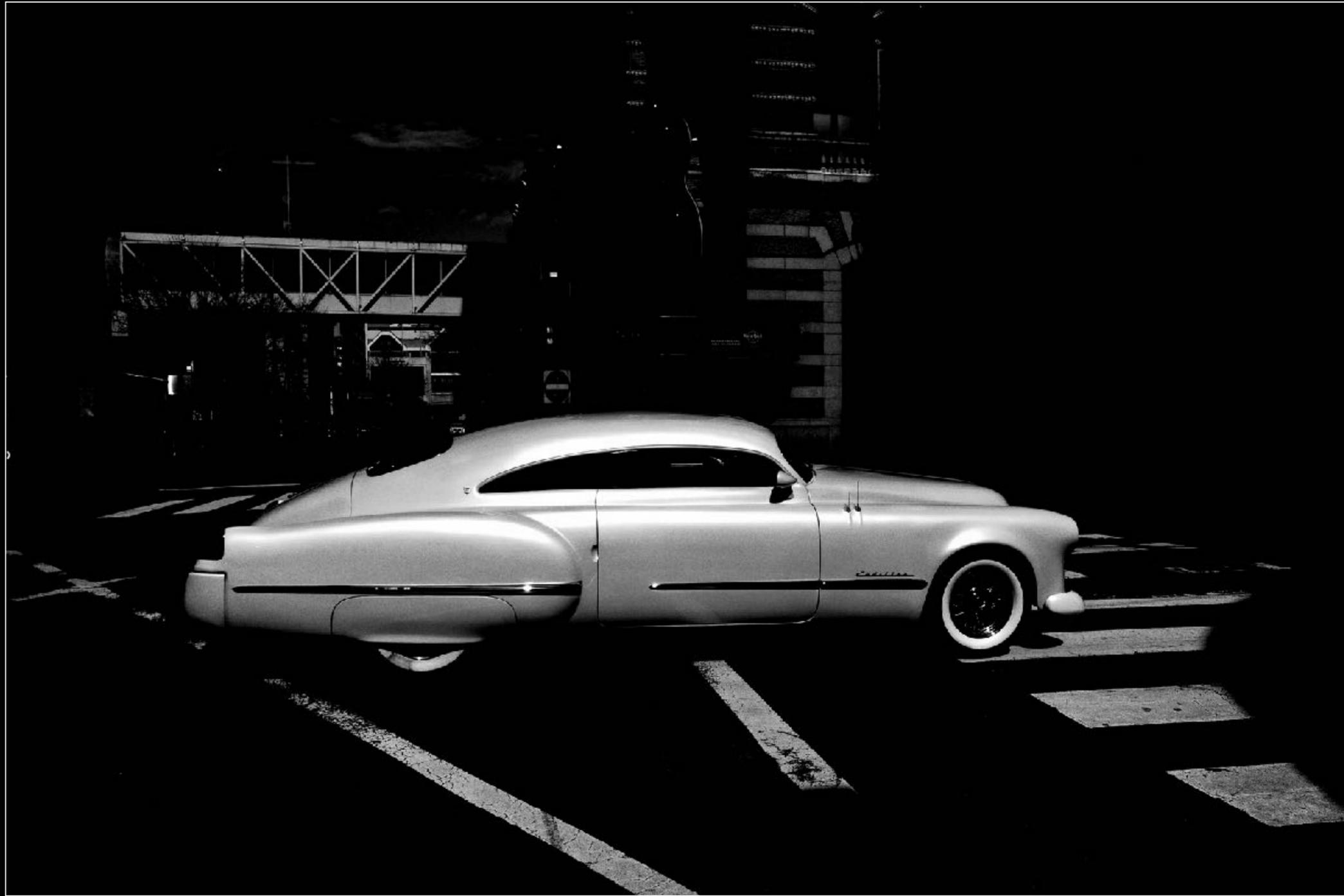


10 Techniques to Improve Your Street Photography





Eliminate decision fatigue



1. Commit to One Camera, One Lens

- The camera should be an extension of your eye and body
- A photographer is responsible for where they position their body in relationship to the subject and the background









Photography is like weightlifting



2. Practice Daily

- The more you walk, the more you see. The more you see, the more you photograph.
- Composition is intuition. You need muscle memory.
- Photography becomes a lifestyle.







