

## **Walking Is the Secret to Better Street Photography**

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

Welcome to Street Photography Diary number 8, where we look at photographs I made recently with my Ricoh GR4 monochrome.

And so today's photo walk is on a typical mundane day here in my hometown, Philadelphia—but I really want to talk about **walking**.

### **Walking Is Everything**

Walking to me is the ultimate joy in life.

Noticing things. Seeing deeply. Feeling intuitively at the moment you click the shutter.

That's what this is all about.

The art of walking is the art of cultivating curiosity. And I think you really have to embrace boredom.

*Photography, for me, is a way to remain present in the moment and notice and feel deeply.*

You can look at a photo and say it's cliché or stupid—but that's not the point. The point is presence.

### **Entering the Flow State**

When I'm walking through the city, I'm sensitive to everything:

- The sights
- The sounds
- The physical feeling of being there

I try to enter a flow state. I try to be fully present.

Walking with my camera gets me there.

When you're moving your body, under the sun, feeling the breeze, noticing reflections—there's a heightened sensitivity that comes from curiosity.

And that's what guides your photography.

Not composition. Not perfection.

Just being there.

## **You're Only Responsible for Walking**

Here's the shift:

You are not responsible for making great photos.

You're responsible for:

- Walking
- Moving
- Feeling
- Noticing

That's it.

Everything else takes care of itself.

## **The Power of Repetition**

This is the real secret.

If you want to get better at street photography:

*Walk the same route every single day for a year.*

No shortcuts.

When you do this, you start to notice:

- Patterns in your city
- Light at different times of day
- Where to stand
- How people move

And most importantly—you remove decision-making.

When you subtract options, you return to instinct.

And instinct is everything.

## **Embrace the Mundane**

Walking the same streets can feel boring.

Good.

That boredom is where everything opens up.

There are infinite possibilities in the mundane.

I'm not looking for dramatic moments anymore.

I'm looking at **light**.

That's it.

Light on walls. Light on faces. Light on random objects.

And that alone keeps me curious.

### **Black & White and Surprise**

Shooting high-contrast black and white JPEGs gives me something unexpected.

*What I get back in the photograph is what I didn't see.*

That's the magic.

It pushes me beyond reality.

It keeps me curious enough to go out again the next day.

### **The Physical Experience Matters**

Walking isn't just mental—it's physical.

I wear barefoot shoes:

- Vibram FiveFingers
- Vivobarefoot Primus Lite

You can feel everything:

- Concrete
- Grass
- Texture

When's the last time you stood barefoot in grass?

There's something about being physically connected to the ground that brings you back into reality.

And honestly, that's becoming a luxury.

### **Photography as a Way of Living**

As I walk through the city and see people glued to their phones, I'm reminded:

*It's a privilege to be a flâneur.*

To just walk. Observe. Be curious.

Photography becomes less about images and more about how you experience life.

### **There Are No Good or Bad Photos**

There are only new photos to make.

If you treat the practice as the meaningful part:

- You'll enjoy photography more
- You'll stay consistent
- You'll stay curious

Let the chips fall where they may.

Don't take it so seriously.

## **Creating Your Own World**

I was sitting in Rittenhouse Square, looking at light passing through my water bottle.

I didn't even look through the camera.

Just clicked.

And suddenly—you create something new.

A new world.

That's the superpower of photography.

## **Final Thought**

The goal is simple:

- Keep walking
- Stay curious
- Never stop photographing

Because that's what brings you back out there the next day.

And that's everything.

Peace.