

## Why Macro Photography Will Make You a Better Photographer (and a Happier Human)

### What's popping, people?

It's Dante, currently reporting live from the Garden of Eden — also known as Fairmount Park. The fig tree is bearing fruit. I'm not joking. These figs are *ripe*. Got some good rain lately. Look. Yeah. They're soft, sweet, juicy. I'm eating a fig right now.

Oh — there's an ant on the fig. Actually, multiple ants.  
*Maybe I just ate a couple.* Extra protein.

***"I sure know what it's like to eat bugs, considering my time in the Peace Corps."***

And that's actually the perfect segue into what I want to talk about today:

**Macro photography.**

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### Slow Down. Zoom In.

Today I'm out here shooting with the Ricoh GR III. And I'm not out looking for "the moment" or chasing people on the street — I'm doing the opposite.

I'm slowing down.  
I'm getting low.  
I'm looking *closely*.

**That's the gift of macro photography** — it shifts your whole orientation to the world.

A lot of the time we're chasing the *big picture*. The wide frame. The decisive moment. The grand vista. But what happens when you stop chasing? What happens when you *notice*?

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## The Divine is in the Details

I genuinely believe:

***If you slow down and look at the fine details of life, you can find God.***

- Look at the patterns on leaves.
- The texture of bark as it chips away.
- The veins running through a single flower petal.
- The life cycle of a dying bloom.
- The movement of ants on a fig.

These things all carry their own **inherent beauty** — and macro photography helps you see that.

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## Abstracting Reality

When you zoom in, you start to see *other worlds*.

I look at my macro shots and sometimes they feel like alien planets. Surfaces become landscapes. Light becomes story. The hosta under the tree becomes a mysterious little character in some forgotten fable.

***Macro photography lets you create a new version of reality — your own world.***

It's not just about documenting anymore. It's about *play*. Pure, simple, joyful creation.

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## The Spirit of Play

These days, I don't take myself too seriously when I'm shooting. I walk slow. I let curiosity guide me. I let myself be surprised. That's the key.

***You've heard "slow down," but have you ever really done it?***

*Have you raised your camera to the texture of a leaf and **really looked?***

Using the LCD on the GR III feels like holding up a magnifying glass to the veil of reality. You peer through it... and suddenly everything feels different.

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## Final Thoughts

Macro photography isn't just some niche. It's not just for bugs and flowers.

It's a mindset.

A discipline.

A way to see deeper.

And the more I photograph this way, the more joyful I feel as an artist. Not because I'm making "bangers." But because I'm reconnecting with the act of seeing.

So yeah, follow your joy.

Follow what makes you stop and say "*Whoa.*"

Through that joy, you'll shoot more.

Through shooting more, you'll find peace.

And through peace, you'll discover beauty in all the little intricacies of the world.

Where did the fig go, anyway?