

How to Find Your Style in Street Photography

The Journey of Finding Your Style

What's poppin' people, it's Dante! I've been reflecting on style in street photography. Finding your unique style is a journey, and I believe it's more about your **approach** than post-processing or technical tweaks.

For the past two years, I've been transitioning from color to black and white. But when I compare my old color work to my recent black-and-white frames, I still see *my* voice running through them. That showed me something important—developing a unique vision in photography **is possible**, no matter what tools you use.

But to get there, you need three things: **consistency, discipline, and courage**.

Focus on the Essentials

It's easy to get caught up in gear. What camera should I use? What lens? Should I shoot film or digital? Black and white or color? **All of that is noise**. The real work begins when you simplify.

Here's what worked for me:

- **Stick to one camera and one lens.** Limiting your tools forces you to focus on *seeing* rather than tinkering.
- **Pick a direction—color or black and white—and commit.** Constraints fuel creativity.
- **Stay consistent and disciplined.** Shoot regularly and stick with your setup long enough to develop a rhythm.

If you're experimenting early on, that's fine. But after a year of exploring, it's time to lock in. **Discipline pushes growth**.

The Role of Courage

Finding your voice in photography has everything to do with how you engage with the world. **Photography isn't about photography. It's about life.**

"If you want to get close to life, you need the courage to stand on the front lines."

For me, this meant getting physically close to my subjects. I've always been drawn to raw human energy, and that closeness is reflected in my work. To do that, you have to be **bold, audacious, and willing to face rejection or discomfort.**

Learn from the Masters

Studying the work of great photographers shaped how I see. Some of the biggest influences on my style:

- **William Klein** – Loose, raw compositions and fearless engagement with subjects.
- **Alex Webb** – Mastery of light, shadow, and layered complexity.
- **Larry Towell** – Deeply intimate, emotionally rich documentary work.
- **James Nachtwey** – Confronting the harsh realities of conflict, unflinching and raw.
- **Sebastião Salgado** – The power of traveling with a camera and seeing the world beyond your own bubble.

If you want to develop your style, **immerse yourself in the work of those you admire.** Study the greats, but don't copy. Absorb and **synthesize.**

"You need to understand what has been done before you to know what can be done."

Must-Watch Photography Movies

- *Sebastião Salgado: The Salt of the Earth* (2014)
 - *James Nachtwey: War Photographer* (2001)
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Cultivate Your Voice Through Experience

Developing a style isn't just about studying the masters—it's about **putting yourself out there**. For me, that meant **traveling, volunteering, and immersing myself in different cultures and environments**.

Some pivotal experiences included:

- **Volunteering in Israel and Palestine** – Living on a kibbutz, working with Palestinian families, and photographing humanity up close.
- **Traveling to Zambia** – Spending time in rural communities, photographing funerals, baptisms, and daily life.
- **Shooting daily in Philadelphia** – Practicing in my own city sharpened my skills for bigger adventures.

"To create photographs that resonate, you have to be present in the world."

These experiences taught me that photography isn't just about composition—it's about **where you choose to place yourself**. Travel, explore, and **let your surroundings influence your work**.

The Power of Photo Books

One of the most inspiring tools in my journey has been **photo books**. For example, Alex Webb's *The Suffering of Light* became my **bible** for street photography. It's 30 years of his best work, and every time I revisit it, I find something new.

Photo books transport you to new places and perspectives. I recommend:

- Studying the best work you can find.
 - Asking yourself: *What makes this photograph great? What emotions does it evoke?*
 - Breaking down how light, color, and composition interact.
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Keep Moving Forward

If there's one lesson I've learned, it's this:

"Never stop moving, never stop making, never stop exploring."

Curiosity fuels creativity. It pushes you to see more, frame more, and make more photographs. I've been photographing for a decade now, and **I'm still just getting started.**

Your journey will be endless. Wherever you are in it, embrace the process.

Final Thoughts

If you're struggling to find your style, remember:

- **Simplify.** Limit your tools and make decisive choices.
- **Study the greats.** Learn from their work and build on it.
- **Put yourself out there.** Travel, explore, and stay curious.
- **Be disciplined.** Consistency is the foundation of growth.
- **Be courageous.** Push yourself to the front lines of life.

Finding your voice **isn't about forcing a style** or chasing trends. It's about showing up every day, pressing the shutter, and **trusting the process.**

Photography is **life itself.** Style emerges from experience. So stop dwelling. Stop overthinking. Just get out there, **make more photographs, and keep going.**

Peace.