

Street Photography in Tokyo: Instinct, Vitality, and the Eternal Walk

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

Currently walking around Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan — check it out, we got some **salarymen** (still one of the funniest words ever, like “white-collar worker” but said with anime energy). Anyway, here are some candid thoughts about Tokyo, the people, and how I'm approaching street photography out here.

The Shock of Tokyo: Order, Kindness, and Culture

Honestly, I'm blown away by the people here. This is what it looks like when a culture **sustains itself across generations**, across centuries. Orderliness. Cleanliness. Respect. Kindness. Everything is intentional.

You walk into any random café, and they hand you a **hot towel** to clean your hands. Every toilet is a **futuristic heated bidet spaceship**.

On escalators, everyone stands on the left.

In the stations, you hear these **beautiful artificial bird sounds** while people line up in perfectly straight queues.

Even the speaker voice in the stations sounds joyful and uplifting.

Meanwhile, in Philly? It's like:

*“Attention... **muffled static hell**... City Hall...”*

You can't even hear what they're saying, and the lighting makes you feel like a rat in an abandoned mall.

On Tokyo trains everybody is **silent**, respectful, no loud phone calls, no one munching Doritos. It's *orderly*. And honestly? I appreciate it deeply.

Tokyo Is Street Photography Paradise

This city is *freaking paradise* for street photography.

I'm on day five, and I'm finally settling into my rhythm. I spent the first few days exploring:

- Shinjuku
- Shibuya
- Harajuku
- Ginza
- Ikebukuro

But really, the holy trinity is **Shinjuku → Harajuku → Shibuya**.

I stay in Shin-Okubo, so each morning I walk down through Kabukichō, into the Shinjuku station area, and today — and the rest of the trip — I'm walking all the way to Shibuya.

And here's the key:

Even in a new place full of novelty, routine and repetition give you power.

By sticking to the *same route every day*, I increase my chances of catching something special. You build familiarity. You learn the light. You learn the flow. You start seeing deeper.

My Daily Flow

- Wake up
- Walk the same route
- Shoot in Shinjuku → Harajuku → Shibuya
- Feast at the same all-you-can-eat yakiniku spot near Shibuya Crossing
- Shoot night Shibuya

- Subway home
- Review photos
- Sleep
- Repeat

This is my rhythm now. No more hopping trains all day. I thrive in **consistency, discipline, and repetition.**

Physicality Is Part of the Art

Street photography is **embodied reality.**

It's physical. You're walking, reacting, instinctively responding to life.

That's why I fast:

No breakfast.

No lunch.

Coffee in the morning. Water all day.

Then a massive charcoal-grilled feast at the end.

I genuinely believe:

Strong art comes from strong vitality. Weak art comes from weak vitality.

This is Nietzsche's notion of **Rausch** — the ecstatic creative frenzy where your internal power overflows into the art.

You need that **abundance of physical power** for strong work.

Photography is a physiological practice just as much as it is an artistic one.

The Zen of Snap Shooting

My setup is simple:

- Ricoh GR III
- High-contrast B&W
- Highlight-weighted metering
- Auto ISO
- f/8
- Snap focus at 2m
- Wrist strap, point, shoot, **don't think**

A man without instinct is a slave to the world.

I don't want to be guided by maps, expectations, or external validation.

I want to be guided by **gut, instinct, intuition.**

*My only goal: **obey the instinct.***

Not a slave to society.

A slave only to my gut.

Zooming Out: The Sublime Infrastructure of Tokyo

Shinjuku Station in the morning is *sublime* — the crowds, the flow, the pace.

When you zoom out, it feels like watching a living organism.

All this order. All this structure.

Millions of people moving in harmony.

The Earth itself rotating on its axis at the exact angle to make life possible.

Street photography is my way of witnessing this miracle.

Why I Love Photography

Photography removed fear from my life.

It pushed me into the world.

It made me curious.

It gave me a mission.

It strengthened me physically, creatively, spiritually.

It lets me live with:

- **Thumos**
- Vitality
- Courage
- Curiosity
- Flow

To me, photography is not about making “art.”

It’s about cultivating a **lifestyle**, a **philosophy**, a **daily confrontation with the world**.

It’s how I conquer myself.

Order and Chaos: The Balance of a Street Photographer

There’s the **Apollonian** (order, discipline, structure).

And the **Dionysian** (ecstasy, instinct, chaos).

Street photography thrives where these two forces meet.

Be disciplined in your routine.

But be a **pigeon** in your mind — free, light, unburdened, soaring.

The world is infinite.
You won't see everything.
You won't photograph everything.
But you can keep marching toward the horizon.

Final Thoughts

I'm going to keep doing these morning audio logs each day before I enter the flow. Tokyo is incredible. The people inspire me. The culture inspires me. The streets are alive.

Routine. Instinct. Vitality. Flow.

That's the mode.

Cheers.