

GALERIE
NuEdge
Fine Arts International L.P., S.E.C.



©Amel Chamandy, «54th Floor», Digital Photographic Print, Single Edition, 48 x 72", 2010

Scene Scape

Through the Artist's Eyes

Photo Exhibit, May 7 – September 18, 2010

Montreal, April, 2010 – In May 2010, Galerie NuEdge will feature the most recent work of artist photographer Amel Chamandy in the exhibit Scene Scape, Through The Artist's Eyes, a retrospective connecting her past to her present in a selection of black and white film taken in 1998.

Amel is a Montreal artist who has been creating since the age of 15 with influences from studies in art history, restoration, charcoal and ink drawing, and "free play" photography. Growing up in the bustle of the Montreal scene, the artist, like most of us in familiar surroundings, found that there was so much going on around her that, for the most part, she simply did not see the familiar and comforting simplicity of the background of her life. Scene Scape is unlike any other project she has undertaken as an artist. Amel's intention is to capture the interest of her audience with a common subject, and then provoke an emotional response by altering the presentation of the subject from what would normally be the case in a natural setting. "This exhibit is all about engaging the audience", says the artist. Elaborating on this point, Amel emphasizes her intent to create an emotional connection with the audience as a way for them to become more in tune with the meaning and statement of her work.

All the still life images of the exhibit are "one of a kind" and the result of traditional film photography combined with contemporary technique. As such, not only is there an original theme and emphasis associated with the unaltered photograph, but, also layered and cached "sub themes" dealing with how, in our "humanness", we perceive and process familiar surroundings in the face of our experiences, influences and compounded technology.

Amel poetically transforms the simple and familiar object of a camera's lens into the complex result of mind and perspective. In some ways the photograph may take on a deconstructed character which the artist feels mirrors her daily life. This series of photographs represent pieces of this great puzzle called LIFE and how we define this, which is as unique as each other's experience. "I feel the dynamic qualities of LIFE with all of its colour and constant shift, vibration, interruption and distortion. It is this that I intend to convey to my audience through the images of Scene Scape" says Amel. The "work up" of each photograph is very much her way of challenging her own relationship with her surroundings and memory.

Added to these images is a video titled Through The Artist's Eyes that loops through a segment of scenes reflecting the involuntary and voluntary eye movements made and recorded by the artist as she looks at undefined objects and events. Eye movement helps us acquire, fixate on and track our surroundings. It also compensates for body movement that occurs when we do things like walk, run or move our heads. "Seldom do we have the opportunity to really see someone's eyes, even our own, and understand just how expressive and busy they really are. Eyes have been called the "windows to the soul" and they are a large contributor to the way we perceive our world and file those images in our memory. To understand how my eyes move is to better understand how I proceed through my day. It also creates awareness in the viewer of yet another common aspect of sight and scenery that is experienced every minute of every day even though we may be surrounded by a sea of active eyes or stationed in a room full of mirrors where we could see our own", says the artist.

Scene Scape is laced with an awareness of how time and sound impacts on the artist's memory and feelings towards a scene. Much in the same way as one proceeds through their surroundings on a certain schedule and a certain time of day, one becomes accustomed to the sounds associated to a scene. Traversing the same scene at a different time will often host different sounds that cause a remarkable discordance to the otherwise commonplace. This causes us to reflect on where we are and what we know. It causes us to re-evaluate if it all makes sense. We may even notice associations where sound is synchronized to a specific visual image. If, however, the sound is not synchronized, then that too may cause us to reprocess and reflect again. When sound is introduced to a familiar scene, we are much less likely to traverse that scene without reflecting on its familiarity as a way to regain our footings. To highlight time and feeling, Scene Scape also draws on the use of prose and accompanies the exhibit with original music. The role of the music is to provide a backdrop and variation to what is visually going on in the exhibit.

Scene Scape - Elegant, poignant and thought provoking.

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