

SOHO PHOTO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE SOLO SHOWS IN SEPTEMBER:

**EMMA'S GARDEN . . .
THE UNSEEN . . .
URBAN LIGHT SCULPTURES . . .
SHARED MOMENTS . . . ‘
and
IN THE POSTER STORE**

September 9 – October 2, 2004

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, September 9, 6-8 p.m.

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New York, N.Y. – Soho Photo Gallery celebrates the beginning of its 33rd season with a show by guest exhibitor **Deborah Schenck** entitled *Emma's Garden*. Schenck's work in general has been influenced by her growing up surrounded by English country gardens and meadows; in this case, the "Emma" of Emma's Garden is Schenck's sister who lives in the English countryside near Stratford-on-Avon. Schenck photographed Emma's garden, which has many beautiful, old-fashioned flowers, while visiting her sister this past spring.

She plans to show between 20 and 30 images; most will be limited edition Giclee and "C" prints as well as some Polaroid transfer images for which she is well-known both in the United States and in Europe. Schenck has worked with Polaroid transfers for about twelve years and has built up a large following for her work. The images in the exhibition will range from 5x7 to 20x24. She also plans to exhibit some of her photography on metal and wood, media she has recently begun using.

September's show also includes solo exhibitions by Gallery members **Robert Sharpe, Jan Schmoranzer, Edgar Gelabert** and **Ron Meisel**.

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In Robert Sharpe's exhibit entitled *The Unseen*, he has chosen the psychologically and graphically startling effect of portraying homeless people as individual personalities within ornate picture frames. Sharpe thought of the idea after seeing a display of ornately carved picture frames in an antique shop window. He says, "I wondered what it would be like to photograph people in the frame, with a hand, hair or a scarf spilling out of the frame itself." He decided to photograph faces that people turn away from—the homeless. Sharpe then photographed and interviewed 43 homeless people at the Bowery Mission in New York City. Each of the fourteen 20" x24" color prints in his exhibit is accompanied by a one-page, first person account of the subject's life. Also, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, Sharpe will present a 30-minute slide show of the framed faces of **The Unseen** accompanied by their voices. Sharpe is an Academy Award-nominated film-maker who wrote and directed during the Golden Age of Television.

In *Urban Light Sculptures*, German-born scientist **Jan Schmoranzer** will display fifteen black and white prints (9"x12") focusing on urban and architectural structures in Manhattan. Photographed under extreme light conditions, the mundane—building facades, trees, fences, structural metal—is sculpted into the semi-abstract by the harsh natural light. The light makes the image, not the object itself. Building facades or the sky are used as canvases for pitch black shadows, sharp outlines or bright reflections. Repetitive urban patterns are reflected and abstracted into a strange and unknown language. In this series, Schmoranzer uses light—transient, ephemeral—to extract the harsh beauty of Manhattan's concrete core.

Edgar Gelabert's exhibit of family portraits is entitled **Shared Moments**; it includes seventeen black and white images of varying sizes. Gelabert says, "These family portraits give visible form to thirty-five years of my life." A portfolio of these images was published in the book, *Discover Yourself Through Photography* by Ralph Hattersley and also in *Popular Photography* magazine. A selection of Gelabert's documentary color photographs, taken in

New York City during the 1990's, are in The New York Public Library's permanent collection.

Ron Meisel's show is entitled **In the Poster Store** and will include fourteen black and white 11"x14" prints. Meisel says, "I was initially attracted to the mannequins displayed in the front window of the poster store located in Tribeca in downtown Manhattan. Usually I have only photographed windows from the outside, but this was intriguing enough to lead me inside and ask permission to photograph. I returned many times as the mannequins were moved regularly to various locations around the store. I hope these photographs show the surprise and amusement I found creating this series."

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Soho Photo Gallery showcases a broad spectrum of imagery by emerging and veteran photographers. The Gallery is in New York's historic Tribeca district three blocks south of Canal Street between West Broadway and Sixth Avenue. **Subway:** #1 or #9 to Franklin Street, A, C, E, N, R or # 6 to Canal Street.