

Thomas Holton

Bettina Johae

Reiner Leist

Zoe Leonard

Ethan Levitas

Glenn Ligon

Eminent Domain

CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE CITY

May 2–August 29, 2008

The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
D. Samuel and Jeane H. Gottesman Exhibition Hall
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street
Free Admission

Acquisition of works for this exhibition was made possible through the Estate of Leroy A. Moses, which provided funds to purchase photographs that enhance the Library's collection of New York City views from 1950 to the present day.

Support for this exhibition has been provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., and by an anonymous contribution in honor of Elizabeth Rohatyn.

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The New York Public Library
www.nypl.org

Eminent Domain features recent photographic projects by five contemporary New York-based photographers: Thomas Holton's *The Lams of Ludlow Street*, an empathetic account of one family's daily life in Chinatown and a photographer's personal quest to better understand his own heritage; Bettina Johae's *borough edges, nyc*, a digital project exploring the edges of the city's five boroughs, which the photographer traversed as a way of "remapping" the supposedly well-known city; Reiner Leist's *Window*, a series of views taken each day over an 11-year period that capture a slice of Manhattan including One Penn Plaza, Madison Square Garden, and, until September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center towers; Zoe Leonard's *Analogue*, a lyrical documentation of the city's slowly disappearing local character as a result of the city's economic transformation; and Ethan Levitas's *Untitled/This is just to say*, an exploration of the most apparent, if overlooked, of the city's public spaces, the cars of the New York City subway. Turning on the nature of photography itself (which always complicates the relationship between private and public property), the works in the exhibition intersect and resonate with current concerns about the reorganization of urban space, and its public use, in New York City. As a counterpoint to these works, Glenn Ligon offers the literal narrative of his own housing in the city, as a reminder that behind these (now) public images lie myriad personal and private stories.

Artists, photographers, and the interested public are invited to participate in a collaborative, rich-media project on the theme of eminent domain through a link on the exhibition website: exhibitions.nypl.org/eminent.

Shifting views of public and private space

COMPANION VOLUME: Available in The Library Shop and online at www.thelibraryshop.org.

HOURS: Monday, Thursday–Saturday, 11 A.M.–6 P.M.; Tuesday–Wednesday, 11 A.M.–7:30 P.M.; Sunday (through May 18), 1–5 P.M. Closed Saturday, May 24; Monday, May 26; Friday and Saturday, July 4 and 5

FREE DOCENT TOURS: Monday–Saturday, 12:30 and 2:30 P.M.; Sunday (through May 18), 3:30 P.M. All group tours, including school groups, must be scheduled well in advance; call 212.930.0501. Unauthorized tours are not permitted. Group tour fees: \$7 per person (\$5 for seniors); no charge for full-time students.

FREE CURATORIAL TOURS: May 14 at 11:15 A.M. and June 3 at 6:30 P.M. Led by exhibition curator Stephen C. Pinson, The Robert B. Menschel Curator of Photography, The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, The New York Public Library. Limited to 20 people; register in advance: e-mail southcourt@nypl.org or call 212.930.9284.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Visit exhibitions.nypl.org/eminent for details on these programs:

borough edges, nyc

A series of bike tours to selected edges of the five boroughs, led by photographer Bettina Johae, beginning at noon.

May 11 – The Bronx

May 18 – Manhattan

June 1 – Queens

June 15 – Brooklyn

June 22 – Staten Island

LIVE from the NYPL

A program exploring issues surrounding urban renewal, eminent domain, and contemporary culture.

Made possible by the continuing generosity of Miriam and Ira D. Wallach

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