

## **The Philosophy of Flux: Walking One Street and Finding Infinite Photographs**

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

Currently walking down Girard Avenue all the way from West Philly into the city.

Today's thought is about the philosophy of **Flux** and how this new project of making pictures of individual streets in the city is transforming the way I think about photography.

A few weeks ago, I did a project with a local photographer who proposed that we walk the entirety of Broad Street and GPS-tag each photograph. During that walk, we both moved through the same space, on the same day, under the same constraint:

- One street
- One direction
- Black and white photography

Despite photographing the same place, we came home with completely different frames.

And that's the whole philosophy of Flux.

### **You Cannot Make the Same Photograph Twice**

Flux is about change.

The same street can be photographed endlessly and you'll come home with an infinite number of photographs because the world is always changing.

The light changes.

The weather changes.

The people change.

You change.

Light is constantly etching shape and form onto the world around us, and it's always in motion. It's always in flux.

And it's completely out of our control.

## **Returning Photography to Its Essence**

My thought about black and white photography is that it allows us to return to the essence of the medium itself:

### **Light.**

*Phos means light.*

*Graphé means writing or drawing.*

Photography is literally drawing with light.

By stripping away color and complexity and reducing everything to light and shadow, I find infinite novelty.

Black and white photography with the contrast cranked all the way up becomes a tool for abstraction.

The limitations create freedom.

And through those limitations, I find an infinite number of ways to create.

## **Constraints Create Freedom**

Flux is about giving myself the ability to return to photography every day through embracing change.

I'm photographing mundane structures.

Ordinary streets.

Discarded signs.

Phone booths that are disappearing.

Things that seem insignificant.

You could argue:

*"What I see is what I get."*

But what interests me is often what I *didn't* see.

When I crush the shadows and expose for the highlights, reality begins to transform.

Black and white photography can go beyond reality.

It can reveal something unexpected.

And that surprise fuels me creatively.

## **Photography as Life Affirmation**

As I photograph these fragments of the city, I remind myself that everything is impermanent.

Everything disappears.

Everything changes.

Everything is in flux.

Photography becomes an act of affirmation.

An act of saying yes.

*Every photograph is me saying yes to life.*

I'm not merely photographing the world.

I'm affirming my existence within it.

The click of the shutter becomes proof that I was here.

That I witnessed this.

That I felt this.

That I experienced this.

## **Eliminating Decision Fatigue**

With the constraint of walking one street, I eliminate countless decisions.

I don't ask:

- Should I go left or right?
- Should I shoot color or black and white?
- Should I explore this way or that way?

I simply orient myself down one street and walk.

One path.

One direction.

One goal.

By removing complexity, I enter flow.

And flow is the ultimate aim.

### **Photography as a Way of Being**

Photography isn't just about making pictures.

Photography is a way of being.

A way of engaging with the world.

A way of noticing.

A way of feeling.

A way of experiencing life fully.

This systematic approach of imposing constraints isn't about restriction.

It's about returning to instinct.

Returning to the body.

Returning to direct experience.

When I photograph this way, I'm not thinking.

I'm responding.

I'm shooting.

I'm doing.

## **Style Emerges Through Instinct**

I don't believe style comes from aesthetic decisions.

I don't think style comes from choosing color or black and white.

Style emerges through consistency of instinct.

The more you walk:

- The more you see.
- The more you photograph.
- The more your curiosity develops.
- The stronger your instinct becomes.

Eventually photography becomes automatic.

Effortless.

And that's what I seek.

## **Time, Mortality, and Metadata**

As I move through the city, every photograph contains GPS coordinates.

A timestamp.

A date.

A location.

These pieces of metadata become evidence.

Proof.

A record that I existed at a specific point in space and time.

And in some strange way, photography becomes my response to mortality.

We can't live forever.

But we can make a photograph.

If I treat every frame as though it could be my last, then every frame becomes meaningful.

Not because it's a great image.

But because it says:

*I was here.*

## **The Photograph Is Not the Point**

I'm not particularly concerned with whether an image is great.

The photograph itself isn't really the point.

The point is curiosity.

The point is engagement.

The point is experience.

The photograph is merely a byproduct.

A residue left behind from living fully.

My philosophy has very little to do with photography.

It has everything to do with how you engage with life.

## **Twelve Years Without Missing a Day**

I've stripped away enough complexity that photography has become sustainable.

I haven't missed a day of photography in over twelve years.

Because of that:

- Every day feels meaningful.
- Every day feels adventurous.
- Every day feels rich.

The photographs are simply evidence of that experience.

## **Flow Is the Goal**

The process matters more than the outcome.

Finding flow is the goal.

And this project of walking one street at a time has become the purest expression of that idea.

I enjoy wandering.

I enjoy exploration.

But this constraint has made me even more focused.

More immersed.

More present.

Time disappears.

And that disappearance of time is exactly what Flux is about.

### **Books, Maps, and Ephemeral Artifacts**

Every day I make a physical book.

I print the photographs on cheap monochrome LaserJet printer paper.

I organize the images through GPS maps and digital archives.

The result isn't precious.

It's imperfect.

Temporary.

Ephemeral.

And that's exactly why I love it.

Cheap printer paper.

Bureaucratic aesthetics.

Manila folders.

Fragments of reality.

All revealing an unexpected poetry hidden within the streets.

These aren't masterpieces.

They're simply artifacts of experience.

Small reminders that I lived this day.

## **Living in Flux**

Today is June 9th, 2026.

I think of photography and video-making as visual notes.

Audio notes.

Ways of exploring my own thoughts.

Honestly, sharing this work online is a little selfish.

It's a way for me to process experience.

A way to document my journey.

A way to think out loud.

If others find value in it, I'm grateful.

But ultimately this is what it looks like to step into the stream of becoming.

To embrace change.

To embrace impermanence.

To embrace life.

To exist purely in flux.

And so I'll keep walking.

I'll keep shooting.

And I'll keep saying yes.