Work the scene



3. Walk Slowly and Observe

- Walk 75% slower than everyone on the street
- The slower you walk, the more you see.
- The more you see, the more you photograph.









Pattern Recognition



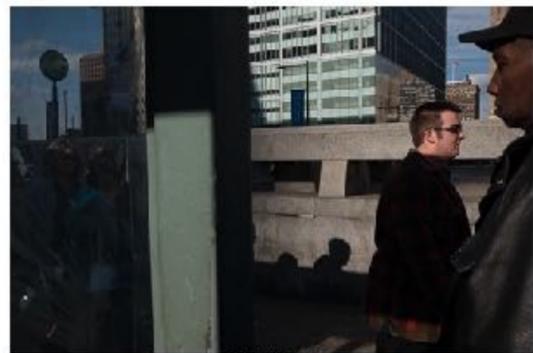
4. Find a Consistent Route

- Know your terrain.
- Anticipate light, crowds, gestures.
- Familiarity leads to results.





Photography is visual problem solving



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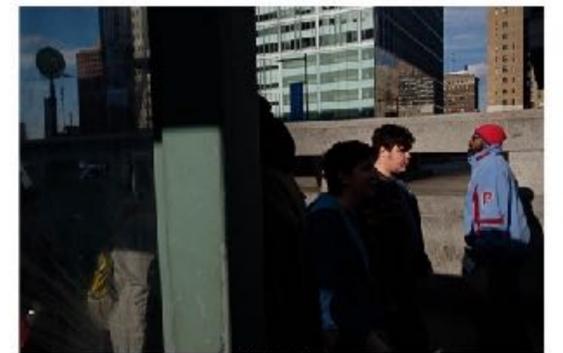
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5. Study the Light

- Light first, subject second.
- Reverse-engineer compositions.
- Let light lead you.





6. Engage with Your Subjects

- Talk. Smile. Be human.
- Connection creates opportunity for better photos.
- Your energy reflects back in the frame



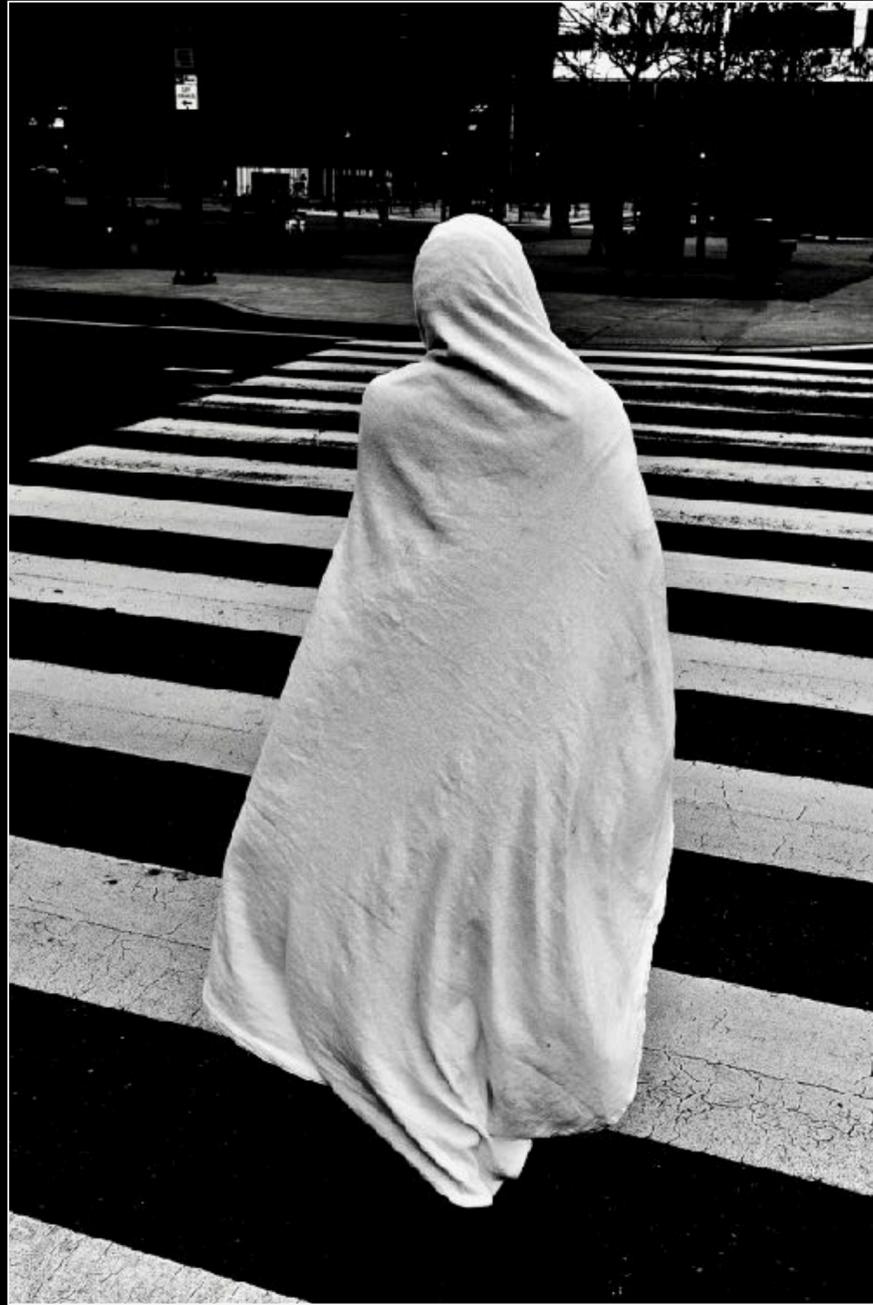
Photography has nothing to do with photography



