

Why I Switched to Black & White Photography

What's poppin', people? It's Dante. This morning I'm thinking about **why I switched to black and white photography**—and why it feels like the most natural transformation of my creative life.

At its core, photography is *writing with light*.

Phōs meaning *light*.

Graphê meaning *writing or drawing*.

Photography is literally **drawing with light**. And when I strip away color, I return to that essence completely.

Returning to Day One

Black and white feels like **day one every single day**.

There's this endless sense of possibility. Light and shadow become the medium again—not color, not trends, not aesthetics—just **pure observation**.

When I shoot in black and white, I'm making **instant sketches of light**, instant sketches of life.

It becomes less about documentation and more about **interpretation**—playing that fine line between what is real and what is abstract.

Suddenly the mundane becomes meaningful:

- the glimmer of light on a tree canopy
- the way a figure steps into shadow
- the subtle gesture of someone moving through contrast

These tiny moments become **infinite**.

Creative Constraint = Creative Freedom

By baking high-contrast black and white JPEGs **straight into the camera**, I remove the temptation to convert to color later.

This is deliberate. It's discipline.

Creative constraint gives me **more** creative freedom.

I'm no longer thinking about color grading, sliders, or what a scene "should" look like.

I'm responding directly to **light**.

Black and white forces:

- commitment
- decisiveness
- instinct
- presence

It builds **strife**, but a productive kind—the kind that sharpens you.

Imperfection as Perfection

The joy of black and white is embracing imperfection:

blown highlights

crushed shadows

gritty textures

strange compositions

These become **features**, not flaws.

There's a **timeless quality** to monochrome.
A purity.
A rawness.

And it allows me to **play** again.

Play is everything in my process.

Transformation as Happiness

Ultimately, I believe **to change is happiness**.

As an artist, doing the same thing forever feels like stagnation.
Switching from color to black and white has reopened that doorway to curiosity,
exploration, and evolution.

By embracing constraint, I've given myself **limitless room to explore** my inner
creativity.

Black and white is the perfect paradox:

Less choice → More possibilities.

And so this is why I switched.
To evolve. To transform.
To explore endlessly and joyfully.