

The Ricoh GR IV Monochrome Changed My Photography Forever

What's poppin', people?

I'm currently out for a beautiful walk here in Philadelphia, and today I wanted to share my thoughts on the **Ricoh GR IV Monochrome** after using it for the past few months.

Honestly, I don't even know exactly how long I've had it. I've been using it since release, and today I simply wanted to talk about **why this camera means so much to me.**

Not from a technical perspective.

But from a philosophical one.

This Camera Changed My Life

I'm obviously biased.

I'm a Ricoh GR user.

But the reason I'm so passionate about this camera is because photography is the most meaningful thing in my life.

The tool you use every day matters.

And having a camera that slips into my pocket and is always ready has completely changed the way I experience life.

Creation gives you an incredible feeling.

It makes you feel purposeful.

Strong.

Alive.

When life becomes overwhelming, I can simply reach into my pocket, pull out the camera, press the shutter, and say **yes** to life.

That's what this camera gives me.

Simplicity Creates Freedom

There are countless cameras available today.

But for me, nothing replaces the Ricoh GR.

Its size changes everything.

It's always with you.

It's always ready.

And because of that, photography becomes effortless.

The monochrome version takes that philosophy even further.

By removing color entirely, one more decision disappears.

No more wondering:

- Should this be color?
- Should this be black and white?

That choice is already made.

You're simply left with photography.

When you remove choices...

You remove hesitation.

A Philosophical Decision

The jump from the GR III to the GR IV Monochrome is honestly pretty small.

But that's not why I chose it.

Choosing a monochrome camera is me making a statement.

It's me saying:

"I'm a monochrome photographer."

It's a philosophy more than a specification.

That mindset changes everything.

The Red Filter Is Magic

One of my favorite additions is the red filter.

Even though the camera is limited to monochrome, adding the red filter completely transforms how light renders.

The exact same scene suddenly becomes something entirely different.

That surprise never gets old.

Every time I press the shutter I'm curious to see:

How will reality be translated into a photograph?

How will this sensor interpret light?

Why I Believe Monochrome Lasts Forever

For me, monochrome photography is sustainable.

It's something I can see myself practicing for the rest of my life.

By stripping away color, photography naturally becomes more abstract.

I'm shooting with:

- Maximum contrast
- Crushed shadows
- Highlight priority
- JPEG only
- Everything baked into the camera

There is no post-processing.

The photograph already exists.

And something interesting happens.

You think:

What you see is what you get.

But in reality...

What you get back is what you didn't see.

High-contrast monochrome transforms reality.

Even the most ordinary walk becomes fascinating because light behaves in ways I never expected.

Every day feels new again.

Infinite Curiosity

Because of this setup, I no longer need interesting subjects.

Light is enough.

Every shadow.

Every reflection.

Every silhouette.

Everything becomes worth photographing.

That's what keeps me going outside every single day.

Photography becomes play.

Not work.

There Is Nothing Left To Remove

Over the years I've been simplifying everything.

Now my photography consists of:

- A black box
- One shutter button
- Automatic settings

- High contrast
- Small JPEG files

That's it.

There's nothing else left to subtract.

And I've realized something.

The more you remove...

The more your own way of seeing begins to emerge.

Style Comes From Repetition

People often think style comes from shooting black and white.

Or from using a certain camera.

I don't believe that.

Style comes from repetition.

It comes from instinct.

My entire process with the Ricoh GR is built around reaching the point where thinking disappears.

All that's left is intuition.

Multiple photographers could use this exact setup...

And every single one would produce different work.

Because instinct is personal.

A Workflow That Disappears

When I get home, everything stays simple.

I plug the camera into my phone.

Scroll through the JPEGs.

Then I print them.

Not on expensive photo paper.

On cheap office copy paper.

And somehow...

That gives me more joy.

I'm embracing imperfection.

I'm embracing simplicity.

The physical object matters more than perfect print quality.

Photography As A Personal Diary

Monochrome feels deeply personal.

It goes beyond documentation.

The photographs become emotional.

A visual diary.

A reflection of my days.

If you're looking for a way to genuinely express yourself through photography...

I honestly don't think there's a better tool than the Ricoh GR IV Monochrome.

Forgetting You're A Photographer

One of my favorite parts about this camera is that nobody notices it.

I don't wear a camera around my neck.

I don't look like a photographer.

I'm simply walking through life.

Then something happens.

I pull the camera from my pocket.

Take one photograph.

And continue walking.

That feeling is incredibly liberating.

Removing the viewfinder.

Using Snapshot Focus.

Making imperfect compositions.

All of those limitations become strengths.

They keep me curious.

They keep me playful.

Photography For Life

Using the Ricoh GR has genuinely changed my life.

It has made photography joyful again.

It has made me more curious.

It has given me a process I can imagine sustaining for the rest of my life.

And that's ultimately why I continue sharing these thoughts.

Not because I'm interested in gear.

But because I'm interested in what a simple tool can do for the way we experience life.

If that resonates with you, I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Until next time.

Peace.