

Why You Should Try High Contrast Black and White Photography with the Ricoh GR

What's poppin, people?

It's Dante. Currently on my morning walk here in the Centennial Arboretum. Check out all the beautiful trees — perfect way to start the day.

The Ricoh GR Workflow That Changed Everything

Today I was thinking about my workflow and photographing with the Ricoh. Here we got the **Ricoh GR III** — and I saw that the **Ricoh GR IV** was just announced. Yeah, I'll probably grab that. Not because I need it, but because it's just cool they're making a new one.

But that's not really the point of this.

Today I just want to drop a very simple idea:

Why you should try photographing with the Ricoh GR and high contrast black and white JPEGs.

Not for Everyone — But It Might Be for You

Let me be clear:

This isn't for everyone.

You can do whatever you want with your photography. I'm just here to share why *this way* of shooting brings **me** more joy.

Stripping down to high contrast black and white... it's like everything becomes infinitely fascinating again.

Even the mundane.

Rediscovering Photography Through Simplicity

It's easy to feel like:

- You've seen it all
- You've shot it all
- You've done everything you can with your camera

I've been there.

But coming back to black and white felt like **returning to day one** as a photographer.

Now I'm finding *infinite ways* to articulate the world in a photograph.

“Everything becomes infinitely novel and infinitely photographable.”

The Joy of the Amateur Mindset

I think the joy comes from staying amateur.

Compact camera. LCD screen. Fits in my pocket. I don't have to wear the *photographer hat* anymore.

No big mission.

No need to go out and tell some dramatic visual story.

I'm just **following my inner child** and snapshotting my way through life.

I follow my intuition. I let the chips fall where they may. I move through life with my camera in hand — not looking or hunting, just being open to what comes.

Visual Diary of Daily Life

This whole workflow is like keeping a visual diary.

It's not really about documenting life *as it is*, but rather:

- How I interpret reality
- What it could be
- Abstracting the world through the lens

“Life can be so real that it feels unreal.”

By shooting this way, I'm emphasizing *my* way of seeing — through **light**.

“Light is what gives life meaning in my life. It's my subject. My medium. My way of making photographs.”

Seeing Through the Veil

When you crank the contrast and grain to the max and shoot in B&W...

It's like:

- Holding up an **x-ray to the world**
- Peering *beyond the veil*
- Finding beauty in what seems boring

You give yourself the freedom to explore like a kid again.
And yeah — **you give yourself permission to break the rules.**

Going Against the Grain in an AI World

As AI and camera tech get better at making hyperrealistic images, this approach feels even more important.

“By photographing this way, you go against the grain quite naturally.”

I want to *transcend reality through a camera.*

To **make something extraordinary out of the ordinary.**

And yeah — it’s hard.

But when you let yourself break the rules a bit, it becomes fun again. It becomes *yours.*

Infinite Output, Infinite Possibilities

This workflow lets me shoot **so much more.**

Hundreds of thousands of photographs these past few years.

It’s the most prolific I’ve ever been as a photographer.

“The more photographs you make, the more keepers you’ll find.”

So yeah — if it works, *keep rolling with it.*

This way suits me. I walk slow, I observe, I snapshot, and I don’t take it too seriously.

Embracing Imperfection = Finding Your Voice

All the grain.
All the contrast.
All the weird little digital details...

That's the juice.

It's funny, people ask:

"Isn't that just a style?"

But to me, it's the **anti-style**.

"You're just a vessel for the medium. You work with light and shadow. You make instant sketches."

Not worried about finding some perfect "signature look."
Just staying present and letting the photos come.

Transcending the Medium

This is my wild vision:

"Photographers of the future won't just make photos – they'll transcend photography."

So if you're curious about trying this out, I got you.

Try It Yourself

Head to dantesisofo.com

Click the **Start Here** page.

There's:

- The **Ultimate Ricoh GR Guide**
- A **1-hour+ video** slideshow walkthrough of my entire workflow
- A downloadable **PDF** for your phone
- Blog posts and more

Try it out.

If it brings you joy, keep going.

Make a site. Post your work. Move forward.

Final Thought: The Fig Tree

Let's see... have the figs bloomed on the tree yet?

Is it time to eat the forbidden fruit?

Maybe not quite...

But they're getting close.

“Was the fig the forbidden fruit? Didn't Adam and Eve use the leaves for clothes or something?”

Macro photography, baby.

That little insect right there — that's the shot.

Until next time, keep photographing. Keep observing. Keep creating.

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