

Flux Archive 007 — Photograph More to Make Better Photos

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

Welcome to **Flux Archive 007**, where I look at photographs I've made over the past three and a half years of photographing exclusively in high-contrast black and white.

Over that time I've made **more than 400,000 photographs**.

I've learned a lot from shooting with that kind of intensity, and today I want to talk about one simple idea:

Photograph with quantity, and you'll eventually extract quality.

You can print this issue at home using any monochrome laser printer. The PDF is linked below.

A Camera That Disappears

The first frame was made in Florence with the **Ricoh GR IIIX**.

Using a compact camera that's always with me, photographing in automatic mode, shooting JPEGs, and baking the contrast directly into the file removes almost all friction from my process.

I don't have to think about post-processing.

I don't have to worry about editing.

When I travel, photography simply becomes part of my day instead of another task I have to perform.

I think a lot of people experience anxiety when they travel because they feel pressure to come home with "good photographs."

But when you remove friction from your practice, photography becomes effortless.

You're free to play.

You're free to explore.

You're free to follow your instincts.

Following Instinct Instead of Control

Every photograph in this archive came from instinct.

I'm no longer hesitating over compositions or second-guessing myself.

I'm throwing myself into the chaos and letting my gut lead.

I don't stress about where I need to go.

I don't worry about what the photograph has to become.

I simply allow life to arrive in front of me.

That's when photography becomes easy.

Working From Back to Front

I spent 48 hours in Paris.

The first place I visited was the Eiffel Tower.

At first, the tower naturally grabbed my attention.

But I also noticed the woman sitting on the ledge making photographs.

When I built this composition, I worked **back to front**.

The Eiffel Tower became the background.

The woman became the isolated subject in the middle ground.

The foreground was filled with movement and chaos.

Standing back allowed everything to layer naturally.

Instead of making one frame and walking away, I stayed.

I kept photographing.

I kept refining.

The more I photographed, the more possibilities revealed themselves.

Simplicity Creates Impact

Other photographs come from something much simpler.

A gesture.

A patch of light.

A single moment.

Sometimes that's enough.

One photograph might contain layers of complexity.

Another might isolate one person standing alone.

Both work because they're easy to read.

Technically, composition often comes down to asking:

What can I remove?

Not...

"What can I add?"

Photography as a Daily Diary

I treat photography as documentation.

It's simply a diary of my day.

I'm not attached to individual frames.

The less I worry about outcomes, the easier it becomes to enter a state of flow.

I photograph more.

And over time...

Quality naturally emerges from quantity.

Presence Creates Better Photographs

I follow light.

I watch gestures.

I pay attention to how people move through shadows.

When the light reveals an eye...

When a shadow cuts across a face...

When a gesture appears...

I'm present enough to react instantly.

Removing friction from my workflow allows me to stay in that state.

That's why I'm so passionate about the Ricoh GR.

Automatic settings.

Snap Focus.

High-contrast JPEGs.

Everything exists to simplify the process so I can focus entirely on what's happening in front of me.

Get Close

One photograph was made while chatting with a man sunbathing on a cliff overlooking Rome.

As we talked, he casually gestured toward his watch.

That tiny gesture became the photograph.

It reminded me that emotional closeness matters just as much as physical proximity.

Don't be afraid to engage.

Don't be afraid to step closer.

That's often where your strongest photographs live.

Small Details Matter

Sometimes all I notice is a shirt.

Buttons.

A hand in a pocket.

Someone smoking.

A simple gesture.

Those tiny details are enough.

Using Snap Focus lets me respond instantly without hesitation.

Everything becomes intuitive.

Follow the Light

More than anything else, I follow light.

The people matter.

The chaos matters.

But today it's really the light itself that keeps me curious.

Artificial light at night.

Hard afternoon shadows.

Simple architectural details.

Light and shadow are what elevate ordinary scenes into memorable photographs.

Surprise Is Everything

One of my favorite photographs in this issue happened because of surprise.

At first, I noticed the children in the background.

That made me press the shutter.

Only later did I realize that two adults in the foreground were mirroring the children's gestures in shadow.

That unexpected relationship transformed the photograph.

It's these surprises that keep me photographing.

They're impossible to predict.

They're gifts.

High-contrast black and white makes those surprises even more exciting.

Know Your Camera

One photograph required switching instantly from Snap Focus to Single Point Focus.

Normally my Snap Focus distance would have left the subject out of focus.

Because I know my camera so well, I instinctively pressed the Fn button, switched focus modes, and made the photograph without hesitation.

The technical setup isn't about becoming more technical.

It's about removing hesitation.

The more naturally your camera operates, the more instinctive your photography becomes.

Photograph With Quantity

Across these photographs, one thing keeps appearing.

Gestures.

Light.

Simple moments.

Small interactions.

These are the things that continue pulling me back onto the streets.

And the more I photograph...

The more those moments reveal themselves.

Photograph with intensity. Photograph with quantity. Quality will eventually emerge.

Thanks for joining me for **Flux Archive 007**.

You can download the PDF, print it at home, browse the online archive, or create your own Flux issue using the Flux Generator linked below.

If I enjoy your work, I may review it here on the YouTube channel.

Otherwise, I'll see you soon.

Peace.