

How to Create Your Own World in Street Photography

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

Today I wanna discuss world creation in street photography and how we can essentially create our own world.

The Camera Interprets Reality

As photographers, we're walking through the world, responding to instinct. We see with our eyes and feel with our gut—but it's ultimately the camera that interprets reality.

So when you make a photograph, ask yourself:

What will reality manifest to be in a photograph today?

At the end of the day, I'm just curious how light and life will render on my camera sensor.

Because yeah—I see the world with my eyes. But the final image?

That's what the camera sees.

And that thought alone has been fueling my curiosity like crazy.

Follow the Light

A practical way I create a new world is simple:

I follow the light.

I'm obsessed with how light hits surfaces, people, places—everything.

When you focus on light as your subject, everything else becomes abstract.

- Crush the shadows
- Expose for the highlights

Now you're not documenting—you're **extracting fragments**.

A face becomes partial.

A moment becomes ambiguous.

Reality becomes yours.

There's something about ambiguity and deep black space that elevates the mundane.

Embracing Chaos (Technical Approach)

Lately, I've been experimenting with the **Ricoh GR IIIx**:

- Crop mode → 71mm
- Snap focus → 1 meter
- Shooting in low light

Settings:

- Shutter speed: **1/4 or 1/8 second**

- Aperture: **f/5.6**

I'm not panning. I'm not forcing motion.

But the environment?

Pure chaos.

And that chaos creates blur naturally.

So I'm walking this line between:

- What I can control (settings)
- What I can't (how light renders)

And that's where the magic happens.

The Beauty of Imperfection

When I review my images, I'm not chasing perfection.

I'm chasing surprise.

The mistakes. The imperfections. That's what I'm drawn to.

Because the photograph is always unexpected.

You experience life fully—color, sound, smell.

But the image?

It's something else entirely.

And that gap between experience and result...

That's where curiosity lives.

Street Photography as Creation

Yeah, I still shoot candidly.

But I don't see street photography as pure documentation anymore.

I see it as **world creation**.

Taking fragments of your day and building something personal.

Something subjective.

Something that reflects your inner world.

Not what life is—but what life could be.

Elevating the Mundane

My philosophy is simple:

Embrace the mundane—and elevate it.

A normal walk.

A normal street.

A normal moment.

But through light, timing, and interpretation...

You transform it.

And the key that unlocked this for me?

Light is always changing.

So even if you walk the same street every day:

You'll never make the same photograph twice.

Returning to the Same Place

There's this portal in Center City Philadelphia I pass every day.

Tourists stop. They look. They engage.

You can literally see into another city.

I think in this frame—it was Dublin.

I kept going back. Again and again.

Nothing interesting.

Until one day—

A woman. A child. A glance back.

And the portal was mid-load.

Just this strange, incomplete window into another world.

That ambiguity?

That's everything I'm chasing.

Why Black & White Works

High contrast black and white strips reality down.

It removes the literal.

It pushes emotion forward.

You're no longer seeing the world as it is—

You're feeling it.

Mystery. Emotion. Suggestion over explanation.

And those frames?

They're rare.

But they come through consistency.

Through showing up every day.

Final Thought

We all have the ability to create our own version of reality.

Photography isn't just documentation.

It's transformation.

So think about this:

It's not what you see—it's how the camera sees.

And how you choose to use that...

That's your superpower.

Go out there and create your world.

Peace.