

Ricoh GR IV Monochrome – Street Photography Diary #6 Walking Toward the Light

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

Welcome to today's Street Photography Diary Entry Number 6, where we look at photographs I made recently with the Ricoh G04 monochrome.

These are photographs made from March 16th to the 21st.

So this is not an official diarium. I apologize. This is a lie. This is a scam. This is not a daily diary.

But we have some photographs to look at.

Walking Toward the Light

The day started with a walk toward Penn's Landing – riverside, Old City – catching the sunrise.

When I wake up in the morning, I just orient myself toward the sunlight.

Where is the light?

Okay, it's rising on that side of the city – I'm going to walk that way.

And honestly, I'm just grateful.

I don't really know what else to say other than gratitude.

Grateful for the sunlight.

Grateful for people on the street.

Grateful for the complexity of life.

The sun on my skin.
The sounds of the street.
Seeing other beautiful people.

I spent that morning walking with my mother. We do that often — little strolls
around the river.

We ended up at Elfreth's Alley, one of the oldest inhabited streets in the country.

Philadelphia has such rich history.

It's a big city, but it feels like a small village.

You're not anonymous here.

You see the same people. You recognize faces.

It's unlike any city I've ever been to.

And I'm grateful to live here.

Fueling the Body With Light

When I go out to the river at sunrise, it reminds me how open the world is.

How much there is to see, explore, and photograph.

I let the light hit my eyes.

I fuel my body with it.

There's something physiological about it — hormonally, it just feels right.

Seagulls, cold air, the breeze — all of it.

These are things you can't really describe with language.

But maybe with a photograph, you can *evoke* that feeling.

Photography Beyond Representation

Maybe photography isn't just about documenting or storytelling.

Maybe it's about going beyond that.

Not just showing what happened — but evoking how it felt.

That's how I think about photography lately.

As a visual diary.

No expectations.

No end goal.

No gallery in mind.

Just photographing for the sake of photographing.

Curiosity Over Everything

When I go out each day, I'm playing.

That's it.

Through play, I tap into curiosity.

And that curiosity comes from within.

Not from galleries.
Not from other photographers.
Not from external validation.

Inspiration comes from within.

I follow that childlike curiosity.

Like being a kid exploring the woods, riding a bike through the unknown.

That same energy carries into my photography today.

And I never want to lose that.

Because life is short.

Transient.

Temporary.

You can't live forever — but you can make a photograph.

Photography as Physical Experience

Photography is physical.

You're walking. Moving. Positioning your body.

That's embodied reality.

And I think a lot of people miss that.

We spend too much time inside.

Too much time on screens.

That's where your soul slowly dies.

The more digitally connected we are, the less physically connected we become.

Photography is the excuse to go outside.

To walk.

To feel.

To engage with life.

Life is on the street.

Not behind the screen.

What You're Actually Responsible For

As a photographer, your responsibilities are simple:

- Move your body
- Carry a camera

That's it.

You're not responsible for:

- Making a great photo
- Finding something interesting
- Creating a masterpiece

You're responsible for cultivating vitality and curiosity.

From there, photography becomes inevitable.

Composition Is Physical

Yes, composition matters.

Foreground, background, relationships — all of that.

But composition is also physical.

It's:

- Moving left, right
- Getting low
- Looking up
- Positioning your body

Your composition is a direct reflection of your physical position.

I'm not trying to think too much.

I'm not chasing perfect compositions.

I'm responding instinctively.

Letting life flow toward me.

Embracing Imperfection

I'm not trying to make perfect images anymore.

I'm letting things fall where they may.

Playing more.

Accepting imperfection.

Snapshotting my way through life.

That fleeting, imperfect moment — that's life.

Why the Ricoh GR Changes Everything

The Ricoh GR removes the viewfinder.

And that's everything.

At first, it seems like a limitation.

But it's actually liberation.

The viewfinder limits your body and perception.

With the LCD:

- You move more freely
- You respond faster
- You shoot instinctively

You're not stuck behind the camera.

You're in the world.

Shooting Without the Viewfinder

When something happens, I don't raise the camera to my eye.

I just move.

Position myself.

Click.

The composition comes from my body.

Not from overthinking.

I look at life – then I make the photograph.

Not the other way around.

A Camera That Disappears

The Ricoh GR fits in your pocket.

It disappears.

And because of that:

- You always have it
- You're always ready
- You stay present

Whether I'm walking in Philadelphia or at a family party, I can just pull it out and shoot.

No friction.

Photography as a Way of Living

This goes beyond photography.

It becomes a way of living.

You're more present.

More aware.

More in tune.

Photography becomes inevitable.

And in those moments:

There is no past.

There is no future.

Just now.

And that's where happiness is.

That's where bliss is.

Final Thoughts

That's why I love the Ricoh GR.

It allows me to create a visual diary of my everyday life.

And more importantly—

It helps me live.

Those are my thoughts.

Thank you for watching.

Peace.