Lens / Non-Lens Explorations

Walking Shadows Triptychs

I am a photographer who visually explores obscure locations, objects and micro cultures by confounding representation through abstraction to explore shape, form, color, meaning and memory.

Influenced by the street photography story telling of Henry Cartier Bresson, I also sought the random. The unexpected in discovering unanticipated compositional structure. The decisive moment.

As a New Yorker since 1986, the streets of Greenwich Village had been a daily part of my life, particularly the random motion of people and their shadows with place. As a variation of street photography, I wanted to observe the forms and shapes of people and their shadows from a fixed, returnable location.

I found a corner café on Sixth Avenue with clear, open, west facing windows positioned so the midafternoon sun created long shadows. Ideal to sit, gaze, anticipate and discover the moving randomness from the shadows of people walking, pushing or carrying their hand-held items within a fixed background. A background that had a well-traveled sidewalk with its own variables like fixed placed waste baskets, traffic light polls, street markings, mailbox's etc.

Although the original images are in color, I wanted to confound the actual color scape by manipulating the image's color through oversaturation and removal of some of that color to reveal random areas of black and white. As I was editing the works, the varying motions of people and shadow were compositionally more interesting by framing 3 images together.

Essentially creating sequential triptychs.

michaelsoluri.com michael@soluri.com