

# **REALITIES IN TRANSIT**



**A Contemporary  
Photography Exhibit by two artists  
Frank Guiller & Juan-Si González  
17 FROST Art Center, Brooklyn, NY**

URBAN DICTIONARY—PORTRAITS IS A COMPACT SELECTION OF AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURING THE STREET OR SUBWAY LIFE OF NEW YORK AS I HAVE SEEN IT DURING MY DAILY COMMUTE. I HAVE LONG BEEN FASCINATED WITH PEOPLE THAT WORK, MOVE, AND LIVE IN THE CITY, LEAVING ONLY A SENSE OF PASSING THROUGH. IN THESE PIECES I HAVE TRIED TO LAY BARE THE HEART OF THIS MEGALOPOLIS, REVEALING LAYERS OF MEANING THAT ENVELOPE THE EXISTENCE OF ITS INHABITANTS. THESE ANTHROPOCENTRIC EXPLORATIONS FIND THEIR ULTIMATE EXPRESSION IN THIS GROUP OF PORTRAITS OF PEOPLE WHO CARRY THE CITY ETCHED IN THEIR SKIN, FROM THE MOST UNFORTUNATE—WHO ARE THE ONES MOST LIKELY TO FACE THE CAMERA AND DO SO WITH SUCH APLOMB—TO THOSE PASSERSBY WHO HURRY ON WITHOUT EVER MAKING THE STREET THEIR OWN, BUT INEVITABLY BELONGING TO IT NONETHELESS.

PHOTOGRAPHY FORETELLS STORIES SYNONYMOUS WITH OUR OWN PRIMAL, INTRINSIC DESIRES TO DIVE IN AND IMPLICATE, MERGE, AND EXPERIENCE OUR EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTS. THE PAUSE THAT HOLDS US SILENTLY WHILE OBSERVING OPENS DOORS THAT CAPTURE UNTOLD STORIES ONLY WE COULD CONQUER. IMAGES FILTER CONSTRUCTS OF RAPACIOUS EMOTIONAL RAPTURE. VISUAL STIMULATION IMPACTS THE EXPLORATION OF THE PSYCHE THROUGH THE PROCESSES OF ASSOCIATION, THUS HURDLING EMOTIONS, VOYEURISM, PITY, RAGE, LAMENT. ALL OF THESE, VISIONARY PERHAPS, IN ONE STILLNESS. A PAUSE CONVEYING ALL POSSIBILITY.

FRANK GUILLER, NEW YORK, 2013

*On the Cover, from the series: Urban Dictionary, The Smoker, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, The Indian Man, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*





*From the series: Urban Dictionary, UNIVALENT, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, JOE, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*





*From the series: Urban Dictionary, DOLL, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, KRISNA, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, A VOICE, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, A FIGHTER, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*





*From the series: Urban Dictionary, SMOKER, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, THE PHOTOGRAPHER, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, APTITUDE, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, FIGHTER, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*





*From the series: Urban Dictionary, ONE MORE, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, A MOST, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*





*From the series: Urban Dictionary, BE PART, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*



*From the series: Urban Dictionary, REGRET, Frank Guiller,  
Place: New York, NY, Media: C- Print, Size: 20" X 30", Year: 2010, Edition: 2 of 5, Price: 1,300 USD*

ALTERATIONS: MENTAL MODELS SERIES—THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS SERIES REGISTER SUDDEN GLITCHES OR GAPS IN TRANSMISSION IN THE UNRELENTING TRAFFIC OF MEDIA IMAGES. THEY ARE OF TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS, NEWS BROADCASTS, AND REALITY SHOWS DURING THOSE INTERVALS IN WHICH THE SIGNAL IS INTERRUPTED AND THE EMITTED IMAGE BREAKS UP, FRAGMENTING UNTIL NEARLY DISINTEGRATING. WHAT REMAINS IS A TRAIL OF DIGITAL INFORMATION, A WAKE OF DRIFTING FRAGMENTS AND VESTIGES OF IMAGES THAT RETAIN SOME TRACE OF THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY PRECIPITOUSLY DISAPPEARED. IN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS, I TRY TO CAPTURE AND DOCUMENT THE DIGITAL TRAIL LEFT BEHIND BY AN IMAGE IN MOVEMENT, ITS EPHEMERAL TRAJECTORY FROM THE RECOGNIZABLE TO THE ABSTRACT.

FROM THE VISUAL DETRITUS EMERGE NEW SIGNIFIERS THAT EVOKE OTHER SUBJECTIVITIES, OTHER DISCOURSES, AND OTHER MORE STATIC AND CONTEMPLATIVE TEMPORALITIES. ON BEING SEVERED AND EXTRACTED FROM THEIR REFERENTS, THE IMAGES ARE DEACTIVATED AND EMPTIED OF THEIR CONTENT AND ORIGINAL PURPOSE. IN THEIR ESTRANGEMENT, THEY ENGENDER NEW FORMS, A NEW VISUAL SYNTAX CREATED WITH THE INTENTION OF DISRUPTING THE INTENDED ORDER OF REPRESENTATION AND THE MECHANISMS OF PERSUASION. FROM THE VERY NATURE OF THE IMAGE I TRY TO CREATE COUNTER-NARRATIVES THAT QUESTION THE ICONOGRAPHIC VOCABULARY AND FORMULATE A CRITICAL VISION OF ITS USES. THROUGH THIS SERIES I HAVE DEVELOPED A PRACTICE OF PERSONAL RESISTANCE AGAINST PERCEPTUAL DISTRACTION AND THE VERTIGO CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE VISUAL STIMULATION.

