

Follow the Light: Tokyo Street Photography Flow State (Day Four)

What's poppin', people? It's Dante. Walking through the streets of Shinjuku this morning, headed toward the station for warm-up shots before drifting into a quieter part of town. Day three, day four—who even knows anymore? Tokyo dissolves time. The city is pure energy.

Tokyo honestly feels like New York City on steroids—cleaner, kinder, more walkable, more human. These narrow pedestrian alleys, the maze-like train system, the vending machines you can tap with your Pasma card—it's all incredible. Even when the transportation feels confusing, it's still the most efficient way to move through a city I've ever experienced.

Dual-Wielding the GR III & GR IIIx

Today I'm shooting the Ricoh GR III on the wrist and the GR IIIx on the neck. 28mm and 40mm. Yin and yang. Wide and compressed.

I only use one at a time so I stay in that pure instinctive flow. The 40mm actually excels when people walk toward me—the compression lets the subject fill the frame with this beautiful immediacy. The 28mm can feel sloppy in those situations, so I experiment between the two as I move.

Snap focus at 1 meter.

Get close.

Don't think.

Just shoot.

Light as the Guiding Star

Tokyo's modern architecture is surprisingly beautiful—curves, patterns, brutalist slabs with triangular windows. But the real magic is the light. The sun carves lines through buildings and reveals forms you could never predict. Light becomes the guiding star.

Desiderare — desire — “to long for a missing star.”

Maybe the star was the light all along.

Follow the light → find the photograph.

The interplay between light and shadow reveals things my naked eye never saw. I shoot high-contrast black-and-white JPEGs straight out of the GR, highlight-weighted metering, shadows crushed. What you see isn't what you get. What you get is what you didn't see.

Photography becomes a way of looking beyond the veil.

Chaos, Thumos, and the Dancing Star

When you're on the street, you want a little chaos—a little **rausch**.

Enter the frenzy. Enter the flow.

Nietzsche said:

“One must have chaos in oneself to give birth to a dancing star.”

That dancing star is the spark inside you—the instinct, the thumos.

The courage to press the shutter before your mind interrupts.

Chaos is not the enemy.

Chaos is the source.

The Ricoh GR as a Floating Oracle

The GR on a wrist strap is the closest thing to not having a camera.
Lightweight. Invisible. Responsive.

It becomes an extension of your eye, your body, your intuition.
Shoot from the LCD and it feels like you're moving through the world with a small
black box that writes with light—an oracle floating in your hand.

The more you forget the camera, the more you see.

Beginner's Mind (Shoshin)

In Zen, **Shoshin** means beginner's mind—the childlike state with infinite potential.
Each day on the street, return to day one. Empty your mind. Shoot from curiosity.

Mistakes become perfection. Imperfection becomes poetry.
Photography becomes play.

The snapshot is not lesser—it's more democratic, more honest, more alive.

Don't Think. Just Shoot.

Let the city flow toward you.
Let the people move in and out of the light.
Empty your mind.
Follow your nose.
Let life come to you.

The goal isn't to make a project or a book or a show.
The goal is to be present, to respond, to see.

Tokyo is incredible—its sounds, its smells, its light, its rhythm.
Today I'll warm up in Shinjuku, hop on a train, drift to a quieter town, and keep following the light.

Don't think.
Just shoot.

Cheers.