

Beyond Gatekeeping in Street Photography

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

This morning I'm thinking about **gatekeeping in street photography** — and what that really means.

The Illusion of Standards

In street photography, we love to set standards. We like to draw invisible lines around what *is* or *is not* street photography. We analyze, we categorize, and we compare — as if there's an objective hierarchy of value when it comes to images that are ultimately subjective in nature.

But here's what I find fascinating:

It's **not that difficult** to position your body in relation to a subject and press the shutter at what Cartier-Bresson called the “decisive moment.”

That part is easy.

What's truly difficult is **expressing oneself as an artist**.

The Real Challenge

The real challenge of street photography is finding your **authentic expression** — your vision.

And to find that, you have to strip away all the layers of expectation:

- What’s “good” or “bad”
- What the “masters” did
- What your peers are posting on Instagram

Because the more you try to conform, the further you drift from yourself.

The Amateur’s Purity

I believe the most beautiful expression in street photography comes from the **amateur snapshot** — the flâneur wandering the city without an agenda. Someone who simply goes out into the world because they love life and humanity. Someone who finds joy in the **spontaneity** of the streets — where the chaos of the city becomes a playground for discovery.

This kind of photography is pure.
It’s not about validation or prestige.
It’s about seeing, feeling, and embracing the moment.

Seeing Through the Lens of the Soul

What you see in the world reflects who you are.
The photographs you make are mirrors of your perception — fragments of your essence.
Each of us has a unique point of view.
That’s why it’s so important to **share your work regardless of external judgment.**

Once again, it’s not hard to press the shutter at the right time.
The real art lies in going beyond that — in using street photography as a tool to express your inner world.

To **go beyond gatekeeping** and find your **authentic expression**.