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Beat Streuli

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Beat Streuli's photographs are complex amalgams of place and time, moments of personal reflection captured and held wide open, in both the camera's eye as well as the imagination -- images shot through with grace and the photographer's own limitless sense of wonder. The exhibition will feature site-specific works that include photographs, wallpaper works, and an elaborate window installation that involves mounting several of Streuli's large photographs directly to the windows outside the gallery. The wallpaper pieces focus on individual people, frame by frame involved in their daily routines, and the elaborate window installations will enable viewers to "peer through" human bodies in motion. The exhibition will run in conjunction with Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) in Hollywood, CA, which will feature Streuli's video installations.

Beat Streuli's photographs of people immersed in the endless hustle and bustle of daily life, caught up in the complexities of their own lives in accordance with the world around them, compel even as they confound us with their subtle gestures and the quiet power of individual life which they evoke. Streuli captures both the remoteness of being a single person alive today, surrounded by towering fixtures of modern life, the foreboding facades of buildings, the demographics of city living, without delving headlong into the sentimental psychological complexities of his subjects. Instead he opts to focus on gestures which imply anecdotal relationships between his subjects and the landscape.

Politics, fashion and advertising share the picture plane with Streuli's subjects, engrossed in the random circumstances of daily living, creating layers of meaning between what is literally seen and all that is implied through gestures and symbols. A man stands looking at the billboard of another man; a woman clutches her purse as another woman looks on -- each of these a seemingly inconsequential moment, yet in Streuli's hands, these moments amplify into precise embodiments of space and time. Each situation carries with it a series of implied narratives that seem to work on the viewer imperceptibly, yet with tremendous power. The slow-motion cinematic quality of his images only reinforces the insight that street life is dominated by a social dynamic that undermines any form of symbolic deviation through personal initiative.