7. Embrace the Flow State

- Stop overthinking.
Just bring the camera for the ride.
- Let life flow towards you.
- You are just there and prepared with your camera.





8. Study the Masters

- Learn from legends.
- Dissect their contact sheets.
- Understand what makes their photos so great and apply it to your own photography.

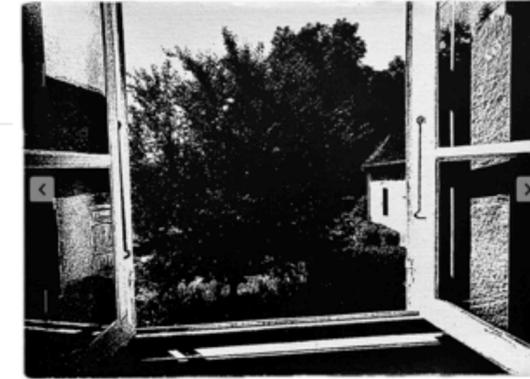


START HERE



[How I Mastered Street Photography.](#)

What's poppin', people? It's Dante. Street photography is my passion, and I'm here to share how I've honed my craft over the past decade. From studying iconic [photo books](#) to refining my approach through countless hours on the streets, I've developed a style that's all about intimacy, timing, and emotional connection. Check out my recent blog post to learn more about my journey of [How I Mastered Street Photography](#).



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Photo Books

1. [Eugene Atget – The World of Atget](#)
2. [Walker Evans – American Photographs](#)
3. [Walker Evans – Subways and Streets](#)
4. [Henri Cartier-Bresson – Photographer](#)
5. [Robert Frank – The Americans](#)
6. [Ray Metzker – Monograph](#)
7. [Ray Metzker – Sand Creatures](#)
8. [Ray Metzker – Unknown Territory](#)
9. [Ray Metzker – Light Lines](#)
10. [Josef Koudelka – Gypsies](#)
11. [Josef Koudelka – Exiles](#)
12. [Helen Levitt – One, Two, Three, More](#)
13. [Susan Meiselas – Nicaragua](#)
14. [William Klein – Celebration](#)
15. [Tod Papageorge – Passing Through Eden](#)
16. [Bruce Davidson – Subway](#)
17. [Bruce Gilden – Haiti](#)
18. [Larry Towell – The Mennonites](#)
19. [Frank Horvat – Side Walk](#)
20. [Daido Moriyama – Dear Mr. Niépce](#)
21. [Daido Moriyama – Phaidon](#)
22. [Daido Moriyama – Record 2](#)
23. [Vivian Maier – Retrospective](#)
24. [Jason Eskenazi – Wonderland](#)
25. [Mark Cohen – Grim Street](#)
26. [Mark Cohen – Frame](#)
27. [Alex Webb – Istanbul, City of a Hundred Names](#)
28. [Alex Webb – The Suffering of Light](#)
29. [Alex Webb – La Calle](#)
30. [Alex Webb – Brooklyn, The City Within](#)
31. [PROVOKE](#)
32. [Women Street Photographers](#)
33. [Magnum Streetwise](#)
34. [Reclaim the Street](#)
35. [Harry Gruyaert – Between Worlds](#)
36. [Raúl Cañibano – Absolut Cuba](#)
37. [Sam Ferris – In Visible Light](#)
38. [Daniel Arnold – Pickpocket](#)
39. [Brian Karlsson – Book](#)
40. [Gianni Berengo Gardin](#)
41. [Trent Parke – Monument](#)

