

## Street Photography Breakdown: Part 9

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

Welcome to *Street Photography Breakdown*, part nine, where we look at **five of my photographs** and break down **five different ideas** about how I made the frames. Hopefully, by the end of this, you'll have a better understanding of how to apply some of these practices and techniques to your own street photography journey.

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### 1. The Makeup Girls in Mumbai

I kept returning to Varsova Beach. *Over and over.*

Each day, I chipped away at the same location—got more comfortable. The people started to recognize me, and I got closer to the moments.

Golden hour hit different here.

There was this **pink hue** in the sky, this glow that hit just right. I gravitated toward that beach light *naturally*.

***“I found myself simply gravitating towards the locations where I know there will be light.”***

On this day, I noticed two girls applying makeup. There was something so **tender**, so **intimate** about the gesture. I framed them **bottom center** of the photo—so they'd sit against the clean background. In the upper half of the frame, three girls were climbing a hill of trash, carrying a boy.

The gesture of the makeup, the composition of the figures above, the **sand, the trash mounds, the pink light**—it all fell into place. The result?

***“A clean and simple and easy to read photograph.”***

**Key Takeaway:** *Return to the same location. Get comfortable. People open up. Light becomes your ally.*

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## 2. The Fog at Penn's Landing

This one? Total surprise.

It was *either* New Year's Day or the day after in 2021. It rained earlier—and then this fog just *descended*. I had **never** seen it like that before. It was magical.

Penn's Landing is one of my favorite places to shoot in Philly. So I just **naturally gravitate** there. That's key.

***“Follow that inner curiosity in you. Follow your inner desire.”***

I composed back to front. Planted my body to align with the Benjamin Franklin Bridge on the left. That became my **anchor**.

Two people in the foreground. Fog in the air. Neon lights from New Jersey reflecting off the water.

***“It's really the mood and the atmosphere and the energy that I believe is evoked through the frame.”***

**Moral of the story:** *Go where you love. The magic might just meet you there.*

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## 3. Turn on Red

This one came from the gut.

Two women in **red shirts**. Two nurses in **blue**. Blue signs in the back. And a sign up top that says: **TURN ON RED**.

I noticed the color matching instantly. Made my move to get in front. Fired off two frames.

***“Sometimes you get a cherry on top, you get a surprise.”***

The turn-on-red sign? I didn’t even fully see it in the moment. It revealed itself later. That’s the beauty of instinct.

***“No amount of studying or composition theory is going to help you make these kind of photos.***

***This comes through putting in the reps.”***

**Takeaway:** *Be out there. Shoot from the gut. Let instinct lead.*

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#### **4. The Rainbow at Logan Square Fountain**

This shot was **not** luck. I **forced** my luck.

I told myself: *“I’m going to photograph the rainbow.”*

So I waded into the fountain water. Spent *three to four hours* repositioning my body to find the angle. I **watched the kids** play, studied their movement, waited.

***“You can go out there and make a photograph of anything you can dream of. It’s just a matter of putting your mind and your body out there on the front lines of life.”***

One kid leapt—legs outstretched—just as the rainbow arced across the background. His head? Literally revealed the rainbow. A water jet on the left mimicked the rainbow’s shape.

Pure **decisive moment** magic.

**Lesson:** *Repetition. Physicality. Obsession. That's what gets you the shot you dream of.*

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## 5. The Girls Playing at Penn's Landing

This one was spontaneous.

Far edge of the promenade. A place where *no one* walks. These girls came out of nowhere and just started playing. I set my background first—the blue geometric shapes, the leading lines. Then I *waited*.

One girl leapt, legs out, just as her sister looked on. And at that exact moment, a **shadow** revealed itself bottom left—something I didn't even see until after.

***“When you're making a decisive moment photograph, little bits and pieces reveal themselves.”***

And that's what it's about.

***“Photography is a very physical act—positioning your body in relation to the moment and pressing the shutter from the gut.”***

### **Final Thoughts:**

- Follow your gut
  - Trust your instinct
  - Let your body feel the moment
  - Go out *daily* and increase your chances of making magic
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## Wrap Up

If you enjoyed this breakdown, visit [dantesisafo.com](https://dantesisafo.com).

On my **Start Here** page, grab my **contact sheets PDF**, watch the “**How I Mastered Street Photography**” video, or dive into the **Mumbai playlist** with behind-the-scenes POVs.

**Thank you for watching, reading, and being part of this journey.**

I’ll catch you in the next one.

**Peace.**