

Edition Patrick Frey

Press Release

Rico Scagliola & Michael Meier
years later...



For three years Rico Scagliola and Michael Meier have been taking candid photographs of people from all walks of life and of every age in public and semi-public urban spaces: on streets and city squares, in cafés and bars, train stations and airports, stores and shopping centers. In the tradition of subjective street photography, they explore everyday rituals and self-presentation strategies, observing how the boundaries between public and private spheres are increasingly blurred by the new media. The photographs reveal how people of a Western stamp, by and large emancipated from overarching ideologies and procrustean social norms, strive to display their unique identities, but there's simply no getting away from all-engulfing mainstream culture. The excessive demands of the will to individuality are exacerbated by the ubiquitously homogenized and commercially optimized architecture of urban centers with their promise of transparency and stability. The individual has a hard time eluding the controlling influence of urban planning.

The spoken-word fragments in *hours later...* contain snatches of conversations overheard in the street or exchanges with friends as well as passages from monologues on Youtube channels. Their accounts of ordinary everyday experience immerse the reader in a *(main) stream of consciousness*.

The pictures and texts combine to yield an overall view of transnational society, a loose sequence of genre paintings, a *comédie humaine* of the present day and age.

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