Study all mediums of art

- Inspired by painters like Caravaggio
- High contrast enhances aesthetic beauty
- Light and shadow play is sublime

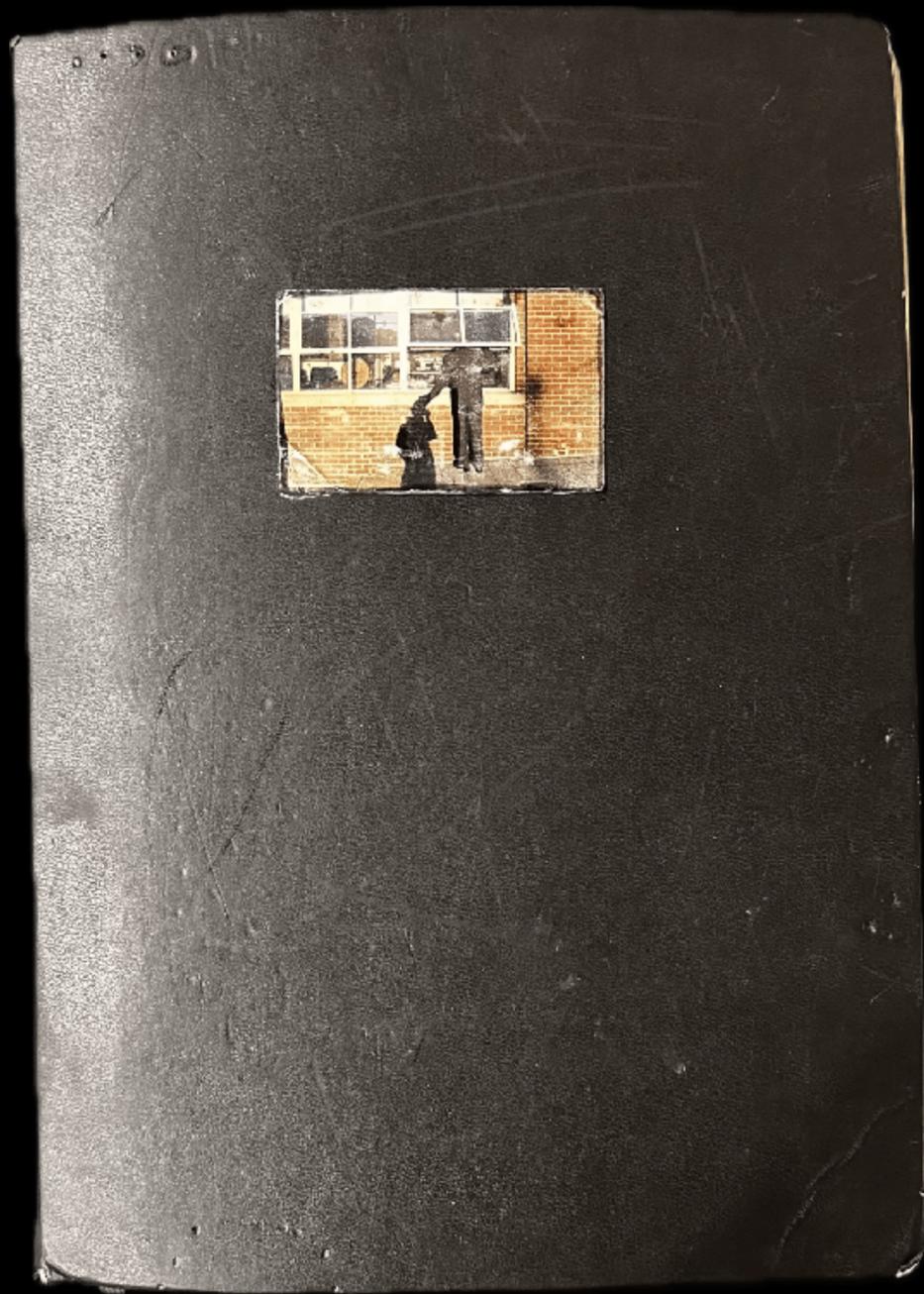




9. Print and Review Your Work

- Make a sketchbook.
- Lay them out. See your patterns.
- Purchase a Canon Selphy CP-1500 Printer







Baltimore, MD - February 20, 2016

Children playing basketball behind middle school in Sandtown. My all-time favorite picture - mainly because of the four arms among the Greek god, Hydra.



