

Flux Weekly Witness #18: Why Photographing Your Own City Matters

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

Welcome to **Flux Weekly Witness**, where I look at the photographs you submit to me in the Flux community.

Today we're looking at a body of work from **Pietro Maltini** from Southwest England. These photographs were made throughout June and July of 2026.

Without further ado, let's jump right into it.

Photography as an Archive

Right away, we're introduced to this simple frame of a cat isolated inside an alleyway.

It's a quiet photograph.

The composition naturally guides your eye toward the cat, and immediately you begin noticing the gritty textures of the city.

As I looked through this body of work, one idea kept coming back to me.

Photography can become an act of **archiving your town**.

Graffiti.

Construction sites.

Storefronts.

Old buildings.

Scooters.

Rental bikes.

These things are constantly changing.

One day they'll disappear.

Photography gives us a way to preserve that fleeting change.

Preserving Everyday Life

Even simple photographs of restaurants, signs, storefronts, and public squares become more valuable over time.

The 15% student discount.

The chairs outside the café.

The architecture beside modern cars.

These details may seem ordinary today, but years from now they'll become documents of what life actually looked like.

Sometimes photography isn't about finding extraordinary moments.

Sometimes it's simply about preserving ordinary ones.

Finding Beauty Through Light

One photograph immediately stood out because of the way the light divided the frame.

Bright light on one side.

Deep shadow on the other.

Flags hanging overhead.

Leading lines quietly pulling your eye through the composition.

There isn't much happening, yet the photograph feels full of mystery.

Simple observations can go a very long way.

Black and White Loves Texture

Throughout the sequence, gritty textures continue appearing.

Graffiti.

Stone walls.

Construction.

Clouds.

Old architecture.

Black and white photography naturally emphasizes these surfaces, revealing details that color often distracts from.

The city itself becomes the subject.

Technical Perfection Isn't Everything

There's one close-up photograph of the cat that's completely out of focus.

Normally you'd expect that to weaken the image.

Instead, I actually think it strengthens it.

The blur introduces emotion.

The eyes become graphic shapes.

The photograph feels instinctive rather than technically perfect.

Sometimes feeling matters more than perfection.

Buildings Tell Stories Too

Street photography doesn't always need people.

The buildings we inhabit say just as much about us.

Looking through Pietro's photographs gives me a better understanding of where he lives and what life looked like on that exact morning in Southwest England.

One year later, these places might already look different.

That's one of photography's greatest powers.

Elevating the Mundane

Another beautiful photograph uses nothing more than sunlight and shadow across a building.

The vertical framing.

The doorway.

The trees.

The light quietly transforms an ordinary scene into something memorable.

That's the kind of observation I enjoy most.

My Favorite Frame

My favorite photograph in the sequence is actually the image of moving water.

It almost feels like a charcoal drawing.

The flowing texture.

The pipe in the center.

The layered rectangles.

The leaves entering from the foreground.

Everything works together to create something painterly rather than documentary.

It's a simple subject that becomes extraordinary through composition.

Photography as Gratitude

One idea this body of work reminded me of is that photography can become an act of gratitude.

Watching sunlight pass through trees.

Looking at architecture.

Paying attention to the streets we walk every day.

The more present you become, the more photographs begin appearing naturally.

Photography becomes less about searching and more about noticing.

Final Thoughts

Pietro, thanks for submitting your work.

I really enjoyed looking through this collection.

If you'd like your own photographs reviewed in a future episode, create a Flux issue using the **Flux Generator**.

Upload **36 photographs**, and they'll automatically be organized chronologically with timestamps and assembled into your own printable issue.

Submit it, and you might see your work featured here on the YouTube channel.

Thanks for watching.

I'll see you in the next one.

Peace.