

Shoot More, Think Less: The Street Photography Mindset That Changes Everything

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

Today I want to share some thoughts on my philosophy of **photographing more instead of less**, and why I believe you should shoot a lot of photographs when you're out on the street.

Street Photography Is a Numbers Game

As a street photographer, it's important to recognize that this game is a **numbers game**.

The more you photograph, the more opportunities you give yourself to make a successful image.

It's like anything in sports.

Whether you're stepping into the batting cage every day to practice your swing or standing at the free-throw line working on your jump shot, improvement comes from **putting in the reps**.

If you're hesitating...

If you're not pressing the shutter...

If you're not engaging with the simple act of making photographs...

...it's going to become a detriment to your practice.

Stop Treating Film and Digital Differently

Whether you're shooting digital or film, I don't think you should approach them differently.

The camera you use shouldn't influence whether or not you decide to make a frame.

The equipment doesn't matter nearly as much as your willingness to respond to what's in front of you.

Inspiration Isn't Coming

The real secret with street photography is this:

If you're waiting for inspiration before you click the shutter, it's probably never going to come.

Moments that feel obviously incredible are rare.

If you're constantly waiting for "the perfect photograph"...

If you're carrying around preconceived ideas about what a good photograph should look like...

...you're simply going to stop making photographs altogether.

And that's the truth.

Practice Responding

Instead of waiting, get into the habit of responding.

When people are walking toward you, practice making frames.

Practice arranging your subject in relation to the background.

Practice your composition.

Practice your timing.

Practice your relationship with the light.

Every frame is another repetition.

Every click is another opportunity to cultivate instinct.

Eventually, when something genuinely extraordinary appears, you'll already be ready.

You won't hesitate.

You'll simply respond.

Hesitation Is Holding You Back

I honestly believe hesitation is one of the biggest things holding street photographers back.

We spend so much time looking at history.

Studying books.

Analyzing great photographs.

Learning what we think is "good."

But the only way to make photographs like that...

...is to start making photographs.

You have to shoot.

You have to stop hesitating.

Street photography is already difficult.

Why make it even harder by limiting yourself?

Don't limit what you photograph.

Don't limit when you photograph.

Don't constantly judge whether something is interesting enough.

The Magic Lives in the Mundane

The name of the game is the mundane.

Even right now...

Standing at a bus stop...

Watching a woman's hand resting on top of her head...

Seeing light reflecting through glass surfaces...

You could argue there's nothing inherently interesting happening.

But that's not the point.

It's your perspective.

It's how you position your body.

It's your timing.

It's your framing.

It's your understanding of light.

Those decisions transform ordinary moments into something extraordinary.

Control What You Can Control

A simple thought:

Recognize what's inside your control and what's outside your control.

What's outside your control?

- Seeing something incredible.
- Making a masterpiece.
- The world giving you amazing moments.

What's inside your control?

- Your curiosity.
- Your enthusiasm.
- Your willingness to press the shutter.

If you shift your practice from **hoping** to **doing**, you'll find far more success over time.

Cultivate Instinct

The only way to develop instinct...

The only way to enter a flow state...

...is through repetition.

Through clicking that damn shutter.

Stop overanalyzing whether a photograph is going to be good.

Just make photographs.

You'll be surprised by what you discover when you simply give yourself permission to try.

Say Yes to Life

Go slow.

Let life flow toward you.

Respond to mundane situations even when you believe nothing is happening.

Think of every click of the shutter as saying **yes** to life.

Stay curious.

Ask questions.

Cultivate instinct.

Eventually you'll begin finding photographs that are truly impactful.

But the only path there is repetition.

Shoot more.

Think less.

Stop Dwelling. Start Doing.

I really believe this is something that holds a lot of people back.

Hopefully this encourages you to spend less time dwelling and more time doing.

Hesitation truly is the thief of all joy.

It will destroy your practice.

Get out of your head.

Get into your body.

Recognize there's infinite possibility hiding inside the mundane nature of everyday life.

The juice of street photography is spontaneity.

It's surprise.

It's discovering something despite believing there was nothing there at all.

Stop worrying about whether the outcome will be great.

Instead, cultivate your own way of seeing.

Develop your own way of framing.

Approach the street in a way where, regardless of what appears in front of you, you're always ready to respond with instinct.

That's the message.

Thinking is for idiots. Don't think. Just shoot.