

Street Photography Is a Long Game

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

Today I want to talk about street photography as a **long game** — and how photography requires *a lot* of time spent out there in the world.

Practicing photography requires time building a strong body of work. It takes **patience, commitment, and continuity**. It means consistently practicing daily.

I've been shooting every single day for over a decade now. I've pretty much never missed a day. And **99% of the time**, I come home with nothing. There's hardly ever a moment where I look at a photo and think, *wow, that's great*. Those moments are **far and few between**.

That's normal.

Trust Time. Trust the Process.

I really want to highlight the simple fact that you need to **trust time** and trust the process.

If you're out there putting in the work, eventually you *will* come home with something great. But it requires patience. It requires embracing the process as the foundation.

The passage of time — the reps of walking and photographing — *that's* the foundation for any great collection of photographs.

You can look at the work of any great photographer and see it clearly: time spent out in the world. Most books aren't made in a year. They're made over **seven, ten, even thirty years**.

The archive you're dreaming of isn't going to happen overnight. Not in a week. Not in a year. It's going to take **years of daily commitment**.

Consistency Is the Real Power

As a street photographer, you're only in control of so much.

You're not in control of whether something interesting happens.

You're not in control of whether you make a great photo.

What *you are* in control of is **showing up**.

Walking. Seeing. Observing. Pressing the shutter.

That's why I encourage you to photograph every day. Just have the camera with you. In my personal practice, I carry a compact camera — the Ricoh GR — in my pocket. I'm always on. Always looking.

If you're consistently taking pictures, **you're already productive**.

Don't worry about whether the photo is great. Worry about staying in the flow state. That compounds over time.

Over five to ten years of daily commitment, something special will show up.

Keepers Are Rare — And That's Normal

A few keepers per month. Maybe one per year. Sometimes even less.

That's completely normal.

There's a myth of the perfect shot. It doesn't exist. You're going to mostly fail — and that's part of it.

Street photography requires a resilient, almost stoic mindset. You recognize what you're in control of:

- Walking more
- Looking more
- Pressing the shutter more

That's it.

Time Makes the Work

Look at long-term bodies of work.

Alex Webb's Mexico work — over 30 years.

Jason Eskenazi's *Wonderland* — nearly a decade.

There's something about the passage of time that allows these bodies of work to exist.

Social media makes it feel like everything happens fast. Like people just pop off overnight. But real work takes time.

I still consider myself an amateur. I haven't made a book yet. Because I believe it takes time — not just to make the work, but to understand what it *means*.

Photography as a Lifelong Project

I like to think about photography as a **lifelong project**.

Not about greatest hits.

Not about perfection.

But about longevity.

One of my favorite photographers is **Daido Moriyama**. I have his complete works on my desk — volumes one through four. Thousands of images. Hundreds of books.

When you look at a full archive like that, you really feel the commitment.

Brick by brick. Stone by stone. Eventually, you build the cathedral.

Let Go of Perfection

Lately, I've been photographing in a new way.

High-contrast black and white. JPEGs. Everything baked in-camera.

I'm treating photographs as **instant sketches of life** — light as the subject.

By letting go of perfection and control, I'm allowing myself to make more photographs. And by making more, I stay in flow.

I've never been this prolific.

This photo here was made in **Coney Island**. Gritty. Raw. Honest. Straight out of camera. No endless processing. What I capture is the final piece.

This simplified workflow lets photography fit into my everyday life — and that's the key.

Set Realistic Expectations

When I look back at seven years of color work, there are **less than 50 photographs** I truly care about.

That's okay.

Kill your darlings. Let go of what you thought was great. Results take time.

Street photography is grueling. You mostly come home with nothing. But that's why I love it.

It requires consistency. It requires obsession.

Just Press the Shutter

When in doubt — press the shutter more.

That's my motto.

I'm not chasing my next best photo. I just show up. I enjoy the walks. The espresso breaks. The conversations. The play.

Photography doesn't need to be so serious.

Trust the process. Trust time.

Thanks for watching.

I'll see you in the next one.

Peace.