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Alex Ripa Artist Statement

Alex

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Artist Statement

This body of work represents the end of a stage in my development as a photographer. The transition is a result of several factors: first and foremost is merely that I now feel comfortable making images in the fashion that I have been for the last three years. Part of what made making the photographs in this show interesting was the element of the unknown -- some ideal image was lingering in the back of my mind that had specific characteristics but no solid form. These photographs represent the search for the solid manifestation of that unnamed image-- a search which eventually proved fruitful. This show is the closing of that period of satisfying experimentation.

Secondly, even though these images represent a very personal view of my surroundings, they also, and perhaps paradoxically, represent a conscious attempt to remove my voice from the image making process. Photography is often dressed up in the clothes of a hunter--the photographer out "shooting", getting the "shot", and "taking" pictures. Never comfortable with this attitude, I attempted to make my photography less "photographic" in its creation. This included a standardized, head-on framing of the image, especially in photographs involving people--after all, I had no desire to be a spy, to steal souls, or to bring home a trophy. Between the photographer and the photographed there was a camera, and it felt fake to pretend that there wasn't. A great part of the new direction of my photography involves trusting my intentions well enough to allow my voice to fully enter the image making process in an active way.

-ALEX RIPA