

Why Wandering Aimlessly Might Be the Key to Creative Freedom

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

Today's thought?

Use photography as an excuse to wander aimlessly.

Not with a plan. Not with some big vision of what you're going to shoot. Just go. No agenda. No destination. Let your subconscious guide you.

Turn left. You don't need to know why.

Go down that alley. Maybe there's something there.

Feel your gut. Obey the pull.

That's how I shoot. That's how I live. I walk without any preconceived idea of what I'll find. I follow the light. The sounds. The smells. The pull of intuition.

And *that's* where bliss lives.

Let Go. Follow the Flow.

The more I embrace this free-flowing, meandering approach, the more I find real joy in my day. Just walking around with my Ricoh in hand, pointing it at whatever catches my eye. Not even looking at the screen sometimes. Just *click* — feel it out.

Wandering becomes a way of life. A mindset. A philosophy.

It's not meaningless. It's *wanderous*.

Yeah. I'm coining that. **Wanderous.**

Like wondrous, but full of motion and curiosity.

To feel wanderous is to feel alive in the mundane. To be in awe of everyday things.

Behind the Synagogue, a Surprise

I'm walking through Philly, near a synagogue I never paid much attention to. I veer off and stumble on this strange sculpture. I don't even know what it is. Netanyahu's name is there. Some columns. An inscription:

"They were stronger than lions, swifter than eagles."

Never saw this before. Never would've if I didn't take this random path. The way the clouds were breaking behind it, the light hitting the stone — it was beautiful.

So I photographed it.

Because **this is what it means to be a photographer.**

Not waiting for a model. Not chasing trendy spots.

But discovering.

Feeling something. Shooting it. No rules.

Don't Just Chase People

If you're only photographing people, or sticking to busy street corners, you're limiting yourself. You're trapping yourself in clichés. In routines. In comfort zones.

Photograph textures. Photograph silence. Photograph nothing.

That's when something new emerges. That's when the work starts to feel free.
That's when *you* start to feel free.

This is the liberation of photography — the breaking of all constraints. The cracking open of your own perception. You become a vessel. A child again. Open to play.

Evolution Lives in Wandering

I'm not the same man I was yesterday.
Because I wandered today.
I walked new roads. Took new paths. Clicked my shutter where I never had before.

And that act — as small and silly as it may seem — is a form of **evolution**.

It's flux.
And **that** is what it means to be alive.

Especially In Your Hometown

People think they need to go somewhere exotic to feel inspired.

Nah.

Your own hometown is full of hidden worlds you've never seen. I live in Philly and I still find new paths, new art, new sculptures. Just now I came across this reflective flower-looking thing — no idea what it is, but it's sick. The way it mirrors the world around it? Beautiful.

***The novelty of wandering literally rewires your brain.
New ground textures, new sights, new routes — they unlock something.***

They open neural pathways.
They flex your imagination.
They make you *more alive*.

Street Photography as Leisure – as Otium

This isn't about being productive.
This isn't about making "content."
This is about **leisure** – real, soulful leisure.

There's a word the Romans used: **otium**.
It's the opposite of busywork.
It's the sacred time you spend creating, wandering, thinking, **being**.

***And through otium, the best ideas are born.
The best art flows.***

That's what I'm doing out here.
Just me, the streets, my camera – and time.

Strolling Through Old City, Feeling Free

Right now, I'm walking cobblestone alleys in Old City. I glance toward Benjamin Franklin's house. I'm alone. No rush. Just moving. Just seeing.

And in this moment?

I'm **home**.

Because *to roam is to return to yourself*.

To wander aimlessly is to *remember* who you are.

A soul in motion. A human being — not a human doing.

So yeah. Use photography as your excuse to wander.

You don't need a plan. You just need a camera, a bit of courage, and the willingness to listen to your gut.

Go walk.

Make something new.

Feel wanderous.