

Autotelic Photography: Why You Should Stop Caring About “Good Photos”

What’s poppin’, people? It’s Dante.

Today I want to share with you a very important idea for any photographer out there who's practicing daily—and that's to adopt the *autotelic approach*.

Where you're simply photographing for the sake of photographing.

Detaching from the outcome of the photographs that you are making.

Stop Thinking About the End Result

When I’m looking at life and I’m putting four corners around it and clicking the shutter, I’m not thinking:

- This is gonna look great in a book
- This will be fire in a spread
- The tones and contrast are gonna render beautifully on some paper

I’m not thinking about any of that.

When I’m embracing my day, photographing through it, I’m simply curious about what my instincts will have to say.

The instinct arrives when you no longer think—and hesitation dies.

When you're not dwelling on what you're making...

When you're not thinking about the viewer...

When you're not thinking about paper, output, or impact...

All that noise disappears.

Photography Is Not About Technical Outcomes

If you want to play with chemistry—go sit in the darkroom all day.

If you want immediate manifestation—print the same photo over and over.

That's valid.

But that's not this.

The detached photographer—working in the autotelic space—is different.

They are:

- In a constant spirit of play
 - Creating daily
 - Showing up consistently
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Photography as a Way to Affirm Life

I don't think about the endpoint of my photography.

I don't dwell on where it will exist physically.

My approach is radical:

Photography is a way to affirm life with the click of the shutter.

To show up.
To make new frames each day.
To say yes to life.

Beyond technicalities.
Beyond output.
Beyond galleries.

Why I Actually Practice Photography

I practice photography because:

- It keeps me present
- It allows me to feel deeply
- It helps me see clearly

It connects me to my instincts.

And when I'm out here shooting—I'm not thinking about all that extra, superfluous nonsense.

The Problem With “Improvement”

A lot of people treat photography like this:

“I nailed that shot today.”

“Lighting was perfect.”

“Composition was clean.”

Like it's a game. Like you're leveling up technically.

But to me?

There's no peak there.

If your success is based on technical outcomes—you're playing a very base game.

A Better Metric for Growth

Instead, ask yourself:

- Do I resonate with this image?
- Does this feel like me?
- Does this make me say yes?

If your improvement is emotional and internal—you'll find real success.

*Success isn't found in the outcome.
It's found in enjoying the process.*

Let Go of the Noise

All these ideas about:

- Good vs bad photos
- Composition rules
- Technical perfection

They're superfluous.

They can be put to the wayside.

The Freedom of the Autotelic State

When you create from this state:

- Your work becomes more interesting
- Your process becomes liberating
- Your voice becomes authentic

You step outside the box of limiting beliefs.

And once you unlock this mindset?

There's no such thing as good or bad photos—only new photos.

Endless Becoming

From there, you're free.

Free to:

- Play
- Experiment
- Create endlessly

Because it's yours.

And the stream of becoming?

It never ends.

That's my thoughts of the day on photographing from the autotelic state.

I'll see you in the next one.

Peace.