

FLUX ACADEMY · A SCHOOL FOR SEEING

MODULE 9 · AFTER THE SHOT

Contact-Sheet Thinking

BY DANTE SISOFI

LESSON 047



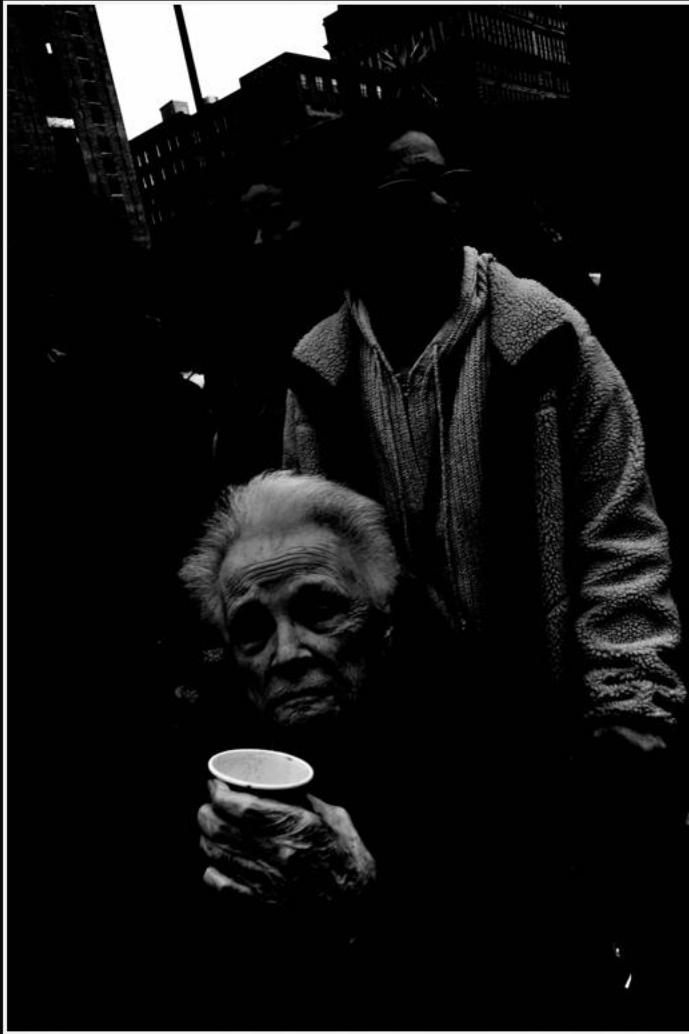
The Contact Sheet Is a Stream

- Every frame belongs to a stream, not a verdict
- The contact sheet reveals pattern, not perfection
- Selection starts with seeing the whole



What You'll Walk Away With

- How to move through a contact sheet fast and intuitively
- The three-tier method for tightening your edit
- Why the gut speaks before the brain does



Volume Is the Reality of Street Photography

- Street photography produces hundreds of frames per session
- Without a system, selection becomes paralysis
- Contact-sheet thinking keeps the practice moving



Seeing Patterns Sharpens Your Eye

- Your recurring instincts show up across the sheet
- Patterns reveal your vision
- The contact sheet teaches you who you are as a photographer



Move Fast, Feel First

- Scroll thumbnails in a grid — don't zoom in
- Tap favorite on what catches you emotionally
- Speed preserves the gut response



The Three-Tier Method

- Tier 1 — Favorites: anything that catches the eye
- Tier 2 — Selections: tighten the favorites into a stronger edit
- Tier 3 — Year Folder: keepers that define the practice



