

## Street Photography Breakdown: Part Eight

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

Today we're doing a **street photography breakdown, part eight**. I'm sharing with you some of my photographs from around the world — talking about how I made the frames, breaking down compositions, and dissecting my philosophy behind how I shoot.

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### 1. Mumbai Swimmers in the Tank

I arrived at this ancient tank in Mumbai. Not much going on visually — people praying, swimming — nothing striking. But I walked around the tank for *about half an hour*, patiently, and slowly things started to unfold.

Kids began doing backflips into the water. I stayed present, playful, and honest. The kids almost started performing for me. They saw my camera and reflected back my joy and curiosity.

***"The way that you interact with humanity will reflect back in the photographs you make."***

So in the frame:

- **Foreground:** Boy with arms outstretched, mid-flip preparation.
- **Right side:** Another boy emerging from water, tongue out, locking eyes with the viewer.
- **Background:** Simplified water surface.

I used a **28mm focal length**, looked down from above, and composed the frame by isolating human gestures in relation to space and background.

***"Sometimes the moments before and after the event are more interesting."***

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## 2. The Wheelie in Philly 🚲 🏙️

This was a fleeting moment — one of those iconic Philly bike stunts. Difficult to isolate such movement. But again:

***"Photography is physical."***

I dropped low — **gut instinct**. The boy was doing a wheelie with his arms and legs stretched. I only had a second or two. There were a few boys rolling through, so I acted quick.

- **Foreground:** Boy on a bike, mid-wheelie.
- **Background:** Philadelphia's **Comcast Towers**, blue sky cutting diagonals.

***"It's about solving the visual puzzle — background, light, timing, instinct."***

I carved out a clean shape between his limbs and the skyscrapers, isolating the subject by simply adjusting my position and reacting fast.

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## 3. The Rainbow in Jericho 🌈 🪨

**A miracle.** It never rains in Jericho. But it rained — maybe five minutes. And then a *faint rainbow appeared*. I noticed it while walking. As I moved in to photograph it, kids began **throwing rocks** — a powerful Palestinian symbol of resistance.

***"This was my David and Goliath photo."***

Here's what made it work:

- **Foreground:** Boy throwing a rock, eyes fixed on the horizon.
- **Left/Right:** Shadows of nearby kids, adding tension.

- **Middle Ground:** A worn-down building — destruction.
- **Background:** Rainbow — creation, renewal.

It was this beautiful juxtaposition of **decay and hope**. I used a clean wall to isolate the action and shape the narrative.

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#### 4. The Cross in Mexico City

The mountains were calling. I'm always drawn to the outskirts. That's where the stories live. I had already scouted this location a day before — and came back. A family welcomed me with **free tacos**, kids playing, everyone chill.

***"When you engage with these more local communities, you can be surprised at what you find."***

At the top of the mountain, I framed:

- **Foreground:** Boy hanging from a cross, gazing down.
- **Middle:** Friend reaching for him.
- **Background:** Mountain sliver showing the city below.

The blue sky isolated the cross, and the mountain gave **depth and context**. I didn't want just a cross against sky — too minimal. I needed that visual relationship between the sacred and the inhabited world below.

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#### 5. The Sunrise in Hanoi

**Never miss a sunrise again.**

That's one of my core philosophies. In Hanoi, people gather at dawn — exercising, dancing, stretching *before the sun even rises*. That's beautiful.

***"Wake up early. Be eager. Adopt the mindset of a tourist."***

So I headed to Hoan Kiem Lake and composed this:

- **Anchor Point:** Man sitting on a bench.
- **Middle Ground:** People gesturing, moving — spontaneous.
- **Background:** Sunrise bursting in from the right, city skyline glimmering off the lake.

By **anchoring the frame** with the seated man, I allowed the chaos and grace of movement to naturally unfold around him. It's simple. Just see and respond.

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## Final Thoughts

***"Be endlessly curious. Go out with the mindset of a tourist. Lust for life."***

If you enjoyed this breakdown, visit [dantesisofo.com](https://dantesisofo.com) where I go deeper into my thoughts, techniques, and photo analysis.

- Check the **Start Here** page to read *how I mastered street photography*.
- Download a free PDF of my **contact sheets**.
- Watch my **POV series from Mumbai** on YouTube.
- And subscribe — there's more to come.

**Thank you for watching. Peace.**