

## Snapshot Street Photography: Why I Love This Approach

Every day for the past **two years**, over **two years**, I've been out there making pictures on the streets with a *snapshot approach*.

This is something **super fun**. Just yesterday, I was snapshotting on my way home from work. I made a frame on the bus, featuring the **beautiful icy river** with the backdrop of *Philadelphia*. I was talking with my bus driver, interacting with the scene, photographing out the window, and *enjoying my everyday life*. And **this**, to me, is what it's all about.

### Bringing the Camera for the Ride

Approaching photography this way means going out there into the world, *living your everyday life*, and just **bringing the camera along for the ride**.

**Practically**, I use the **Ricoh GR IIIx**, set to:

- *High contrast black and white*
- *Small JPEG files*
- *P mode or aperture priority mode with snap focus*

I just **point and shoot**.

### Following Intuition, Not a Plan

The art of snapshotting is all about *responding* to what I see in my everyday routine. I'm not looking for anything specific; I'm simply *following my intuition and photographing*.

One day, I heard chanting from my window. I thought, "*Huh, what's going on today?*" So I went outside, followed the noise, and ended up making a picture after the protest.

***"I'm not out there as a photojournalist or a documentary photographer looking to tell a story. I'm just listening to the sounds of the streets."***

## **Photography as an Intuitive and Meditative Practice**

Snapshotting is **liberating**, an intuitive and *meditative practice*. It lets me recognize patterns in nature—whether it's the *light, human behavior, gestures*, or the way people move on the street.

I'm often **very close** to my subjects, still filling the frame in a traditional street photography way. Weddings, everyday city life, whatever happens around me—I snapshot it all.

## **Playing with Composition**

Snapshotting allows for a *looser, more spontaneous* composition. As much as my photos may seem intentional, I'm always experimenting with reflections, low angles, and framing in playful ways.

### **For example:**

- Shooting through reflective surfaces
- Capturing pigeons flying mid-frame
- Using my LCD screen at low angles

By embracing the spontaneous nature of snapshotting, I put **order to the chaos**, making pictures that are *dynamic and engaging*.

## Photography as a Reflection of the Soul

***"While I'm following my curiosities and photographing the world around me, I believe I'm actually photographing my soul."***

Through this process, I'm not just capturing life; I'm capturing **my life**, how I see the world, how I interpret it. Black and white high contrast photography helps me strip away distractions and focus on light, shadow, and form.

## Embracing Change and Impermanence

***"Reality is boring, and I'm trying to make reality more interesting through the snapshot."***

Observing the passage of time, seasons changing, ice forming on the river—these things remind me of life's fleeting nature.

By photographing my way through the day, I'm entering a *stream of becoming*, aligning myself with the natural flow of life. **You can never make the same photograph twice.**

## Letting Go of Control

I'm no longer on the hunt for photographs. I let life **flow towards me**, responding intuitively to what unfolds. I walk *super slow*, like an old man, letting moments come to me.

I don't overthink composition. Most of the time, I don't even look through the camera. I simply respond.

## Joy in the Process

Ultimately, snapshot street photography is about **having fun**. I'm not taking it too seriously anymore.

Whether it's photographing a hand on a street corner or intricate door knockers in historic places like *Elfreth's Alley*, I'm fascinated by the details that make up my city, **Philadelphia**.

*"I'm just living, talking to people, chilling, and snapshotting."*

## Archiving My Hometown

Inspired by *Eugène Atget*, I'm documenting Philadelphia—its streets, its people, its infrastructure. Over time, I hope my photos will stand as a document of my city in flux.

## A Visual Diary

This process has become a **visual diary** of my days, a reflection of my spirit. It affirms my life, grounding me in the present moment.

## Try It Yourself

I encourage you to check out my [street photography workflow](#) and try this approach. Just:

1. Set your camera to high contrast black and white
2. Use small JPEGs
3. Walk slowly and let life come to you

*"Photography is about presence. It's about affirming your existence in the fleeting moments of life."*

So go out there, follow the light, and bask in the glory of the sun with your camera.  
Walk slow, snapshot your way through life, and enjoy the process.