

## Street Photography Breakdown: Part 16

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

Welcome to *Street Photography Breakdown*, **Part 16**, where we look at five different photographs—breaking down their compositions and the behind-the-scenes of how they were made.

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### 1. The Driver in Baltimore

This photo was made **early in my journey**, back when I was 18 or 19. I was *courageous*, man. I would go up to people in their car windows and make pictures. I still have that inner drive to push myself and make photos that feel uncomfortable.

***"You're gonna feel fear first—and I think that's natural. But you overcome it through courage."***

This guy was parked, perfectly lit, and I just sensed the possibility of a photo. So I framed him on the right-hand side, and layered in a second figure across the frame—someone standing by the brick wall, just a sliver in the shadows.

We've got:

- The **foreground** man in the car
- The **frame within a frame** using the car window
- Crushed shadows, layered light
- A mysterious **silhouetted figure** on the door that mimics the man in the foreground

It was all intuition—seeing possibilities, composing, and trusting the light.

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## 2. Soccer in Mumbai

This one came from a **spirit of play**.

I saw children playing soccer and I joined in—literally showing them some of my “very skilled” soccer moves. While playing, I noticed a top-down angle would isolate the kids best since I was taller.

Composition-wise:

- Three kids in the **foreground** (left, center, right)
- Four kids in the **background**
- **Leading lines** and a clean backdrop (that chalkboard on the right!)
- **Gestures, faces, movement**—all clearly visible

***"When you make a picture, it's really important to analyze the moment, the movement, the people, and the potential background."***

I positioned myself to *synthesize the content with the form* using layers and a downward angle.

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## 3. The Rainbow in Zambia

One rainbow. One photo. That's all I got.

I was chasing the rainbow like a lunatic, literally running down the path trying to find a subject. Nothing was around—until I saw a woman coming out of her house.

Then a dog started running around her, and I dropped *way down* to the dog's level to make a compelling frame.

***"Relate your physical body to the moment to synthesize content with form."***

What came together:

- **Foreground:** Dog, looking straight at the camera
- **Middle ground:** Woman in traditional chitenge, looking at the viewer
- **Background:** Thatched roof house, clouds, and the **rainbow** (the pot of gold)

If I had shot at eye level, the photo would've been weak. But the **low angle** brought separation, intimacy, and balance.

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#### 4. Pigeons in Philadelphia

By the old bus station—RIP to that place.

I walked this path in Chinatown often. I'd always see pigeons at this same corner. And so I kept working the scene, again and again.

***"This comes through repetition. Pattern recognition is critical—whether in birds, light, or human behavior."***

This time, I:

- Dropped low again
- Used **light and shadow** to create drama
- Captured pigeons **in flight**, silhouetted
- Positioned a **man in silhouette** emerging in the background

Crushed foreground shadows. Clean bright rectangles in the distance. A sliver of blue sky. It was all about **separating light from shadow**, and working those contrasts for maximum visual impact.

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## 5. Bus Stop in Baltimore

Bus stops are where people gather—and that's where stories happen.

***"Bus stops are just a good place to practice street photography. People are coming, going, waiting, talking. There's always potential."***

At this one stop:

- I noticed a **boy repeatedly jumping up a wall**
- He had a **Spider-Man backpack**, playing like a superhero
- I kept working the scene

Eventually:

- A **man with crutches** emerged on the right, smoking a cigarette, exhaling the smoke
- A **woman** came into the background on the far left

So I had:

- **Foreground:** Man smoking, isolated by clean windows
- **Middle ground:** Boy climbing wall like Spidey
- **Background:** Woman walking, brick wall with triangle patterns

***"I look at the people in the street as heroes. I like to champion humanity."***

This photo had **movement, emotion, contrast**, and a little bit of grit. One of my favorites from Baltimore for sure.

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## Final Thoughts

Thanks for watching today's breakdown. If you enjoyed, feel free to check out more at:

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Peace.