

How to Practice Photography While Working a 9 to 5

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

Today I want to talk about how to practice photography while maintaining a 9 to 5 job. A lot of this is my personal philosophy — how I look at life, creativity, and how I've integrated photography directly into my everyday routine.

Bring the Camera for the Ride

My philosophy is simple: **live your everyday life and bring the camera with you.**

The photos you're seeing were made on my lunch break. I work in a park. I tend a greenhouse. I observe plants, light in the trees, small details throughout the day.

Photography doesn't require extra time. It requires **presence.**

Photography Happens While Living

Photography doesn't happen outside of life — it happens *inside* it.

When photography becomes a chore, stagnation follows. Pressure kills joy. Scheduling “photography time” where you suddenly become a photographer often leads to burnout.

My goal is integration — photography woven into daily life so it becomes effortless.

Embrace Play

I don't take photography seriously.

I embrace play.

By detaching from outcomes, I stay in a constant flow of production. Play is the most joyful way to live, and my practice is rooted in cultivating joy.

When labor becomes play, work becomes meditative.

Presence Makes Photography Inevitable

When I'm doing physical work — digging, planting, building — I become fully immersed. That presence transforms effort into play.

In that state, making a photograph feels inevitable.

Creation is a peak human experience.

Reject Productivity for Productivity's Sake

We're burdened with this idea of endless productivity. That striving clouds our perception as creators.

We all have an inner creative spark, but modern distractions and societal pressure suppress it.

Despite your 9 to 5, find a way to create every day.

Maximize Joy, Minimize Suffering

The word "passion" literally means suffering.

When you try to turn what you love into a forced outcome or job, burnout follows.

Photography, for me, is about **maximizing joy**, not suffering.

Autotelic Photography

I practice photography for its own sake.

The meaning is found in the act itself — not the result.

When I photograph because I *want* to, burnout disappears.

Photography as a Superpower

Photography becomes a superpower when it's integrated into daily life.

Bus rides.

Lunch breaks.

Sunrises.

Reflections.

No matter how mundane life seems, there's always something to create.

Impermanence Creates Urgency

I remind myself that any day could be my last.

That urgency brings me into the present moment — here and now — to press the shutter.

Photography becomes life affirmation.

Follow Joy, Not Results

Follow instinct. Follow courage. Follow joy.

If you wake up eager for the day and engage with life fully, you've already arrived.

Reject the Suffering Artist

Reject the glorification of misery.

Vitality is more interesting than despair. Courage is more interesting than exhaustion.

Photography becomes a way to conquer the day — and yourself.

Stop Thinking, Start Shooting

Don't limit photography to specific times. Don't put on a costume or identity.

Just live.

Photography becomes a way of being — a way of staying present.

Final Thoughts

I don't separate photography from work. I don't separate photography from life.

I live my everyday life and bring the camera for the ride.

That's how I've photographed more than ever.

Thanks for watching. I'll see you in the next one.

Peace.