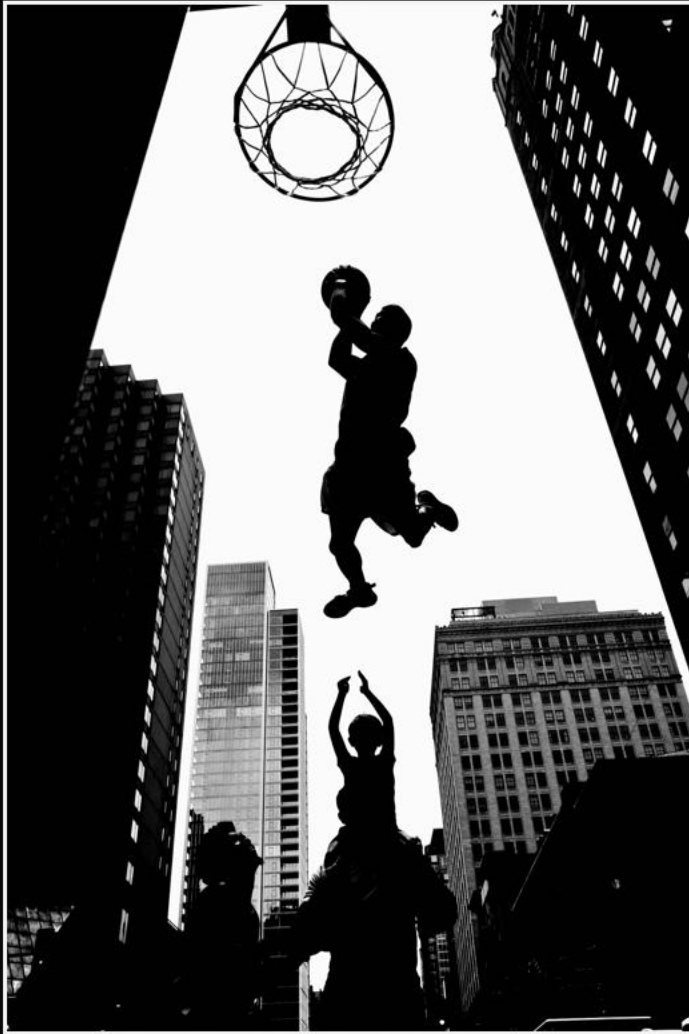
The Keeper Formula

- The decisive moment — is the action alive?
- Clean composition — does the eye rest easily?
- Emotional resonance — does it land in the gut?



Working the Scene, Then Keeping the Clean One

- Shoot the same moment several ways, then compare
- The simplified frame usually beats the busier variations
- Simplicity amplifies the moment



Gesture Over Sterile Perfection

- Gesture and connection between subjects carry the frame
- Choose emotion and gesture over technical cleanliness
- The raw, candid pulse of life wins



When Every Element Aligns in One Variation

- Light, composition, and meaning aligned in one frame
- The darker variation often carries more tension and mystery
- A held gaze anchors the psychology



The Punctum: Invisible Energy

- The punctum cannot be described, only felt
- It's the invisible energy that draws the viewer in
- Trust that pull — it's real information



Simplicity Almost Always Wins

- Less is more — simple compositions read stronger
- Distracting backgrounds dilute the moment
- Clarity of subject carries the weight



Light as an Active Element

- Light is not the background — it's a subject
- Be hyper-aware of light while editing
- The frame with better light usually carries more depth



Pairing and Comparing Frames

- Compare similar shots directly against each other
- The winner reveals what your instinct already knew
- Pairing accelerates your eye's education



Intuition Over Intellect

- Don't overthink — feel first, analyze second
- Intellectual justification comes after the gut
- The fastest edits are often the truest



The Contact Sheet as Visual Diary

- Every session is a record of the day
- Good and bad are part the same stream
- The diary reveals how you live your life



Do a Fast First Pass

- Set your grid to thumbnails — don't zoom
- Mark anything that catches you in under two seconds
- Don't stop to deliberate on the first pass



Pair and Eliminate

- Pull your marked frames and pair similar ones
- Ask: which breathes more, which has the better light?
- Eliminate until one remains



Build Your Year Folder

- Start a dedicated folder for your true keepers
- Review it monthly — see what patterns emerge
- The year folder is your visual autobiography



Zooming In Too Early

- Pixel-peeping kills the gut response
- Technical scrutiny too early distorts selection
- Feel the frame before you analyze it



Keeping Too Many

- Keeping everything means choosing nothing
- A bloated edit dilutes the strong frames
- Ruthless selection is an act of respect for your work



Building on the Edit Philosophy

- Lesson 046 laid the groundwork for editing mindset
- Contact-sheet thinking extends that foundation into a system
- We move from philosophy to repeatable practice



Feel It, Mark It, Keep the Best

- Move fast, feel first — the gut is the first editor
- The keeper unites moment, form, and emotion
- See everything as a stream; only the punctum survives