

Why I Switched to a 2006 Sony Handycam (The Ultimate Visual Diary)

What's poppin', people? It's Dante, currently filming along the Schuylkill River.

Check it out.

And yeah, today I've got the **Vibram FiveFingers ELX** shoes on. If you're curious, this is the best shoe to walk in. Maybe this should be a commercial for Vibram.

It's about grounding and transcending reality. It's the intersection of the infinite unknown and the material plane.

Currently reporting live from this gigantic rock orbiting around a ball of fire floating out into the void of space.

It's Dante Sisofo.

As above, so below.

The galaxy within the water, within the hidden creek, the Schuylkill River.

Check it out, guys.

The geese are in the water.

The geese are in the **wudder**.

When you're in Philly, you gotta say *wudder*, okay?

The geese are in the wudder. They're going to the Phillies game later. They're gonna get a cheesesteak, drink some wudder, grab some wudder ice, stop at Wawa...

I'm gonna go to Wawa and get a slushie.

Do they sell Wawa slushies?

Yeah.

Filming with a 2006 Sony Handycam

I'm filming with the **Sony DCR-SR40**.

This little Handycam is pretty fun.

What happens when you put on NightShot?

Holy shit.

Maybe I shouldn't do this. I think it's too bright.

If I stabilize the camera by squeezing it, I can turn on the **800x digital zoom** and film things. Maybe if I hold my breath.

You gotta be like a sniper.

The Aesthetics of Voyeurism

I'm interested in the aesthetics of voyeurism, or security surveillance camera technology.

Having the ability to zoom in **800 times** is freaking insane.

It's achieving that kind of goal for me as a street photographer.

I think the idea of voyeurism is interesting and maybe worth considering.

Maybe in this age of AI, security, and surveillance, as an artist who works in the streets, it's interesting to play with this idea.

Whoa...

Look at how beautiful the light is.

Fuck your face. Check out the light.

Yo.

It's trippy.

Being a voyeur is fun.

Why Video Feels Different

The power of video is that you're not only recording a fraction of a second like a photograph.

You're recording:

- the full gesture
- the full motion
- the full movement
- the full scene unfolding

You can move your body and interpret the scene differently.

You can see the way light casts across a face. You can see how reality changes as your perspective changes.

There's something special about the emotional quality of video.

I'm starting to realize it feels more like a memory than a photograph.

It also feels more personal.

The Ultimate Visual Diary

As a photographer who's always been interested in the idea of the **visual diary**, I'm beginning to feel that video is the ultimate expression of that goal.

Treating photography—and now videography—as a visual diary of my journey through time and space.

When you watch a scene unfold through moving images, it feels more factual.

Reality is presented more directly.

A photograph is naturally an abstraction.

I believe photography walks a fine line with surrealism because of its limitations and because reality is framed within four corners.

That creates ambiguity.

Mystery.

Video, on the other hand, feels grounded.

Why 480p Still Matters

I'm filming in color.

The colors aren't perfect.

The sensor is old.

But somehow it feels **more real**.

The output is **480p** in a **4:3 aspect ratio**, displayed on a CRT television.

That immediately evokes the feeling of old home movies.

Watching family camcorder footage in the '80s, '90s, and early 2000s.

That's exactly the feeling I'm cultivating.

A personal visual diary.

A memory.

That's the vein of photography and videography that interests me.

Not trying to say anything profound.

Not forcing myself into a theme.

Just recording what I see.

Recording how I feel.

Follow Play, Avoid Work

Anything that feels like work...

Avoid it.

Anything that feels like play...

Pursue it.

Art should feel like play.

Experimentation.

Fun.

Joy.

This camera gives me that feeling.

Whenever you cultivate that feeling, it's worth following because you never know what's on the other side.

There might be a surprise.

And I seek surprises.

Photography Beyond Reality

When I shoot with my **Ricoh GR**, I'm shooting high-contrast monochrome JPEGs.

What interests me about photography is going beyond reality.

Surprising myself.

Black and white naturally abstracts life.

It's often the imperfections that interest me.

It's what I didn't see with my naked eye that's revealed through photography.

That's what keeps me curious.

Why This Camera Inspires Me

Video is more grounded in reality.

But the imperfections that come from this **2006 Sony Handycam**, the old CCD sensor, the 480p image...

Those limitations scratch the same itch.

I'm curious how this camera interprets reality.

Watching the water.

Watching light reflect across surfaces.

That's one of the most beautiful things about photography.

Being curious about the outcome.

Playing.

Tinkering.

Trying new perspectives.

Enthusiasm

Ultimately, I don't take anything I create seriously.

I'm just trying to have fun.

My ultimate aim is enthusiasm.

That childlike joy.

That wonder.

The word **enthusiasm** literally means **to be possessed by God**.

I want to be possessed by God.

I want to feel like a kid who's excited to wake up and go outside and play.

I don't want creativity to become this serious burden.

I'm literally just playing.

Saying Yes to Life

Existentially, we're all grappling with mortality.

We're all going to die.

Creating photographs and videos makes memories tangible.

It's life-affirming.

That's my entire philosophy.

Photography is life affirmation.

Me filming this tree...

Is me saying **yes** to life.

It's me affirming that I was here.

That I saw this.

That I experienced this moment fully.

Photography gets me out of my mind and into my heart.

When the past and future disappear...

When you simply **are**...

That's one of the peak human experiences.

Photography gives me that.

It allows me to live inside the eternal now.

To appreciate the ordinary.

To transform the mundane into art.

That's All

Let's go back to the water one last time.

Whoa...

Something just splashed.

Probably a fish.

Maybe a bird.

I'm probably stepping on goose shit.

There's the city of Philadelphia.

The birthplace of America.

Me at the Schuylkill River.

This is me at the hidden creek.

Signing out.

[YouTube.com/@streetphotography](https://www.youtube.com/@streetphotography)

Follow for more.

DanteSisofo.com

That's:

D-A-N-T-E S-I-S-O-F-O.

Yeah.

That's all.