

Mastering Street Photography: 5 Iconic Photo Breakdowns From Around the World

What's poppin people? It's Dante.

Today we're breaking down some of my favorite photographs from the past decade of traveling and photographing around the world. You're getting a behind-the-scenes look at the stories, the compositions, the intuition — all of it. Let's get into it.

1. Brothers in Jericho

This photograph was made in Jericho after I had just finished praying with a group of brothers in a masjid. I had traveled to Jerusalem to study at Hebrew University and spent six months exploring Israel and the West Bank. Jericho became my weekend escape — bus ride in, camera out.

"I don't leave the scene until the scene leaves me."

I was outside the mosque after Salah, just sipping tea with a group of guys, when two men embraced with a kiss. The background was clean, the moment was pure, and I layered the frame using the man's hand and coffee cup in the foreground. No logos, no timestamps — just a **timeless, tender** photograph.

Key Takeaways:

- Emotional impact > technical perfection
 - Observe, don't rush
 - Simplicity in the background enhances complexity in the subject
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2. Bikers in Philadelphia

Summertime in Philly — guys showing off their bikes. This image came together through **observation** and **physical positioning**.

It started with a glance. A man on his bike, just arriving, locked eyes with me. I engaged him in conversation. I noticed the mirror and how it echoed the shape of his helmet. Then, I moved my body. I adjusted. I finessed the composition until:

- A subject appeared *within* the mirror
- The man looking at me anchored the left
- People in the background added depth and movement

"Photography is a physical medium. You have to move your body to make the composition click."

Visual Strategy:

- Use mirrors and reflections to add layers
 - Treat your composition like a puzzle
 - Physically move to fit the pieces together
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3. Girls in Mumbai

Shot in **Varsova**, Mumbai, where I would head to the beach for sunsets. The light, not the location, is what drew me in.

Two girls were adjusting their makeup in the foreground. In the background, another girl carried a boy on her hip — perfect separation, dynamic tension, and layered narrative.

"Embrace the spirit of play. Photography is child's play for grown-ups with cameras."

Notes:

- Trust your intuition and go where the light is
 - Spend time at the scene — become part of it
 - Use clean backgrounds to separate subjects and create timelessness
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4. Boys in Zambia

Peace Corps. Lake Bangweulu. Baptisms and daily life at the Seventh Day Adventist camp.

The boy on the left? That's Bwaglia Jr., my host brother. We gathered water, rode bikes, swam, climbed trees. I made this photograph from above, using the **blue lake as a background** to remove distractions. The bather takes up half the frame. Three boys fill the other.

"Photography is a visual puzzle. Fill the frame with meaning, and eliminate the noise."

Lessons:

- Work with gestures
 - Simplify by removing the horizon
 - Balance emotion with composition
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5. Dog Beach in Tel Aviv

This one was all about **patience** and **stage-setting**. I found a choke point at the dog beach, saw a potential background with nice light and geometry, and waited.

Two dogs ran into the foreground. People played in the middle ground. A couple hugged in the back.

"This isn't luck — this is fishing. You set your stage and wait for life to walk in."

Composition Strategy:

- Foreground: Dogs in motion
- Middle ground: People playing
- Background: Showering man and distant lovers

The backdrop of the sand and sea gave structure and space for each layer to breathe.

Final Thoughts

Street photography isn't about gear or theory — it's about **being present**. It's about:

- Getting close
- Being human
- Embracing curiosity and play

Want to dive deeper into my process? [Check out my Start Here page](#) on the blog for tutorials, contact sheets, and everything I've learned on the streets.

Stay sharp. Stay curious.

– **Dante**