

Finding Joy Through Street Photography

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

Today I want to talk about finding joy through street photography and why I believe that the simplest way to frame our practice is around happiness.

Photography is such a simple thing. You go out, you walk, you observe, you photograph. You don't need to worry about the outcome of the photograph. You don't need to be caught up with the past, the future, the photos you made yesterday, or what you'll do tomorrow.

Photography grounds you in the present moment — *the eternal now*. And to me, that's bliss.

There's this joy and happiness that flows through me when I'm on the streets. Simply being out there. Being grateful for life itself. And I find that when you detach entirely from photography as something performative — something about impact, results, or an audience — you start to cultivate this deep inner sense of peace and joy.

That joy fills me with energy. It makes photography inevitable. The flow state becomes effortless.

Photography is really not that serious.

And you don't need to take it so seriously. You don't need to be serious as a human being either. You can go out there and play. Experiment. Fail. Get back up. Make more photographs.

Through that, you cultivate this feeling I'm describing — this endless sense of possibility with life itself. Photography reminds me of that.

Photography as Presence

I think there's a misconception that photographers are disconnected or not in the present. I believe the opposite is true.

Photography puts you even deeper into the moment. You become hyper-aware of the sights, the sounds, the smells of the street. You're having a very deep experience of life itself.

And I think it's important for humans to find their purpose. You can't really force it. There's something innate within each of us that we're meant to follow.

Photography is that thing for me. Maybe it is for you too.

Once you recognize that, curiosity becomes your internal compass. Photography stops being something you do — it becomes a way of life. A way of being.

But it's also a way of becoming. Of evolving. Transforming. Growing.

The goal isn't found in the outcome of the photograph. It's found in the process of self-evaluation. In discovering who you are.

When you discover who you are, life becomes effortless. Even the mundane stops being what it seems.

Walking, Hunting, Becoming

We look at life in such a linear way that everything becomes boring and banal. Photography breaks that.

It cultivates novelty through perception. Through how you look at the world with a camera. And as you make photographs, you discover things — not just about the world, but about yourself.

Photography lives on the fine line between being and becoming. Order and chaos. Internal and external.

There's something deeply physical about it too. Walking. Moving. Firing your hormones. Feeling your body alive.

We're bipedal beings. Designed to move. To walk. To observe.

There's a primal experience in photography that reminds me of hunting. Going out. Looking. Searching. Bringing something back home. Culling the images. There's joy in that.

It feels innate. Natural. Human.

Curiosity Over Thinking

I don't think about photography as something serious. I don't really think at all.

Thinking is for idiots. Doing is where motivation lives.

The goal is to wake up with enthusiasm for the day. To open your eyes wide. To wonder why.

Every click of the shutter is a question. Curiosity leads you to yourself. Your personality reflects in what you create.

This requires emptiness. Walking without expectations. No destination. No preconceived notions.

Photography is endless. There's always more to discover.

When you photograph from this detached state — where the goal is the process itself — making photographs becomes meditation.

Being here. Right now. Clicking the shutter.

That presence is one of the most peak human experiences you can have.

Photography as Life Affirmation

Photography has nothing to do with photography.

It has everything to do with the bodily experience of being alive. On the front lines of life. Close to humanity. Close to strangers. Rivers. Mountains. Cities. New terrain.

All of it flows through you when you practice consistently.

So don't dwell on the photos you made yesterday. Let your next photograph be your best photograph.

Enter the stream of becoming. Return to day one. Every day.

Don't let the camera on your neck or the project in your head weigh you down.

Photography, in its purest form, is an act of life affirmation and gratitude.

For me, the camera is a compass. It gives me purpose. It reminds me to never miss another sunrise.

To return to childlike joy. Wonder. Enthusiasm.

From that state, photography becomes effortless. And flow is inevitable.

That's why I love photography.

Peace.