

How to Take Great Photos Anywhere (Even in Boring Places)

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

If you're new to the channel, I'm here to share my ideas about photography—finding meaning in the practice and developing a consistent habit of photographing daily.

One of the biggest things that prevents us from shooting every day is **depending on novelty**. We think we need something interesting *out there* before we can make something meaningful.

But the truth is...

Curiosity > Location

What actually guides me is **inner curiosity**.

On a recent trip to Miami, I spent two weeks basically stuck around a golf course. There was a mall nearby. That's it. Nothing "special."

And yet—I made some of my favorite images.

Why?

Because I tapped into a **childlike curiosity**.

It's not about the place. It's about how you see.

I wasn't just looking at landscapes or people. I got close—macro close. Insects. Textures. Light. Patterns. Everything.

The Real Problem

We think:

- “I need a better city”
- “I need better light”
- “I need something interesting”

But when you depend on external conditions, you **stagnate**.

When you cultivate curiosity, photography becomes inevitable.

Boring photographers make boring photos.

That sounds harsh—but it’s real.

If you wake up sluggish, disconnected, uninterested...
you’re not going to create anything meaningful.

Your Internal State Is Everything

Your energy, your curiosity, your willingness to engage with life—

That’s what creates photographs.

Not the location.

Not the gear.

Not the moment.

How you feel internally will always reflect in your photography.

So instead of chasing “good photos,” focus on:

- Being present
- Being curious
- Being open

Photography as Presence

For me, photography is about:

- Watching squirrels move through trees
- Seeing light shimmer on water
- Feeling the breeze
- Noticing small, quiet details

That's the practice.

The photo is just the byproduct.

The Camera Is a Key

The camera isn't just a tool.

It's a **key**.

It unlocks:

- Conversations with strangers
- Exploration
- Adventure
- Awareness

It gives you a reason to go out and **experience life now**.

Thriving in the Mundane

The mall is “boring,” right?

But when I walk through it with curiosity:

- I see light hitting advertisements
- I see shapes forming
- I underexpose and capture contrast
- I find unexpected frames

And suddenly...

I’m creating something meaningful.

You don’t need an interesting place. You need an interesting perspective.

The Shift

Stop hunting for photos.

Start exploring.

Instead of asking: “Where can I find something good?”

Ask:

What will the camera see today?

That question changes everything.

Because the camera doesn’t see what your eyes see.

It interprets:

- Light
- Contrast
- Movement
- Imperfection

And when you review your photos later—you're surprised.

Let Go of Control

Stop trying to:

- Nail the shot
- Be perfect
- Control everything

Instead:

Embrace play. Embrace mistakes. Embrace randomness.

That's where the magic is.

My Simple Method

I keep it minimal:

- Small Ricoh GR
- High contrast black & white JPEGs
- Crush the shadows
- Expose for highlights
- Shoot loosely, intuitively

I'm not overthinking composition.

I'm **snapshotting my way through life.**

And when I review the images?

I'm surprised.

That surprise fuels curiosity.

Curiosity fuels consistency.

Consistency builds the practice.

The Real Metric

Forget "good photos."

Measure this instead:

Am I more curious today than yesterday?

That's the game.

Final Thought

Go slow.

Let life come to you.

Be present. Be open. Be curious.

And just show up with your camera.

Every day.

Because when you do that...

Everyday life becomes your material.

If you want to go deeper, join the 7-Day Photography Challenge.

I'll see you in the next video.

Peace.