

FIFTY ONE

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

RAY K. METZKER
BETWEEN LIGHT AND LINES

5 Sept. - 11 Oct. 2008
Opening: 4 Sept., 18h-21h

“What appears in the pictures was the subject’s decision, not mine. I took what they presented – delicate moments – unadorned and unglamorous, yet tender and exquisite.”
Ray K. Metzker

Fifty One Fine Art Photography is proud to present its very first solo show of the American photographer **Ray K. Metzker** (°1931) and his fascinating black and white images which question the nature of the photograph and photographic ‘reality’.

Ray Metzker is acknowledged as one of photography's true innovators since the early 1960's. He is dedicated to **exploring the formal potentials of black and white photography** over the course of more than a dozen distinct bodies of work. Through cropping, multiple imagery, and other formal inventions, his work explores options for transforming the vocabulary of the photograph. From urban streetscapes and multiple imagery in the form of constructed composites, to dense and tangled landscapes, to mysterious and pure abstractions, Metzker has proven himself time and time again a master interpreter of the medium.

Yet his work does not rest solely on its inventiveness. While experimenting with multiple exposures, unusual juxtapositions, and the unexpected use of light and darkness, Metzker has imbued his images with an **emotional resonance**. By bisecting a streetscape with an intense ribbon of sunlight or a dense wall of shadow, he is able to evoke a feeling of hope or an aura of menace. It is this remarkable balance between technical virtuosity and humane considerations that has continued to make his work compelling over five decades.

Metzker has resided in Philadelphia since 1962, when he joined the faculty of the Philadelphia College of Art. He has been the recipient of two Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. His photographs have been shown in more than 47 one-person exhibitions, including such venues as the Art Institute of Chicago; Cleveland Museum of Art; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and Museum of Modern Art, New York. More than 45 collections include his work, among them are the Australian National Gallery, Canberra, New South Wales; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; ...