

## Street Photography Breakdown: Part 12

### What's poppin, people? It's Dante.

Today we're doing *another* street photography breakdown — **part 12** — where I look at five different photographs from different parts of the world and break down the compositions and philosophy behind how I approach street photography.

Let's get right into it.

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### **Example 1: Mother and Daughter in Mumbai**

***“Photography has nothing to do with photography.”***

***It has everything to do with how you engage with humanity on the front lines of life.***

When you're out there on the streets, how you present yourself and engage with life will reflect in your photos. I approach every day with *joy*, *openness*, and *childlike curiosity*, and I think that energy comes through in the images.

I was walking down a railroad when I saw a beautiful moment — a mother and daughter combing hair. I asked for permission, got low, and photographed them intuitively.

#### **Compositionally:**

- Foreground: The girl's joyous smile and flowing hair.
- Background: Her mother with arms raised, combing her own hair.
- Details: Gritty rubble backdrop, two wheels perfectly framing the mother's head, evoking *motion and contrast*.

***“Not always photographing in those bustling choke points... but on the edge of danger and chaos, exploring the unknown.”***

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## **Example 2: Father and Son in Baltimore**

Baltimore is where I studied in university, so I walked these streets often. Families hang on the stoop. As I approached a man with his son, I *engaged openly*, chatted, and photographed the moment candidly.

### **Key elements:**

- Man's gesture: Cigarette to his mouth, face half in shadow.
- Light and shadow: Adds drama, emphasizes the moment.
- Background: Boy playing with a yo-yo, also half-shadowed.
- Visual interest: Deep shadows on stairs and railing.

***“Light and shadow play is something I’m always drawn to.”***

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## **Example 3: Watermelon in Napoli**

I wasn't out looking for photos. I was just *living my life*, vacationing with my brother. We swam, spoke Italian with locals, and shared watermelon with a man who had stored it all morning in the **Mediterranean Sea** to keep it cool. Natural refrigeration.

***“Detach yourself from the outcome. This photo was delivered to me.”***

### **Visual breakdown:**

- Foreground: Man holding watermelon (right third of frame).
- Counterpoint: Friend holding watermelon (left third).
- Background: Swimmer in the sea as the anchor.
- Color: Vibrant reds spiral your eye through the photo.

I worked *back to front*, setting the anchor first and letting intuition guide the rest.

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### **Example 4: Watermelon in East Jerusalem**

I was walking through a heavily militarized checkpoint — *metal detectors, X-ray machines, barbed wire*. Honestly, it was intimidating. But I remained playful.

***“I don’t take myself so seriously. I’m just a big kid with a camera.”***

I met a group of guys playing around with watermelon.

I asked, “Can I make a photo of your watermelon?” They smiled, joked, and we connected. And then — boom — *decisive moment...* the man tosses a watermelon onto his head, beaming.

#### **Composition:**

- Foreground: Man with watermelon on head (1/3 of frame).
- Background: Truck, worker, leading lines, shadows.
- Lighting: My own shadow, light on the man’s face, crushed shadows behind.

***“This photo is all the spirit of play.”***

***“It came through joy, banter, and lightheartedness.”***

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### **Example 5: Soccer in Jericho**

Jericho was quiet. Empty. But then I found a pocket of youth playing soccer — a *rooster ran by*, and I just *felt* something.

I split the frame with a pole. I was very intentional about setting the background first, again working *back to front*.

#### **Elements at play:**

- Light and shadow dividing the frame.
- Foreground: Boy kicking a soccer ball.
- Midground: Silhouette of another child in shadow.
- Background: 3 kids standing tall, facing the lens.
- Clean separation: All 5 children spaced perfectly.

***“This comes from micro-movements and knowing where to stand.”***

Just being out there, noticing, chipping away at the scene... it all fell together.

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## **Final Thoughts**

If you learned something today and want to go deeper into my process, check out:

-  **[Free PDF Contact Sheets](#)**
-  **[Ultimate Ricoh GR Guide](#)**
-  **[How to Conquer Street Photography Fear](#)**
-  **[Behind-the-scenes POV videos](#)** (Mumbai series)

Thanks again for joining me.  
More breakdowns coming soon.

**Peace,**  
Dante 🙌