Philadelphia, PA - May 29, 2016

Mi-Mi on the raft of the Kennedy House by the pool. This is my grandmother on the left. My entire family lives in this building in Philadelphia.



Baltimore, MD - April 7, 2016

A rainbow over Sandtown in West Baltimore. The girl in the glass kept throwing up peace signs and I told her to stop she did not add a lot to my image.



Philadelphia, PA - Baltimore, MD - April 11, 2016

Children playing outside before they go to get washed by their mothers. They were not just running free on the sidewalk. Things exist outside of the frame.



Philadelphia, PA - June 12, 2016

Muhammad Ali on the cover of the local newspaper. Taken on South St. during the African Festival. This was 100% not staged and I did not even realize.



Baltimore, MD - March 29, 2016

Man sitting in his car in Sandtown. The shadow in the back left appeared from nowhere. The shadows' hand submits the man's hat.



Baltimore, MD - March 22, 2016

Children covering themselves from a fire in Sandtown. The woman is wearing a shirt with the face of Obama on it. The fire is coming from behind the corner.



Baltimore, MD - April 18, 2016

Woman sitting on motorcycle in Sandtown on the sidewalk. I am always and naturally drawn to the tiny places on cars and motorcycles.



New York City - September 29, 2016

Woman emerges from mirror in Chinatown. The man on the right was selling the mirror as well as other various goods. I am interested in creating an abstract view of the landscape via mirrors and reflective material.



Philadelphia, PA - June 11, 2016

Children playing in Olmuth Plaza Fountain out front of City Hall. I liked this because I captured a moment diverse humanity with a mixture of race, culture, and religion, age, etc.



Philadelphia, PA - July 3, 2016

Children climb a tree by Ferris Landing. This was taken by the Delaware Ave where I usually wind up turning around to walk back home from my walk.



New York City - September 29, 2016

Man sitting by the fountain in Washington Square Park. I took my shoes off and walked around the fountain with this man as I was surrounded by children. It was beautiful, truly.



Baltimore, MD - September 9, 2016

Group of children playing out front of the church in Sandtown as the sun sets. This was taken at 4:30pm, I was across the street, trying to shoot from further away.



Baltimore, MD - March 24, 2016

Children climbing trees for a lonely tree on the block in Sandtown. I was playing with them for a while. I helped them get down from the tree, but most appreciated it.



Philadelphia, PA

Man struts with his cane and white clothes as he crosses the street. I was interested in his fact as he stepped onto the curb. What I captured is unexpected.



Baltimore, MD - September 1, 2016

Young man pops a wheelie in the corner of Penn North by the bus stop, leaning into the light more because of the unexpected nature of light.



Baltimore, MD - April 11, 2016

Children playing outside of their home in the projects in Sandtown. The stripes on the shirt and socks are the unexpected gold mine.



Baltimore, MD - March 25, 2016

Boys playing basketball in an alleyway in Sandtown. I began shooting in between the pipes instead of the actual game itself.



Baltimore, MD - April 18, 2016

Children playing outside of their home, dressed as superheroes. I did many superhero photos in Baltimore amongst the youth/culture.



Baltimore, MD - March 8, 2016

Children playing on the subject in Reservoir Hill. I spent at least a hour with these kids. They were alone.



Baltimore, MD - October 7, 2016

Dog barks as I approach the porch to make a photograph. I visited this house exactly one year ago and the same woman was sitting in the same chair.



Baltimore, MD - March 25, 2016

Dog sits on young girl's lap out front of a corner store. I was glad that an adult walked into the frame because during this time I was mainly only photographing children.



Baltimore, MD - March 5, 2016

Children playing in front of mural in Reservoir Hill. They spent a lot of time tippy around these logs. I have always walked by this mural imagining the photo I could take. This is it.



