

# enigmas

Photographs by Andrew Feenberg



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Design: Soyoung Park

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The walker in the city sees many things and understands few of them. Snatches of conversation, glimpses of happenings, intuitions of relations pass in kaleidoscopic variation. Amidst this cascade of mostly trivial experiences there are a few gems, moments of significance that deserve to be remembered or perhaps photographed. The significant moments are signalled by a shock, the shock of the unexpected or bizarre or profound.

Shock appears in the writings of the culture critic Walter Benjamin as an essential category of modern life. The city is the place of chance encounter, of the stimulus of the new, of the visible movement of time as fashions change with startling rapidity. With Baudelaire as his guide, Benjamin explores the world of the *flâneur*. Shock is the emphatic presence of the crowd, the sudden glance of recognition between strangers, the vacant lot where used to be a building, the parade of bums and beggars.

The *flâneur* with a camera can record a small sample of this rich field of urban life. The photographer edits reality, leaving context on the cutting room floor. Only the essential moment remains, and it is often as incomprehensible as it is evocative. If its original shock value passes through the lens something is preserved from the ephemera of the street. This exhibit presents the enigmatic results.

# Painter Painted

*Paris*





## Hidden Beauty

*San Jose*

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## Blue Buddha

*Santa Fe*



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**Buddha Watches** *La Jolla*

# California Reading

*San Diego*





## Before the Show

*Paris*





## Pride on Show

*Paris*



## Dance of Color

*San Diego*



## Cafe Color

Paris

## Line of Sight

*Rome*





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## Steady Aim *Nara*



## Long and Winding

*Marin*



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**Big Deal** *Santa Fe*





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## Father and Daughter

*Napa*



## Saudade

*Paris*

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## Flying Fish

*La Jolla*

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## Shut Out

*Mexico City*

## Sweet Dreams

*Paris*

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**Light and Shadow** *La Jolla*

# Patience

*San Diego*

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**Kenzo**

*Paris*





## Wedding

*Coronado*

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## No Stopping

*San Jose*



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**Notre Dame** *Paris*



## Romance

*La Jolla*

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**Before the Concert** *Tokyo*



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## Hands *Paris*



## The Point

*La jolla*

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## Writ Large

*Paris*





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**Larger** *Paris*



## Masks

*Paris*

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# Eclipse

*Paris*

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## A-paco-lypse

*Paris*

# The Constant Spectator

*Paris*





## Cine Citta

Rome

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# The Power of Art

*Tokyo*





## Success

Tokyo





## Anima

*Paris*

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## Girl Power

*Tokyo*

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## Little Devils

*Paris*

# Mc Do

Kyoto





## Nude

Paris

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## The Aperero

*Vaison-la-Romaine*

## Drinking Buddies

*La Jolla*





## Boshi

*Tokyo*





## Kimono Time

*Tokyo*

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## So Lovely

*Tokyo*

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## The Guys

*Tokyo*

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## Book End

*La Jolla*

The **enigmas** exhibit opened  
February 3, 2005  
at the Exposure Gallery  
851 beatty street, Vancouver  
British Columbia, Canada.



Photo: Sharon Weremik

Andrew Feenberg is Canada Research Chair in the Philosophy of Technology in the School of Communication of Simon Fraser University. He has taught at San Diego State University, the University of California, Irvine, the University of Paris, the University of Tokyo, Duke University and the State University of New York at Buffalo.

He is the author of *Heidegger and Marcuse: Transforming Technology*, *Questioning Technology*, *Alternative Modernity*, *Lukács, Marx and the Sources of Critical Theory*, co-author of *When Poetry Ruled the Streets*, and co-editor of *Technology and the Politics of Knowledge*, *Community in the Digital Age*, and *Modernity and Technology*. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia and La Jolla, California.