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For Immediate Release:

Winners of Soho Photo's 14th Annual National Photography Competition

(Juror: Susan Kismaric, MoMA)



First Prize

As Inside As The Eye Can See © Casilda Sanchez

July 7-August 8, 2009

Opening Reception: Tuesday, July 7, 6-8 pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday thru Sunday, 1-6 PM, and by appointment

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New York, N.Y. – Soho Photo Gallery is pleased to announce that its July exhibition will feature the top three winners of the Gallery's 14th annual juried National Photography Competition plus entries from 41 other photographers that juror Susan Kismaric, Curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art, selected to be in the show. To choose the winners, Kismaric viewed more than 2,500 images that had been submitted by 470 photographers from across the U.S.

The top three National Competition winners are:

- First prize: Casilda Sanchez, Chicago, IL:
- Second prize: Andrea Stern, New York, NY
- Third prize: Lydia Panas, Kutztown, PA

After judging the competition, Kismaric remarked:

The submissions to this year's Soho Photo National Competition came from around the country and included just about every variety of contemporary photographic practice. Pictures made with black and white and color film, digital cameras and prints, large format and 35mm cameras, "appropriation", photographs made in the studio and on the street, and work constructed as a kind of installation were received, proving vitality and a deep curiosity about extending the possibilities of photographic practice. For myself, there is nothing as magical as a straightforward picture of the world that transforms what was before the camera into something I've never quite seen before. My selection of "winners" and "honorable mentions" undoubtedly reflects that prejudice. Hopefully, the inclusion in the exhibition of the many other types of work submitted mitigates my weakness, but the work that most impressed me pays attention to what is close at hand but not necessarily seen.

New York to New Orleans by Peter Leitch



West 14th Street, NY © Peter Leitch

In addition, **Peter Leitch**, July's guest exhibitor, will have a show in our upstairs gallery entitled **New York to New Orleans**. His exhibition contrasts New York City's verticality, its busy crowded streets and profusion of media generated imagery, with the flat horizontal deserted highways, cotton fields and low-rise architecture of the American South. These visual contrasts serve to both mirror and differentiate the simplicity of the rural blues from the complexity of urban jazz. This musical analogy no doubt stems from Leitch's musical background. (His latest jazz CD is called *Self Portrait*, Jazz House 7003.) He says, "The shadow, or dark areas, of a photograph correspond to the bass in the audio spectrum, the highlights to the treble, and all the grays in between are the mid range areas. Shapes, angles and lines are like rhythms. One tries to learn ways of seeing, in the same way we develop our musical ear."

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Soho Photo Gallery has been showcasing a broad spectrum of imagery by emerging and veteran photographers since 1971. The Gallery is in New York's historic TriBeCa district, three blocks south of Canal Street between West Broadway and Sixth Avenue. Subways: #1 to Franklin Street or the A, C, E, W, N, R or #6 to Canal Street.