

## Creating a New World Through Photography

What's poppin, people? It's Dante. I'm currently walking around the Fairmount Water Works here in Philadelphia, along the Hidden River—the **Schuylkill**. Today, I'm thinking about how to create a new world with photography.

### Shooting with the Compact Camera

I practically and technically shoot with the Ricoh GR compact camera. **The compact camera allows for more creativity and ultimate photographic thriving.** With it, I'm less worried about making the “perfect” composition and more focused on following my intuition.

When I shoot, I use a snapshot approach, looking at life and all its complexities in new ways. Right now, I'm watching the river flow over the waterfall, patterns forming in the foam. It's mesmerizing.

#### My Ricoh GR Settings

I use the Ricoh GR IIIx with small JPEG files and all the settings cranked to the maximum. You can check out my exact settings on my website at [dantesisofo.com](http://dantesisofo.com)—I highly suggest trying it. **This setup gives you the most aesthetically pleasing photos straight out of the camera.**

### Playing with Exposure

When I shoot, I use program mode (P mode) and single-point autofocus—just pointing and shooting. I tilt the camera, change the angle, and shoot hundreds of photos of the same subject.

To create a sublime, otherworldly experience in my photos, I play with exposure compensation. Using the adjustment lever, I underexpose my shots: -1, -1.3, -2, even -3.7. **Underexposing adds mystery**, making the viewer question what they're

looking at.

*"This photograph could be of some weird texture on a wall, but it's really foam on the ground. The shapes and patterns emerge, turning into abstract expressions—like calligraphy drawn with light."*

## **Engaging the Senses**

As I shoot, I'm fully present. I listen to the water, watch the seagulls in flight, and feel the cold air. The sun's out, the architecture is beautiful, the skyline in the background—it's a perfect day for walking and creating.

*"Don't just photograph the world for what it is—photograph it for what it could be."*

I approach every shot with curiosity, asking questions with every click of the shutter. *What if we lived each day like it was our first?* What would we see? What would the eyes of a child notice?

## **Finding Newness in the Mundane**

I walk this same mundane lane every day, but I always find a new way to make a photograph. **Photography is endless.** There's so much to see, so much to explore.

*"Just like this river, ever flowing, you cannot step in the same river twice. You will not make the same photograph twice."*

That thought fuels me. It pushes me to creatively thrive and to break away from traditional approaches to photography. It's not just about photographing life—it's about creating a new world, a new universe, through the lens.

## Practical Suggestions for Shooting

Here's what works for me:

- **Use a compact camera.** The Ricoh GR is perfect for this style.
- **Shoot small JPEGs.** They save time and keep things simple.
- **Snapshot frequently.** Take hundreds of photos of the same subject.
- **Change your perspective.** Go high, go low, tilt the camera—experiment.
- **Play with exposure.** Underexpose for mystery and abstraction.

When you change your angle or elevation, the composition transforms. Right now, I'm shooting from above, and the shapes and patterns are completely different. Stepping back, zooming out—**it's like becoming the eagle, soaring above the world.**

## Seeing Patterns from Above

There's a sculpture of an eagle on top of the pavilion here, and it reminds me of this perspective shift. When you zoom out, like an eagle in flight, and look down at the world, you notice patterns in nature and human behavior.

*"The way light casts zigzag shadows, the fleeting moments, the birds in flight—this is where you become the ultimate creator."*

Watching geese fly south, hearing their calls, I recognize the harmony of it all. **It's empowering.** These simple observations inspire me to create my own world.

## Final Thoughts

So, yeah—those are some of my ideas about photography. I hope they empower you to go out there and make your own new world. The possibilities are endless. Photography isn't about documenting reality—it's about creating something extraordinary.