

## Street Photography in the Gutter: Finding Beauty in Trash and Decay

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

Currently walking barefoot down a grimy alleyway in Philly. Yeah. Stepping on glass. You already know.

And today's thought?

It's about **uplifting trash.**

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When I'm out photographing lately, I'm *infinitely fascinated* by the bullshit we leave behind.

- Crumpled newspapers.
- Fast food wrappers.
- Broken glass wedged into cracked sidewalks.
- Old receipts.
- A cigarette still burning next to an empty water bottle.

The stuff in the gutters.

The things tucked between bricks.

The hidden, tossed-aside, ignored — **but still there.**

There's something profound about that. The leftovers. The discarded.

**What does it say about us?**

About this *condition* we call human?

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I don't just want to document beauty.  
I want to find beauty in the **imperfections**.

*"The human condition is not all sunshine, rainbows, and beauty."*

It's also grime.  
It's also sadness.  
It's a guy using a newspaper to wipe himself.  
**It's real.**

And when you can find beauty in that?  
When you can find beauty in the *downtrodden nature of life*?

**You change your perspective.**

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I believe there's power in it.  
In finding **beauty in suffering**.  
In seeing the **ugly** as just another part of the whole.

Because let's be honest:

- Life isn't perfect.
- We're all gonna die.
- We're flesh.
- We cut.
- We bleed.
- We feel sorrow, pain, greed.
- We lust.

*"We are bound by gravity."*

So why not make photographs that *remind us of that*?  
That pull us down to earth, right into the dirt and the cracks —  
And show us something sacred in the trash.

