments easier, creating a natural, free-flowing series of images that reflect the immediacy of the street.

"Stop putting too much thought in your compositions and just snapshot away with speed and intensity."

Fast Workflow and Simple Gear

Speed in street photography isn't only about shooting; it's also about creating a fast and efficient workflow. I use the **Ricoh GRIIIX** with high-contrast black and white JPEGs, which allows me to capture intense, timeless shots directly in-camera. Shooting in *small JPEG mode* makes import/export a breeze—everything uploads to my iPad quickly, so I can cull and organize photos in minutes rather than hours. This minimalist setup lets me photograph, upload, and view my work with minimal delay.

"Using high contrast black and white with small JPEGs is the fastest process to photograph."

When culling, I keep it simple by viewing images in thumbnail mode, tapping to favorite my selections. I don't overanalyze each frame. This fluid workflow not only saves time but also helps me stay in a creative mindset, focusing on capturing the world around me with fresh eyes, like a child.

Don't Leave the Scene Until It Leaves You

In street photography, speed and patience coexist. A simple guideline I follow is: *don't leave the scene until it leaves you*. Find a scene, immerse yourself, and keep photographing until it naturally dissipates. Often, staying with a scene longer than feels necessary leads to unexpected images as people's gestures change, new subjects enter, or lighting shifts. This technique allows you to capture subtle developments and build a richer narrative.

"Watch as the scene unfolds before your eyes, and you will be surprised by what you find after a series of pictures made with repetition."

Key Takeaways for Mastering Speed in Street Photography

1. **Walk slowly, shoot quickly:** Slow your walking pace to observe more, but operate your camera quickly and instinctively.
 2. **Create a fast workflow:** Use high-contrast black and white, small JPEGs, and an efficient import/export system.
 3. **Stay with the scene:** Don't leave until the scene naturally ends; repetition often reveals hidden gems.
 4. **Trust your instincts:** Avoid overthinking each frame—let your intuition guide the shot and stay immersed in the flow.
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Street photography is about capturing the energy of life as it happens. By balancing slow observation with fast shooting and keeping your workflow efficient, you can create a practice that's both simple and impactful. Let your curiosity and creativity lead, and remember that speed and simplicity can be the most powerful tools in your street photography journey.