

Why Light Is My Subject in Photography

What's poppin, people? It's Dante. The world is so open. There's so much to do, to see, to explore, and to photograph. I mean, it is such an abundantly beautiful world out here.

Check out the beautiful view of the Fairmount Water Works — standing atop the cliff, catching that sunset. Seems like there's a wedding. Yeah.

Light Is My Subject

Today I'm thinking about **light** — and why I treat light as my subject in photography, and what this means to me.

"Photography — photo meaning light, graphé meaning writing or drawing — is the act of writing with light."

When I'm out here with my camera, I treat each frame like an **instant sketch of light itself**. And that's a very empowering thought.

Because no matter where I am, no matter what I see — the photograph I make will never be the same. Light is always changing. It's always in **flux**, like the river flowing endlessly in the Schuylkill.

Same Path, Different Light

I can walk the same lane, follow the same path,
stand at the same vantage point,
look at my shadow at the same time of day — over and over again.
And still make something new.

There's something so beautiful about **recognizing change** through light.

"Photography becomes a search for truth through light itself."

Not Reality — Abstraction

When I'm making photographs, I'm not trying to **depict reality**.
I'm abstracting it.

Light becomes not only the subject — but also the **medium**.

When light casts upon surfaces, when it emanates through my lens,
touches the sensor and forms an image — it's a beautiful lie.
It's not showing life as it truly is.

Looking at my shadow down there —
that's actually really beautiful. I'm gonna make a photo of that.

"Photographs are like casting shadows on the wall."

It's not reality — it's **an abstraction of it**.
And when I shoot in high-contrast black and white,
with the contrast settings cranked to the absolute max —
it's like I've got **x-ray vision**, looking **beyond the veil**.

Evoking Feeling, Not Stories

I'm not trying to capture a moment or a story.

I'm trying to evoke what it **feels** like to exist.

"I want to make a photograph that evokes a sensual, emotional experience for the viewer."

Using light as my subject and medium is a return to the **essence of photography**.

And by doing that —

maybe I'm also chipping away at life,

and revealing the eternal forms of beauty itself.

I Follow the Sun

I literally **orient myself toward the sun**.

I don't have a plan. No preconceived notion of what I'll find.

I just follow the light.

- The way it casts across a bench
- The shadows on the floor
- The glow of leaves held up to sunlight
- The macro details of nature
- The vastness of trees
- The humanity of people

All of it — touched by light.

Photography becomes **meditation** —

a practice of presence, a spark of bliss.

Light Heals and Creates

Sunlight kisses the skin.
Vitamin D, UV rays — they awaken the body.
They synthesize hormones, make me feel **strong**.

While I'm photographing, I'm affirming life.

"There's this feeling you get when you create something — it's godlike."

Light created the universe. Light created me.
So when I return to nature — to trees, to birds, to pinecones —
I'm reminded:

***"God is within everything.
Everything that light touches bears God's divine signature."***

The Soul in Others

Look into someone's eyes — and you see their **soul**.
There's a light within us all.

***"When you recognize the light within another person, it charges your soul
like a tuning fork striking the heart."***

And when you see someone else as a **divine creation**,
you feel an overwhelming **love for humanity** —
for flowers, animals, people, plants, everything.

Following light brings you back to this:
a reverence for the **essence of all things**.

Eternal Light

No, maybe we can't live forever.

But a photograph? A photograph might.

***"When I photograph, I hope to evoke my soul in the image.
If the soul dies when we die –
then maybe we can live forever through the act of creation."***

So keep walking.

Follow the straight and narrow path.

Follow the light.
