

## **WHY I LOVE GRIT AND GRAIN**

## **WHY I LOVE GRIT AND GRAIN**

Aesthetically, I think grain is sublime. It better expresses what I am feeling, and what is in my mind's eye.

I hate pictures that are cold and clinical. These pixel-peepers, have me feeling cynical.

I love grain and grit; because it helps me remind myself, 'Memento Mori'-- all is slowly fading and dying, I gotta remind myself-- 'Eric, don't lie to yourself. You're gonna die one day, you're not going to live forever. Even though you're healthy now, the weather isn't always gonna be good. So don't waste your life-- devote it to help serving others, and hustle for posterity.'

I love grit and grain, because texture and the 'haptic feedback' we get from rough, and irregular surfaces is what makes us more human, and probably more intelligent. I love textured paper, I disdain touching perfectly smooth glass screens. I love the spongy response from a laptop keyboard, instead of the hesitant autocorrect from the phone or tablet.

I love grain, because it reminds me-- life ain't picture-perfect. Grain, noise, irregularity, and mistakes is what makes us human. Life is rough, gritty, and textured. Life shouldn't be made clinical -- by removing every rough edge or bump. I much prefer looking at the 'fractal' designs of the architecture Antoni Gaudi -- compared to anything cold and lifeless from Le Corbusier.

### **Grit and Grain in Photography**

That is what initially drew me into the photographs of Josef Koudelka, William Klein, and Daido Moriyama. They were anti-sharpness, anti 'descriptive' pictures. They weren't about making these hyper-sharp, hyper-detailed images of reality. Rather, they understood that real life was gritty and RAW-- and sought to describe that reality through their raw and gritty pictures.

William Klein innovated with his use of blur, unorthodox printing techniques (to add radial zooms to his pictures), and would shoot wide angle, get close, and add more dynamism, sex, and rock and roll to his pictures. He was ANTI Henri Cartier-Bresson, who was all about the picture-perfect geometry of 50mm, and clean edges.

## **My aesthetic vision**

ERIC KIM STYLE -- I'm constantly changing and evolving.

But there seems to be something deep in my artistic soul-- that I love punchy colors, contrasty and gritty monochromes, and grit & grain is part of my photographic lexicon.

This is why I am anti-bokeh, anti-sharpness, and anti-megapixels. I could give fewer fucks about 'image quality' -- I am more about shooting with my body and soul. Even though others think my technique and images are shoddy, I like to blast my images with visceral appeal-- like a sawed-off shotty (shot-gun).

## **What is photography all about again, anyways?**

When my viewer looks at my pictures, I want them to FEEL something. I want to EVOKE something in their mind and bodies. I want to STIR them to think of the world in a more critical way, to be more skeptical, but also to MOTIVATE them to MAKE MORE OF THEIR OWN ART! After all, one of the biggest reasons I promote the use of shooting with phone and RICOH GR II (a \$600 camera) is because it reminds us,

*I don't need expensive gear to make good pictures-- which evokes a sense of wonderment, awe, and excitement about life.*

I want photography to be used as a tool of EMPOWERMENT. I want the camera to make us more BRAVE, more courageous, and to take MORE RISKS in life.

## Why street photography is the best.

In-fact, **street photography is just artistic risk-taking**. Taking a street photograph is fucking scary. And with more risk, comes more reward.

Therefore, all street photographers are entrepreneurial risk-takers, and entrepreneurial picture-makers. We are **visual entrepreneurs**.

It ain't scary to take a picture of a flower or a landscape. Taking photographs of other people, especially strangers-- no matter how good your camera is, no matter how many megapixels your camera has, no matter how high the dynamic range, no matter how sharp the lens, no matter how much detail, no matter the size or the weight-- isn't going to help you become more confident to take pictures of people.

Ultimately, the only thing to help build courage in your heart and soul -- is... yourself.

## Conclusion

This is just another ramble, random stream-of-consciousness of why I love shooting JPEG, why I prefer gritty aesthetics, and why I promote photography (as a way of character development, and confidence-building).

Here are some general take-aways:

1. **STREET PHOTOGRAPHY as 'visual entrepreneurship'** -- taking risks, to make good pictures. The bigger the risks you take in street photography, the bigger the reward.
2. Disdain higher megapixels and higher sharpness in cameras-- prefer shittier cameras, with more RAW and gritty aesthetics. For example, experiment shooting JPEG in your camera, and processing your photos to look wild. Download [FREE ERIC KIM PRESETS](#).
3. **Shoot with your body and soul -- don't shoot with your brain**. There is more artistic intelligence in your body and soul and gut-- at least when you're in the process of making pictures in the streets. Reserve your brain-power, perhaps

## Why I Love Grit and Grain - August 30, 2017

when you go home and look through your pictures, and deciding which pictures to 'keep' and which pictures to 'ditch.' If uncertain about which pictures to keep or ditch, post your images to [ERIC KIM FORUM](#).

And remind yourself-- you're in a constant state of becoming as a photographer and artist. There is no 'final destination.' Everyday, treat yourself like in a state of evolution.

- Everyday, your visual antennae are becoming more sensitive, and more perceptive.
- Everyday, your legs and muscles for movement are getting stronger-- allowing you to move around more, walk more for longer periods of time, and see more 'decisive moments' to capture.
- Everyday, you are getting faster and more nimble in terms of your reflexes. The most important thing for a street photographer is to be fast, nimble, aggressive when necessary, and most important of all -- **TO HAVE NO HESITATION!**

For more personal motivation to take your street photography and confidence to the next level, join [ERIC KIM EXPERIENCE](#).

BE STRONG, ERIC