

Create to Grow: How Making Art Expands Your Reality

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

This morning I'm walking through **Fairmount Park, Philadelphia**, surrounded by these **extremely beautiful fall colors**—fiery reds, oranges, and golds dripping off the trees. And as I walk, I'm thinking about something deeper: **the idea of creating as a way to augment yourself.**

The Meaning of “Augment”

The word *augment* literally means *to grow* — to become larger, to expand. And that's exactly what creation does.

Every time you make a photograph, shoot a video, write a poem, or express your thoughts—**you're expanding yourself.** You're making your life more **grand**, more **epic**, more **alive.**

Through **experimentation, tinkering, and exploration**, you start to uncover new dimensions of who you are. That's the real power of making something.

Seeing with the Eyes, Feeling with the Gut

The more I make photographs, the more I understand **how I perceive the world.** What catches my eye, what moves me, what I choose to frame within those four corners—it all reflects who I am.

But here's the thing: while my eyes see, my **intuition feels**.
It's not just about visual sharpness; it's about emotional sharpness.

When I click the shutter, it's not purely rational.
It's an **irrational, emotional instinct**—something from the gut that says *yes, now*.
That subconscious rhythm guides me toward what's meaningful, even before I can articulate why.

Growth Through Creation

Through that **subconscious process**, I uncover how I feel about the world on a deeper level.
I learn more about my own emotional landscape, and that allows me to grow larger, to think more deeply, and to understand my role in the grand scheme of things.

That's the **beauty of creation**—through the act of putting things out into the world, you begin to understand what it means to *be* in the world.

You don't find meaning first and then create;
you find meaning through creating.

Augmenting Reality

Every act of creation—every photo, video, or sentence—is an act of self-augmentation.
You are **building your own world**.

That's my goal:
to **create more, to expand more, to think more, and to put more out there.**

To **augment my reality**.

To grow bigger.

To expand like the trees above me, their limbs reaching toward heaven.

To create my own world through the things I make.

And that, to me, is the ultimate **superpower of the artist—**

to **create a new world** in a fraction of a second,

to grow larger through art,

and to understand yourself more deeply every time you press the shutter.

Filmed in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia — Fall 2025.