New York City - September 29, 2016

Pigeon waddles by US Army Humvee. Traffic. I jumped to the ground as soon as it walked by as I was drawn to the delicate nature of the pigeon in relation to the stiff Army vehicle.



Philadelphia, PA

Pigeon leaps in front of the man feeding pigeons to the pigeon. I saw this man all over Philadelphia with the same pigeon.



Baltimore, MD - March 22, 2016

Behind me is a fire. I do not know why I started this that way. That was not my intent. I trapped the light, shadows and gestures.



Philadelphia, PA

Child hangs from tree on the Belmont Plateau. Will Smith's music took me here in the summertime. This place is extremely special to me and is especially significant at my childhood times spent here.



Baltimore, MD - October 7, 2016

Artists stroll through Smdtown on their horse and carriage. He told me to delete the picture.



Baltimore, MD - March 22, 2016

A group of young women on the corner after getting out of their cars. This moment captures something that is not "love" 3/25



Baltimore, MD - September 16, 2016

People searching for loot treasure beneath the cracks of the earth. His phone fell and some people came by to help out.



Baltimore, MD - March 25, 2016

Children at playground outside of the Kids Safe zone. One Afro makes me feel as though it's homeless.



Baltimore, MD - March 23, 2016

North Hill Barber Shop. Self portrait taken in the mirror of the cramped shop with my classmates while working on an assignment.



Baltimore, MD - April 1, 2016

Children in Asteroid Hill playing in the picnic area.



Baltimore, MD

Outside of the corner store in Smdtown. Child's face revealed beyond the shadows.



Baltimore, MD

Self portrait taking through the window as he looks through the window as the man looks him an idiot.



Philadelphia, PA - July 23, 2016

Crowd of people dancing in light at the Citizen's Park Park prior to the Democratic National Convention at a media party.



Philadelphia, PA - July 26, 2016

Blue Detour by the wall blocking Benie Sander's protestors from entering the Wells Fargo Center at the DDC



Baltimore, MD - April 11, 2016

Man rolling a blunt in front of a mural of President Obama. The man let me make the picture.



Baltimore, MD

Two young men fight after gambling, betting the middle school in Smdtown. Taken by my basketball shot - right before



Baltimore, MD

Man collapsed to the ground out front of Liberty Tax in West Baltimore. I subconsciously make political cartoons.



Baltimore, MD

Protest out front of the new CVS built at Penn-North. The man holding the dog was close to the wolf lying on the ground.



Baltimore, MD - April 11, 2016

Two young men under arrest. I was interested in the man's jersey in relation to the number of people under arrest.



Philadelphia, PA

Police out front of food truck at African Festival on South Street.



Philadelphia, PA

Man with cigarette looks away from the man collapsed on the ground behind him.



Baltimore, MD - April 7, 2016

Man with binoculars watching as the police remain in the background. I asked the man to hold the binoculars up. I thought they looked interesting and I did notice the police.



Baltimore, MD - March 5, 2016

Children play with police officer's flashlight. He is flashing it in his eyes as a fire is burning directly behind me. I was more interested in the moments inside of the pocket of the "incident" rather than the fire itself.



New York City

Child with balloon passes by a local police officer in Chinatown. The innocence of the woman was of interest.



Baltimore, MD - March 25, 2016

Two young children fall on the sidewalk copying caution tape by the kid's safe zone.



Baltimore, MD - April 27, 2016

Child with spiderman backpack glides across the wall at the Penn-North bus stop.



Baltimore, MD - April 18, 2016

"To strive, to seek, to find, and not, to yield."



Baltimore, MD - March 26, 2016

Child hides behind ping pong paddle. We played a few games together and his family was incredible. Would go back again.



Baltimore, MD - April 11, 2016

Children playing on the sidewalk with a head and remote control car.



Philadelphia, PA

Child pops a wheelie on the bike trail by the river.



Baltimore, MD - April 18, 2016

Children practicing boxing on street of the boxing center in Southtown.



Baltimore, MD - August 1, 2016

Children play with basketball on street in front of a mural of Freddie Lou Hamer. This is by the old site zone in the empty field.



Baltimore, MD - March 29, 2016

A family hanging outside in their car with their young children. They had ~~the~~ music playing and were very welcoming.



Baltimore, MD

Young man in his backyard in West Baltimore. He was trying his laundry.



