

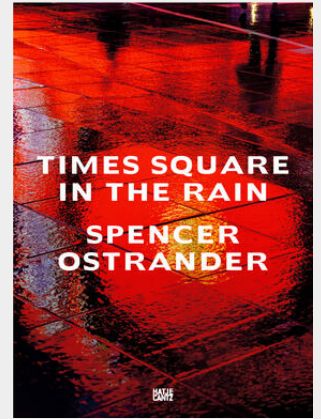
## Spencer Ostrander

Times Square in the Rain

Auf dem Times Square beginnt es zu regnen. Spencer Ostranders Kamera fängt ein, wie sich die Menschen in der Menge, die plötzlich in Plastik gehüllt sind, in abstrakte, leuchtende Spiegelungen der umliegenden Reklameflächen verwandeln. Die riesigen LED-Leuchttafeln, die illusorische Vorstellungen von Status, Glück und einem guten Leben vermitteln, transformieren die Menschen in wandelnde Werbeflächen für MTV, Coca-Cola oder The Lion King. Wenn die flackernden LEDs auf Ostranders Kamerasensor treffen, erzeugen sie Farbschlieren und Linien, die nicht real existieren und doch Teil der Fotos sind. Ein technisches Trugbild als Allegorie für Ostranders Thema: die leeren Verlockungen des Spätkapitalismus. Während er mit seiner Kamera durch die Menschenmenge schweift, sieht er eine große Traurigkeit, Zartheit und eine melancholische Trostlosigkeit – es sind diese verborgenen Geschichten, die in seinen Fotografien offenbart werden. SPENCER OSTRANDER (\*1984, Seattle) lebt seit zwei Jahrzehnten in New York. Er hat sich intensiv mit verschiedenen Formen der Fotografie auseinandergesetzt und kürzlich zwei weitere Buchprojekte abgeschlossen: Bloodbath Nation mit einem umfangreichen Text von Paul Auster zur Waffengewalt in den USA und Long Live King Kobe.

On one of Spencer Ostrander's early visits to Times Square, the rain began to fall. The people in the crowd, suddenly draped in plastic, were transformed into abstract, brilliant reflections of the massive advertising that surrounded them. Designed to entrap the consumer with illusions of status, the good life, and happiness by product, the vast LED light boards turned visitors into walking ads for MTV, Coca-Cola, and The Lion King. And when the flickering LEDs hit his camera's sensor, they created streaks of color and lines that don't exist, but are part of the photos, a technical mirage that perfectly suits Ostrander's subject—the empty allure of late capitalism. Moving among the people with his camera, Ostrander began to see sorrow, tenderness, despair—a hidden story that starts to reveal itself in his photographs. SPENCER OSTRANDER (\*1984, Seattle) has lived in New York City for the past two decades. He has done extensive work in all forms of photography and has recently completed two other book projects: Bloodbath Nation, with a long text on American gun violence by Paul Auster and Long Live King Kobe.

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