

# WATERSHED

SEPT 19 - NOV 3 2008

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

### TONY FOUHSE

#### MANUFACTURED MOMENTS

The bottom photo, shot in 2002, is from a project titled: THE DESERTS OUTSIDE OF LOS ANGELES.

In this project I met and photographed strangers in the landscape. That mode of working wasn't really new to me. What was new, what I discovered doing this project, was that I could manufacture moments. I would arrange the people I was going to photograph into little situations, quiet scenarios, then I would photograph that fiction.

The subjects are not really doing anything beyond existing in the landscape. A tension arises when the subjects are simultaneously real and imagined- both at home in, and at odds with their environment.

The top photo was shot in Passaic, New Jersey, June 2008. It's from a project called: BESIDE THE PASSAIC.

I set out to photograph what and who I bumped into as I followed the Passaic River as it flows its 80 miles from the swamps of New Jersey, on through Paterson, Nutley, Passaic, East Rutherford and Newark, where it drains into Newark Bay.

I was using a large format camera, one that requires a tripod. This also means that there's a certain amount of waiting. I realized that I could set the camera up, aimed at some thing or other, and wait until events took on a form that resembled the situations I had previously been manufacturing.

The funny thing is that, using both of these techniques, there's a certain look and feel that makes me push the button. To me it is unimportant whether the situation photographed was one of my own devising or one that happened naturally.

Anytime you slice a specific 30th of a second out of reality you end up with some kind of fiction.



# BIOGRAPHY

## RECENT PORTFOLIOS

2001- 'ROIDS, street portraits in Ottawa.

2001- VARIOUS PLACES, toy camera cityscapes and landscapes shot around North America.

2002- 3 DAYS IN THE DESERT, a photo sequence shot in California deserts.

2003- THE IMPERIAL VALLEY, portraits shot in the Imperial Valley, California

2004- DEEP SOUTH, portraits from rural Mississippi and Alabama.

2005- OHIO, portraits and views from Ohio.

2007- USER, portraits of crack addicts shot on one corner in Ottawa

2008- BESIDE THE PASSAIC, photographs taken along the Passaic River in New Jersey.

## RECENT SHOWS

2003 The Ottawa Art Gallery, The Bigger Picture, group

2004 Helsinki, Ottawa, solo

La Bouchon, Paris, solo

Angel City Gallery, Los Angeles, group

SAW Gallery, Rock the Vote, Ottawa, group

2006 Gallery 101, Ottawa, solo

Galerie La Petite Mort, Ottawa, solo

2007 Galerie La Petite Mort, USER, solo show

Ottawa City Hall Gallery, APERTURE, group show

Galerie La Petite Mort, MEN, group show

2008 Galerie La Petite Mort, MEN ON WOMEN, group show

PhotoMediaCenter, Erie, Pennsylvania, HOLGA WORLD, group show

Ottawa Art Gallery, EVIDENCE, group show

## OTHER ACCOLADES (2004 to 2008)

Included in The Magenta Foundation book: "Carte Blanche", a compilation of Canada's leading photographers. 2006.

Won Outstanding Volunteer Award, Magazines Canada, for my help with local (nationally distributed) magazine Burnt Toast. 2006.

Chosen by the City of Toronto to produce photos of cultural workers for their Live With Culture campaign. 2005.

Won National Magazine Award for photo story, Report on Business magazine. 2004.