

## Encounter

These photographs explore, depict, and embody the contemporary condition: The isolated individual floating in an urban sea of millions. They explore the theme of encounters - or, more accurately, failed encounters, missed encounters, and refusals to encounter - in the modern city.

These pictures confront the paradox of the impossibility of communion with others under a condition of mass physical proximity: We literally live, work, and breathe on top of each other, but we occupy entirely different worlds of our own.

These pictures also embody that condition, for they are my vision and I am of that world. My presence is critical: Encounters and failures to encounter exist not only between the subjects depicted, but between them and me (and hopefully the viewer) as well.

Though on one level these images confirm the ubiquity of loneliness, they also give hope to a common humanity. We see ourselves in these elusive fragments. In this recognition lies the seed of community: The acceptance of the other's consciousness as of equal worth to our own.