

Street Photography Breakdown Part 13 📷

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

Today we're going to be breaking down five of my photographs from across the world in **Street Photography Breakdown Part 13** — looking at *composition*, *intuition*, and *behind-the-scenes moments* that made each photo possible.

1. Mother and Son at the Dog Park – Philadelphia

This photo was made at the Schuylkill River's dog park — a beautiful place I usually walk during sunset just to catch some peace.

“I like going to places that bring me joy.”

I wasn't expecting to make a photo that day. I was detached from the outcome. But when you simply go to places you love, you often get gifted with scenes like this one — tender, joyful, and real.

I went up on this boardwalk lookout and saw a **mother and child hugging**, so I framed them on the **left side of the image**. I leaned against the fence and used it to split the foreground from the background.

You've got:

- The **hug** on the left
- The **dog and dog owner** on the bottom right
- A **train in the background**
- People walking, city architecture, a garden...

“A tender moment amongst the chaos of urban life.”

It's not about one isolated thing. It's about **synthesizing all the elements** into a moment that reflects *life as it is* — scattered, beautiful, and full of movement.

2. Palestinian Smoker – Jericho

This one's from the **Wadi Qelt** valley — possibly the biblical Valley of Eli, connecting Jerusalem to Jericho. I hiked there all day with friends and ended up in this scene.

“I too was there. Present. In the water. When I pressed the shutter.”

This isn't just about physical proximity — it's emotional closeness. I spent the whole day with this subject. When he turned and looked back, cigarette in hand, *I was already there.*

What makes this work:

- Simplicity of the **background** (water, rock, bamboo)
- **Isolation** of subjects using a high angle
- Strong **gesture** and **eye contact**
- **Rule of thirds** to divide the frame

“A timeless moment. A simple moment. That only came after spending time immersed in life.”

And that's it. One photo. After five hours hiking. That's how it goes sometimes.

3. Baltimore Youth – Baltimore

This one was taken outside a home in Baltimore. I explored the streets during my university days, and this scene just clicked — literally.

Foreground:

- A **boy on the left**, looking at me
- Two **boys on the right**, reacting

Background:

- **Wall, table, slanted pole**, and strong **color contrast** between red wall and shadow

“If I’m photographing children, I’m going to drop to their angle – to elevate them in the frame.”

Low angle. Simplify the background. Wait for the moment.

That’s it.

4. Broad Street Bullies – Philadelphia, DNC 2016

Absolute chaos.

I was walking around photographing the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Protest energy in the air. Tension.

This dude on the left bumps into another guy carrying a **watermelon**. Watermelon drops. Guy falls. Chaos erupts.

“Let me be straight up... he spit on me.”

I didn’t even know why. I don’t think he saw me take the picture. The atmosphere was *just that intense*.

What made the shot:

- Man on the ground, mid-gesture
- Cigarette guy swoops into frame
- Friend helping him up
- **Over 10+ gestures in the background**

“Put order to chaos. That’s photography. That’s the street.”

Spontaneous tension. Split-second timing. Gut instinct. One photo that raises more questions than answers.

5. Playful Youth – Baltimore

This takes me back to where it all began – walking the streets of Baltimore at 18, Ricoh GR2 in hand. I stumbled across these kids playing outside.

Their mom tried to get them to come inside for a bath. They refused. They just kept playing.

She gave up.

I asked if I could shoot some photos. She said yes.

“When you’re out there embracing the spirit of play – like a big kid with a camera – the world plays back.”

Key elements:

- A boy sweeping in from the right, **smiling**
- A girl **upside down**, hair outstretched
- Boys drinking from cups, one on **one foot**, arm outstretched
- **My shadow** and their shadows dancing in the scene
- **Blue sky, yellow lines, clean backdrop**

I dropped low. I shot. I responded.

“Photography is visual – but it’s also physical. You need your gut. And your two feet.”

Final Thoughts

These moments? They’re not staged. They’re not forced.
They’re **gifts** for those who show up – fully present, playful, and courageous.

“To go out there and put order to chaos – that’s our task. Not just as photographers, but as humans.”

Thanks for tuning into this breakdown.
If you want more, check out:

-  **My Blog**
-  **YouTube Channel**

See y’all in the next one.

Peace.