

Stream of Consciousness Street Photography: Photograph from the Heart

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

This morning we're going to be discussing *stream of consciousness street photography* and what this means to me.

When I'm out there on the streets, I find that I make my **unconscious mind conscious** through the act of making photographs.

I want to describe this idea through some slides, look at some photos, and really dissect what this means philosophically.

Making the Unconscious Conscious

When I'm out there photographing, I'm merely **responding to my intuition**.

I'm not using my rational mind to make a photograph.

I observe the patterns in nature and human behavior—the way light falls, the movement of birds in flight—and I position my body in relationship to these rhythms to create photographs.

But much of the time, the act is purely **instinctive**.

It's not something I consciously conceive of.

Sometimes strange **synchronicities** occur when I'm photographing—moments that repeat themselves, echoing through time.

On **June 26, 2023**, I photographed a dead pigeon.

Exactly **one year later**, on **June 26, 2024**, I photographed another.

I didn't plan it. It just happened.

These kinds of alignments remind me that when you enter the **flow state**—when you make pictures unconsciously and respond intuitively—**things begin to align**.

Eyes to See, Ears to Hear

*“And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” — Jesus
(Mark 4:9)*

This is such a beautiful quote.

He who has *ears to hear* and *eyes to see* will discover more truths about reality.

When you're awake and alive, when you're perceptive and responding to life with your camera, you find yourself becoming more aligned within.

And when you **align within**, the **world aligns without**.

Your internal world reflects and manifests externally when you are aligned.

That, to me, is the ultimate goal of this approach—photography as a form of **alignment** between soul and world.

Photograph Through the Gut

Stream of consciousness means letting your thoughts move freely—no filter, no hesitation.

Photography becomes a **visual form of this flow**. Each photo is a thought made visible, an instinct materialized.

Stop thinking. Just do.

Don't think—**feel**.

Through that feeling, you'll make photographs that are more authentic and alive.

When I'm on the streets, I allow myself to flow freely—not searching or forcing—but letting life come toward me.

I'm there, camera ready, responding to the rhythm of the moment.

Everything is in flux.

The light changes. The seasons shift. People move.

Every moment is unique—you can't make the same photograph twice.

Recognize this constant **stream of change**, and through it, document your own internal and external transformation.

Change and Growth

When photographing, pay attention to change—within and around you.

Each time you pick up your camera, you're in a different state of being.

Through evolution and transformation, you become a happier human.

That joy—born from change—reflects back into the photographs you make.

This is the essence of the stream of consciousness approach:

Your internal state manifests externally through the photographs you make.

Photograph Through Thumos

Don't shoot with the rational mind.

Shoot with instinct—**that gravitational pull in your gut.**

Let intuition move the camera before the brain interferes.

*"Courage" comes from the Latin **cor**, meaning "heart."*

We want to photograph through our **Thumos**.

Plato described the soul as three parts:

- **Logos** — reason, the rational mind
- **Thumos** — the spirited heart, the fire of courage

- **Epithumia** — the lower desires, appetite and pleasure

For me, the Thumos is everything.

Let's disregard the rational mind. Let's disregard desire.

Let's go full force through **spirit and fire**—through Thumos.

Thumos is the inner flame—the spirited energy that moves the heart to act with courage.

A photograph is a reflection of your **courage**—a reflection of your **heart**.

Conscious and Subconscious Seeing

The conscious mind **analyzes**.

The subconscious mind **feels**.

Photography happens **between** the two—where instinct meets awareness.

This is where you make the **unconscious conscious** through the act of creation.

To evoke stream of consciousness in your photography, shut off the mind and respond through the heart—through courage.

Activate All Your Senses

When I'm on the streets, I open myself completely:

- **Sight:** reflections, gestures, shadows
- **Sound:** footsteps, voices, car horns
- **Touch:** the feel of pavement beneath my feet, the wind against my skin
- **Smell:** flowers, rain, city air

I allow the **city to have a dialogue with me**, and I respond through my gut and my camera.

Presence is everything.

If you're absent, your photos will reflect that.

If you're fully alive, your photos will breathe.

Movement Is Everything

Movement is energy.

Photography thrives on motion.

The walking body becomes the seeing body.

When I move through the world with awareness, I enter a **flow state** where time dissolves.

Walking, reacting, pressing the shutter—each act becomes meditation.

Through this flow, I find myself **outside the passage of time**, deeply connected to the rhythm of life.

Return to the Childlike State

Photography is play.

Curiosity is sacred.

Approach the street as if seeing it for the first time—
as a child newly born into the world.

“Can you walk the same mundane lane each and every day, but still find something new to say?”

Return to day one each day.
Forget what you know.
See everything again for the first time.

Through curiosity, you rediscover meaning in the mundane.
Each photograph becomes an act of **rebirth**.

Detach from Good and Bad

There's no good photograph or bad photograph—only moments of **being alive**.
Embrace the process, not the result.
Detach from validation or outcome.

Each click of the shutter is an affirmation of life.
Photography is saying yes to existence.

Don't aim for perfection—aim for truth.
Let imperfection reveal your humanity.
Through blur, grain, and shadow, let honesty speak.

Stay in the Stream of Becoming

Photography is a **journey without destination**.
Stay fluid, stay open.
Your next photograph is your best photograph.

“To be in flux is to be alive.”

Each day is a new chance to evolve, to see anew.
By returning to the child's mind, you stay in the stream of becoming.

Paradise Is Within

When I'm out there with my camera, I enter a **Zen-like state of bliss**.
Paradise isn't somewhere far away—it's here, in your breath, in your footsteps, in the gift of sight and sound.

You don't have to travel far to find beauty.
It's already within you.

"When you align within, the external world reflects without."

Welcome to the kingdom—it's here, it's now, it's within.

Final Thoughts

Photograph with **courage**.
Photograph with **intuition**.
Photograph with **heart**.
Through your Thumos—your inner fire—let life flow toward you.

Don't think too much. Respond.
Flow with your gut, your heart, your flame.

Let your photographs become the reflection of your soul.

Thanks for reading.

If you'd like to learn more, visit dantesisofo.com where you can download my free eBooks:

- *The Ultimate Guide to the Ricoh GR*
- *The Contact Sheets Book*
- *Mastering Layering in Street Photography*

Peace.