

Wandering Tokyo: A Street Photographer's Route, Rhythm, and Creative Breakthrough

Introduction: Video Journals and the Joy of Photography

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

Walking through the streets of Shinjuku, Tokyo, I'm treating video as a kind of written journal — a way to articulate my ideas out loud, to find meaning in photography, and to create joy through the process itself. Tokyo has become my playground, a place where everything is photographable when you move with curiosity.

My Daily Tokyo Route and Discipline

I'm staying in Shin-Okubo, a few blocks from Shinjuku. Every day I follow the same route:

- **Shin-Okubo alleys** — small details, textures, vending-machine coffee, morning light.
- **Kabukicho** — chaos rising, faces emerging.
- **Shinjuku Station** — the flow of humanity; disciplined high-intensity shooting until noon.
- **Train to Harajuku** — Takeshita Street's fashionable runway of people.
- **Yoyogi Park** — decompress, walk slow, breathe, observe.
- **Shibuya Crossing (1:30–3:30 PM)** — the light hits that famous corner perfectly.
- **Yakiniku feast at 3:30–4 PM** — break the fast.
- **Night shooting** — Shibuya at night might be the most densely populated, electric place on the planet.

Repeating the same route for seven days straight eliminated all decision fatigue. I knew where to be and when to be there. This routine sharpened the most important skill in street photography:

Pattern recognition.

Light. Foot traffic. Shadows. Faces. Choke points. Angles.
I dialed into Tokyo like a machine.

The Ricoh Setup: Dual-Wielding for Flow

I kept the **Ricoh GR IIIX (71mm crop)** on my neck
and the **Ricoh GR III (28mm)** on my wrist.

My rhythm became instinctual:

- **Wide layered scenes** with the 28mm.
- **Tight slivers of light on faces** with the 71mm crop mode.
- Expose for highlights, crush shadows.
- Highlight-weighted metering.
- High-contrast black-and-white JPEGs baked in-camera.
- Snap focus, fast shutter, minimal thinking, maximal flow.

I alternated between the two cameras fluidly — scene → detail, detail → scene —
solving visual puzzles in real time.

The Creative Breakthrough: A New Visual Language

The breakthrough came from “mistakes.”

1. The 71mm Crop Accident

I hit the crop button by accident. Suddenly:

tight faces, abstract light, Japanese woodblock print energy, Caravaggio shadows.

It solved the problem of chaotic Tokyo backgrounds instantly.

So I locked in:

- Snap focus 1m at f/16
- Shutter 1/1000–1/2000
- And I ran with it for days.

2. The Slow-Shutter Accident

At night, my shutter accidentally dropped to **1/15**.

The silhouettes blurred.

People in motion became spirits.

A stationary face became timeless.

Next day?

I intentionally dropped to **1/4** and used Ricoh's stabilization to create **ethereal frames** where the mundane became extraordinary.

3. The Result

Both ideas — tight crops and slow shutter — gave me:

A new visual language.

Something I hadn't seen before in my own work.

Two breakthrough photos appeared exactly when they were supposed to:

- The blurred slow-shutter frame in Shinjuku.
- And then the tight sliver-of-light face in Shibuya.

The experiments became discipline,

and discipline became flow.

And flow produced the shot.

Volume, Repetition, and Obsession

I shot obsessively.
A solid seven-day sprint.

The process became addictive.
“Quantity → Quality” is real because quantity is **reps**.

Slot yourself into the day like a machine:

- Wake up
- Walk
- Light
- Frame
- Shutter
- Repeat

Obsess, but let go of the outcome.
Forget everything you “know.”
Stay loose, playful, curious.

Don't think. Shoot.

The Philosophy: Flow, Fasting, Feet, and Feeling

Barefoot Shoes & Walking Meditation

I wore Vivo Barefoot Primus Lite All-Weather.
No socks.
Ground feel.
Wide toe box.
Physically stronger feet.

Walking becomes:

- meditative
- intuitive
- grounded
- sensory

The photographer's job is to walk more.
This gear matters.

Fasting as Pattern Recognition

When you're fasted:

- the gut is empty
- the vagus nerve is quiet
- instincts heighten
- intuition sharpens
- pattern recognition increases

Photograph from your gut — literally and spiritually.

Flow State as Freedom

When you walk and photograph:

- time dissolves
- worries dissolve
- the mind dissolves

You exist in the present.
And the present is the **ultimate gift**.

The Spiritual Lens: Thumos, Vitality, and the Divine

Photography for me is intertwined with:

- **Thumos** — spiritedness

- **Vitality** — ecstatic movement
- **Rausch** — Nietzsche's frenzy
- **Enthusiasm** — to be "possessed by God"

We photograph:

- from instinct,
- from chaos,
- from the internal flame,
- and from divine breath.

A photograph is a **piece of your soul** trapped in time.

We die.

The photo doesn't.

Through art, maybe we touch eternity.

Going Limitless: Childlike Curiosity

Tokyo teaches one thing:

Everything is photographable.

Buildings, posters, faces, textures, alleyways, moments, mistakes — all of it.

Wake up with:

- enthusiasm
- wonder
- curiosity
- the spirit of a child eager for the sunrise

That's the goal.
To remain wild.
Untamed.
Unburdened by the machine of society.

To wander like the ultimate flâneur.
To explore without expectation.
To let life flow toward you.

And when it does?

Press the shutter.