Baltimore, MD - February 29, 2016

Man leans over table sitting on a bench with the letter carved 'relax' on it. I was interested in the moral, positive in relation to the bench.



Baltimore, MD

Child on the front porch in the projects. Southtown



Baltimore, MD - March 29, 2016

Father with son before he leaves him for a few weeks to go work for his job.



These young men were hanging out on the corner by the local middle school in East Baltimore near Old Town Mall. They wanted to be photographed. I find it interesting how people want to represent themselves and how it is displayed in the picture in relation to the project. They have great pride in their community and it comes across in the way in which they portrayed themselves as well as their gestures.

This man was looking through the window of a voting center in Hopkins. I just bought some film and walked out of the store. I was interested in his shirt and the reflections.



This man is standing on the corner of the bus stop by Old Town Mall where Pei Atr Market used to stand.



Man on the corner out front of the Linger Store in East Baltimore. He and a few buddies were chatting about the community after I mentioned Pei Atr Market. They remembered the past and the places they used to enjoy.

This family was hanging out front of a local restaurant in Middle-East Baltimore. They wanted to be photographed as I walked by them without even saying anything. I walked up to them to talk to them after I made the posed picture of them to capture what I wanted.



This woman is carrying some groceries that she just picked up from the local grocery store in Old Town Mall. She is standing in the corner of the strip where I made the portrait.



Men on segway and local pedestrian walk by tall, modern building in the John Hopkins community. I was interested in the play of shadows, lines, and forms as people passed the geometrical 2-dimensional plane.

A lonely tree sits in an empty field with a chair in the background. I waited for a person to pass by the field as there was a local bus stop nearby so people tended to cross it ever so often. I waited a lot for this picture.



This is another picture that I made the first day I brought film in Hender. I was interested in the reflections and how it duplicated the stop signs amongst the frame. This was another one that I waited as while for a person to cross for.



Security cameras on the corner of Gay and Essex Street on the entrance of Old Town Mall. I was interested in it because it was so close to the actual mall, but I am afraid that it may go off track from what I am trying to say in my project.

For people who live peace and quiet: a phoneless cord.

Woman walking her dog in the Old Town Mall. I was trying to make a layered composition with the person in the background. I believe I made a better photo that is vertical that I will probably use over this.





A woman carries a bag in front of Hopkins Hospital facility. I was drawn to the leading line in the background as well as the overall geometry of the composition. But I also enjoyed the figure and subject in relation to the landscape.

Man crosses the sidewalk in front of the tall apartment building. I placed my camera above the hood of the car across the street in order to fill the frame with the repeating patterns of the windows.



People walking across the street through the Johns Hopkins area. I thought the tree in the foreground in relation to the buildings and the general landscape was interesting in context of my project.



Woman walks by sidewalk on East Baltimore. I placed the camera on the ground behind the mailbox and pointed it upward, waiting for the perfect person to walk by. The lines and new perspective was interesting to me. I am consistently trying to do new angles.

Beyond the fence and the empty field lies the elementary school that Hopkins promised and provided for the community. Unfortunately, the school's ~~water~~ are the children of their parents that work at Hopkins Hospital. It is questionable if the school is beneficial to the community.



Man walks through Old Town Mall by the street that has a sign that needs to change. I must come back to this spot again to photograph the sign by itself as I find the text and the wear on the sign to be pivotal.



Newspaper cover reads "Watchtower" lying on the floor of a parking lot. This is another photo that I am not too sure if it goes with track from my project or not although I am a big fan of that one.

Birds sitting on top of sign in empty parking lot in East Baltimore. This is a strong, minimal environmental shot that describes the landscape of East Baltimore in a more intimate way.



These are political posters posted on the side of the remaining buildings at the entrance of Old Town Mall. This photo describes the political change of the landscape of East Baltimore as well as a physical change in the actual outer appearance of the buildings.

This is my favorite photo that I made with the Rollei. It is fun mainly because of how unexpected the focus was and how the legs behind the man in the foreground are in focus. I like that you cannot see any faces and that the dog is out of focus, leaving you with the legs in the background and the text.



Focus was set to infinity at f8 I believe.



This man was tangled up with his dog's leash out front of a building in Hampden. When I took this picture, I was simply interested in that gesture/moment, but I was left with an unexpected depiction of a man struggling himself.

