

Why Photography Is the Ultimate Way to Experience Life

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

Currently walking around Philadelphia, coming out of the market. Got some raw milk here — 100% grass-fed. Cold winter days. Where's the sun? Where's the rays?

Today's thought is about happiness — and why I believe photography is the ultimate way to experience life and cultivate joy in your everyday existence.

Just looking up at these beautiful birds flying from canopy to canopy — the canopies being these tall skyscrapers and buildings. When you're around people in society, walking the streets with your camera and photographing, this to me is paradise.

I always have a camera with me. Today we got the Ricoh GR III.

And when you always have a camera with you, it becomes a superpower. It feels like anything is possible. I feel unstoppable.

It gives me the ultimate excuse to be present. To be grounded. To engage with life.

The Physicality of Joy

In the modern world, we have unlimited food options. You can order Uber Eats, sit at home, watch Netflix all day, and never move your feet.

But the **physicality of life** is what makes life beautiful.

There's something exciting about surrounding yourself in the chaos of the street.

Photography is my excuse to return to a **childlike spirit of play** — to treat the world, to treat the street, like a playground.

Life can become a prison. But you have the key to unlock the door to the playground.

It's a matter of perception. Of how you feel internally.

I can't control the weather. The conditions. Whether I come home with a "good" or "bad" photograph.

But I can control:

- My curiosity
- My vitality
- The state of my body

And so I prioritize health.

Photography becomes an extension of my physical practice. I'm walking. Moving. Training my body. Wearing barefoot shoes. Feeling the concrete beneath my feet.

Light cardio. Looking around. Engaging the sights, the sounds, the smells.

If you wake up lacking physical vitality — how will you ever cultivate curiosity? How will you practice your photography?

Enthusiasm comes from vitality.

Theos — meaning God. To be enthusiastic is to be possessed by God.

I want to wake up possessed by that spirit. To release my inner daemon when I'm on the street.

There's no rational reason I do this. There's an obsessive quality to it. Something that propels me to the front lines of life.

When you're outside, you thrive.

When you're inside, sitting, living on standby — your soul slowly dies.

Outside the Passage of Time

When you're walking and photographing, you exist outside the passage of time.

We have a past.

We have a future.

But neither are of concern.

All that matters is this moment — when you click the shutter.

Street photography is stepping into the stream of becoming.

Not dwelling on yesterday's photos.

Not thinking about tomorrow's project.

Just affirming:

My next photograph will be my next best photograph.

Even on the same mundane streets every day, there are infinite ways to articulate the mundane.

Curiosity fuels inspiration.

But inspiration isn't external.

Inspirare — to breathe into.

Life breathes into you. Animation. Consciousness. Movement.

When you raise the camera to your eye and truly notice — life becomes a dream.

Don't think of life only as it is.

Think of what it could be through your interpretation.

Subtraction & Instinct

Practically, I use a compact digital camera — the Ricoh GR — high-contrast black and white JPEGs. Automatic settings. Everything baked into the file.

Photography becomes effortless. Flow state becomes inevitable.

Flow happens when thinking dies.

Motivation lies in movement.

To cultivate your authentic way of photographing, you subtract.

Remove decisions:

- Color or black and white
- This lens or that lens
- This camera or that camera

Choice is an illusion.

Left and right are distractions.

Freedom comes from eliminating options.

When you remove noise and distraction, what's left?

Instinct.

Intuition.

That irrational pull to press the shutter — that's your authentic expression.

Through repetition. Through discipline. Through going out daily.

Instinct is the purest reflection of who you are.

In a world where we endlessly consume, a compact camera gives you the ability to create.

To express.

Play the Game

Stop taking your life and photography so seriously.

Let the chips fall as they may.

Embrace play.

From that state — flow emerges.

The question that keeps me out here:

What will reality manifest to be in a photograph?

What you see isn't necessarily what you get.

What you get is what you didn't see.

That surprise — those nuances and details — fuel curiosity.

The more I experiment, the more I wake up eager for the day.

But it requires forgetting what you think you know.

Going slow.

Being present.

Being prepared.

Photography becomes a visual diary.

Maybe I won't live forever.

But at least I can leave behind some photographs.

Through photographing my everyday life — for myself — I'm never lonely.

No matter how mundane things seem. No matter the external circumstances.

Through the camera, you can always find meaning.

You can always uplift something.

Photography fuels me with curiosity, enthusiasm, and vitality.

For that, I'm grateful.

Thanks for watching.

Peace.