

STEVEN
KASHER
GALLERY

L'ŒIL DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

MICHAEL SPANO: URBAN REPORT

March 27, 2018



Steven Kasher Gallery is pleased to present Michael Spano: Urban Report, a survey of the artist's recent photographic works. Urban Report extends Spano's previous concerns, this time using color and computer processing to fuse visual incidents into large-scale compositions. Spano takes hundreds of photographs a day and combines selected exposures into a complex composite forms. Buildings, street signs, and pedestrians are arranged into a maze of interactions. All of the imagery in Urban Report was taken between 2014 and 2017 in New York City where Spano lives and works.

Spano's compositions are utopian at times and quaint at others, but always multilayered and engaging. Much like the surveillance cameras that abound in these images, Spano's eye spies on the public/private spaces of the city. The mundane and the magical are combined into profound and whimsical moments. Urban Report transforms photographic information into painterly renderings, using tone reversal and transparency to animate the frame.

Michael Spano is well-known and widely collected for exploring photography's technical limits with an audacious exuberance that recalls the European experimental art of the 1920s and 1930s. Over four decades, Spano's experimental black and white photography focused on the city and its residents, and discontinuities of time and space. The New Yorker has written that Spano "has made some of the most inventive photographs of the urban scene since Ray K. Metzker and Lee Friedlander staked their claims to the territory."