~~A church~~ The cross on top of a church peers over the view of local residential homes from the back alley. The cross is a powerful symbol ~~that would be much more~~. I enjoy it in relation to the "blessing's" photo two photos up.





Sign reads "changes" It is fading away. I came back to this sign in Old Town as I felt it could be used as a transitional photo.

Union Halls were accessible to east-side workers ~~from~~ travelling by trolley along Gay, Fayette, and Baltimore streets. Because halls were clustered together visitor to the city-national officers of the Knights of the American Laborer, easily made 5 or 6 meetings an evening.



Christopher Barnes. This was my Uber driver. He is the person who took me to the location to take photos. He was heavily injured.



Looking towards the Harbor from a parking garage along the border of Hopkins Hospital Area and East Baltimore.

East side craft workers did close together but worked apart from one another. The small dispersed plants of the city isolated them from others of the same trade.



Tashira White. She was out front of the "Change the Game" sign. I made lots of pictures of her out front of the sign on her iPhone for her Instagram. She wound up being a MICA grad.



Barbara Carter. She was hanging out with Renee Washington out front of the barber shop.

To talk over pay rates and working conditions, unorganized craftsmen in the 1890's often congregated in market stalls, corner taverns, or a succession of workers' houses in the neighborhood after work.



Aerial Photo of Vacant lot in East Baltimore. Taken from a parking garage near Hopkins Hospital. Inside the lot appears to be cement pillars.



Aerie Washington. She had trouble to say about life when Old Town Mall was thriving. She used to go into stores through the back entrance because you had to know the owner.

These are young students at Hopkins or just general volunteer workers, cleaning up the sidewalks along the border of East Baltimore and Hopkins. They were looking through the newspaper holders on the sidewalk.



Young Students or Volunteers were walking around Hopkins East Baltimore and cleaning up the sidewalks by picking up the trash - that the pic from parking garage.



This heart was spray painted onto the cement barrier in front of the construction site in East Baltimore. This was a sign of hope within the all of the construction that has been ongoing for years.



This sign is painted on the side of a building in East Baltimore. It reads, "Change the Game". Another inspirational piece of text that I spotted from the top of a parking garage.



Demetrius Brown helped me climb up the side of one of the buildings in Old Town Mall. He was very helpful. I always wanted an aerial shot like this. I am glad that I captured the existing view. I should research these two places that I photographed and shoot them out in the newspaper that I create.



Aerial view of Old Town Mall J and S Variety Store



This is an aerial view of Maria's Old Town Italian Restaurant. The restaurant is family owned. According to google reviews, food is on point!!!!!! So should you stop here. ~~that~~



Aerial view of Maria's Corridor in Old Town Mall

Wells and McComas were buried in the east end of the city in the graveyard of Christ Church. Entire graveyards were being moved out of the city or obliterated by construction with no notice. The resolution for the citizens was to build Government Cemetery. Wells and McComas were there.



Fire Truck sits near empty lot in Old Town Mall

Because foreign-born workers, blacks, and women so dominated Baltimore's semi- and unskilled labor force, the white craftsmen's feelings of status were heightened, reinforced by anti-ist, racist, and sexist prejudices. The isolation of union hall life, the retreat it afforded from heterogeneous workforces of city shop floors, buttressed feeling of superiority. The depression of 1893 touched off a wave of industrial mergers and sell-offs - purchases from outside companies and banks of local companies. After World War I, unions fractured and lost as institutions of working-class neighborhoods.



Demetrius Brown climbs the Wells-McComas Monument

Demetrius Wells and Henry McComas were apprentice saddle makers in Baltimore during the War of 1812. They worked for Captain Edward's Ammunition Millikin Rifle Company.

General Robert Ross was in command of the invading land troops that approached the town's western boundaries, in September 1814.

A British soldier reported that Ross' pistol wound was caused by a musket ball and a buckshot.



young child in window of corner shop by the monument on the corner of the mall



10. Trust Your Intuition

- Photography is a visual game and a physical pleasure
- Shoot from your gut.
- If something interests you by even .01%- make the photo!



My ultimate photography secret is that I don't take myself seriously. I have fun when I am on the street.

Embrace the spirit of play!





Final Thoughts

- Curiosity is the goal.
- Make more photos.
- Enter the stream of becoming.
- Your next photo is your best photo.



Call to Action

- Choose 3 techniques to try this week.
- Hit the street with purpose.
- And remember: you're just getting started.