

# Sean Davey

## ***Shopfronts & Streetscapes: Photographs from the Inner-West***

Leichhardt Library, The Italian Forum, Norton Street  
Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW

1-30 April, 2009



Supermeat Market, Annandale (2007)

Sean Davey presents ***Shopfronts & Streetscapes: Photographs from the Inner-West***, fourteen photographs on display at the Leichhardt Library from April 1-30, 2009.

Having recently been awarded a Highly Commended in the 2009 Moran Contemporary Photography Prize, Davey presents a selection of work made in his own neighbourhood. A resident of Haberfield for five years, Davey has consistently photographed his local surroundings on walks, as well as from car and bus windows. Davey works in the street, a culture he is so much a part of.

***Shopfronts & Streetscapes*** reveals a quiet and considered approach not only to photography, but also to one's own local environment. Walking slowly, exhaust fumes choking the air, Davey treads the bitumen footpath, watching, looking, feeling. He stops at shops long abandoned. He peers in. What history. What happened? Some photographs in this exhibition focus on the deteriorating state of Parramatta Road, the once booming central business district of the Inner-West. They also however, reveal a soft beauty in things that have had their day, and are indeed relics of a time that no longer exists. Of history. A small history.

The photographs in this exhibition do more though than portray a history of time and place. These photographs, made front on, without trickery or vice, focus on the present state of things as they are today. They are documents. And they are facts. When looking at these photographs, one sees vacated urban landscapes, contradictions of things of nature and things of man. Throughout the photographs, people appear scattered amongst the landscape, often in the background of the image, or caught in movement, not realising they have been photographed, "I never intentionally make photographs with people, or without people. The act of photographing comes long before one can consider what it is you are actually doing", says Davey.

The photographs in this exhibition do not aim to portray the Inner-West (which they do), they aim to offer moments of personal experience and response to a familiar environment. Davey knows these streets. He knows these shopfronts. He has photographed them more than once, and he will probably photograph them again. Through this exhibition, Davey is saying; *This is where I live, these are the streets I walk, and this is a part of who I am, who I have become.*

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