

Flux Archive 008 — Embrace Imperfection in Street Photography

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

Welcome to **Flux Archive Session Number 8**, where I look at the photographs I've made throughout my journey.

This volume was created using my own **Flux Generator**. You can click the link in the description to create your own zine exactly like what you see here.

Today I want to talk about one simple idea:

Embrace imperfection.

Whether that's technically, philosophically, or compositionally, I believe the imperfections in our photographs are often what make them feel the most alive.

Let Go of Control

The very first photograph happened by accident.

I was entering a church in low light, shooting in **Aperture Priority mode**, and my shutter speed dropped automatically.

The blur wasn't intentional.

It wasn't something I planned.

But when I reviewed the photograph, I realized the motion gave the image energy.

The same applies to this photograph of the man walking toward me with a cigarette.

The frame is tilted.

There's blur.

It's far from technically perfect.

But that's exactly why it works.

You can feel the movement.

You can feel the spontaneity.

I don't try to eliminate mistakes anymore.

I invite them.

Imperfection Reflects Life

Street photography happens inside the chaos of real life.

Life isn't perfectly aligned.

Neither are we.

So why should our photographs pretend to be?

As much as composition matters—as much as foreground, middle ground, and background matter—I still believe instinct is what creates the strongest photographs.

Imperfection feels authentic because life itself is imperfect.

Perhaps embracing imperfection is simply embracing life honestly.

Photograph Everything

While walking through Rome, I'm open to photographing absolutely anything.

An advertisement.

A couple kissing in the darkness.

Trees.

Plants.

Motorcycles.

Shadows.

Simple details.

Nothing is too ordinary.

Everything becomes interesting once light begins interacting with it.

Follow Energy

Sometimes I intentionally move the camera.

When a motorcycle rushed past me through a tunnel, I panned the camera to exaggerate the movement.

The goal wasn't sharpness.

The goal was feeling.

Energy matters more than perfection.

Trust Your Instinct

One photograph shows a man sleeping while another woman sits in beautiful light.

I wasn't carefully arranging every element.

Many of the faces appearing throughout the frame happened naturally.

The slight tilt.

The movement.

The accidental relationships.

Those imperfections gave the photograph life.

Beauty in Decay

When I think about imperfection, I also think about decay.

A peeling poster.

Cracked walls.

Weathered textures.

Simple surfaces.

Even without people, these details carry emotion.

They're reminders that everything changes.

Surprise Yourself

Photography continually surprises me.

I photograph repetitive windows.

Reflections.

Textures through bus windows.

Light bouncing from buildings.

Often I don't fully understand what I've made until I review the photograph later.

That's one of the reasons I continue photographing.

I love giving myself surprises.

High Contrast Creates Mystery

Shooting in high-contrast black and white completely changes how I experience photography.

What appears in the final image isn't exactly what I saw.

By exposing for highlights and allowing shadows to disappear, ordinary scenes become mysterious.

People vanish into darkness.

Only the important gestures remain.

I'm not trying to document reality exactly as it appeared.

I'm trying to create my own interpretation of it.

Finding New Ways to See

The Colosseum has been photographed millions of times.

That doesn't interest me.

What interests me is asking:

How can I photograph it differently?

In this frame I photographed through reflections and textured glass, allowing the foreground imperfections to become part of the composition.

The famous landmark almost becomes secondary.

Photography as Memory

Near the end of my trip I stood overlooking Rome.

Looking toward the Vatican, I made a landscape photograph that instantly reminds me why I love this city.

I'm a dual citizen of the United States and Italy.

Philadelphia is home.

Rome is home.

Photography allows me to return to these places long after I've left them.

It allows me to relive the emotions attached to those memories.

That's one of the greatest gifts photography offers us.

The Visual Puzzle

One of the final photographs shows a couple just before they kiss.

To make the photograph, I crouched low so I could isolate their silhouettes against the sky.

Another frame shows a man carrying an umbrella.

The photograph only works because I recognized the relationship between the subject and the background.

Street photography often feels like solving a visual puzzle.

You're constantly asking:

- Where should I stand?
- What background simplifies the subject?
- How do I isolate the gesture?

Small movements of your body completely transform the photograph.

Archive Your Hometown

Returning to Philadelphia reminded me that photography isn't only about travel.

It's about preserving your everyday life.

One photograph shows a shoeshiner that's no longer there.

Another shows leasing signs being installed that have since disappeared.

Children's chalk drawings eventually wash away.

Cities constantly change.

Photography gives us a way to preserve those fleeting moments.

Think of yourself as the archivist of your hometown.

Years from now, those ordinary moments may become your most meaningful photographs.

Play Like a Child

Children don't worry about perfection.

They draw freely.

They create without judgment.

They don't care about perfect symmetry or flawless compositions.

They simply play.

Maybe that's the mindset we should bring into photography.

Play like a child. Create like a child. Embrace imperfection.

Those are my thoughts for **Flux Archive 008**.

If you'd like to create your own Flux zine, upload 36 photographs into the Flux Generator linked below.

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

Otherwise, thanks for watching.

I'll see you soon.

Peace.