JUAN SÍ GONZÁLEZ, YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO 2013

*On the Back-Cover from the series Alterations: Mental Model, Juan SÍ González,  
Place: Ohio, Media: Digital Photography Printed on Archival Matte Paper,  
Size: 16" X 20", Year: 2010, Edition: 5 of 5, Price: 1,400 USD*

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## FRANK GUILLER


WAS BORN IN HABANA, CUBA IN 1959. HIS WORK EXPLORES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND CITIES, A SUBJECT THAT HAS LONG INTRIGUED HIM. HE EMPLOYS HIS PHOTOGRAPHY TO CAPTURE BOTH A DESIRED MOMENT AND A METAPHOR, TO EXAMINE LIFE AND PROBE MEANING. HE STUDIED ART IN THE HABANA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND THE NATIONAL FINE ARTS ACADEMY OF SAN ALEJANDRO, CUBA. THERE HE DID AN APPRENTICESHIP IN ENGRAVING AND PHOTOGRAPHY. HE LEFT CUBA IN 1988 TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF BETWEEN NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK, WHERE HE CURRENTLY WORKS. HIS ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINES, BOOKS, AND WEBSITES. FRANK HAS EXHIBITED HIS WORK IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HAVANA, CUBA; THE CUBAN AMERICAN PHOTOTHÉQUE FOUNDATION, MIAMI, FLORIDA; THE WILLIAM MUSTO MUSEUM, UNION CITY, NJ; THE CLOSE UP VALLARTA 2ND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF VIDEO CREATION IN MEXICO; THE LATIN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION, MIAMI, FLORIDA; THE COLLAGE GALLERY, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA; MERCY COLLEGE, NY; THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS, MICHIGAN; THE LATIN AMERICAN PAVILION, ART CENTER, SHANGHAI, CHINA; THE JOURNEYS OF ARTISTS OF THE CUBAN DIASPORA, SANGRE DE CRISTO ART CENTER, COLORADO; THE MIAMI DADE COLLEGE – FREEDOM TOWER GALLERY, FLORIDA; THE SARA GALLERY, BARCELONA; THE XIORS GALLERY, PALERMO AND CARINI, ITALY; THE S.T.R. GALLERY CENTER, SPAIN; AMONG OTHERS. HIS WORK IS INCLUDED IN MANY CORPORATE AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS.

## JUAN SI GONZÁLEZ

WAS BORN IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA IN 1959. HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A COMMUNICATOR WHO DOESN'T SUBSCRIBE TO ANY ONE DISCIPLINE OR STYLE; HIS CHOICE OF MEDIA DEPENDS ON THE IDEA. HE STUDIED AT THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS IN HAVANA, AND WAS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HAVANA BIENNALES. IN 1987, HE CO-FOUNDED THE GROUP “ART-DE” AND BEGAN DOING INTERACTIVE POLITICAL PERFORMANCES IN THE STREETS OF HAVANA AND UNDERGROUND VIDEOS TO TALK ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES IN CUBA. HE HAS LIVED IN OHIO SINCE 2002, DURING WHICH TIME HE HAS BEEN AWARDED TWO OHIO ARTS COUNCIL INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS; A RESIDENCY WITH SPACES WORLD ARTISTS PROGRAM IN CLEVELAND; AND ALSO RESIDENCIES AT WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY, KENYON COLLEGE, AND SINCLAIR COLLEGE. JUAN SI'S WORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED AT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN COSTA RICA; THE FROST ART MUSEUM, THE FORT LAUDERDALE MUSEUM OF ART, AND THE MIAMI ART MUSEUM IN FLORIDA; THE MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART IN CALIFORNIA; EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO AND EXIT ART IN NEW YORK; THE MUSEUM OF ART IN INDIANA; THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE GALLERY IN PHILADELPHIA; THE CAMBRIDGE ARTS CENTER IN MASSACHUSETTS; MUSEO CARRILLO GIL IN MEXICO; CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU IN FRANCE; SOF ART HOUSE GALLERY IN TORONTO; KUNSTHALLE MUSEUM IN GERMANY; CULTURAL CENTER OF BECHEM IN BELGIUM; THE MESTNA GALERIJA IN SLOVENIA. HE HAS ALSO PARTICIPATED VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ART FAIRS INCLUDING ARCO; PHOTO BUENOS AIRES; PINTA LONDON; ART MIAMI; AND ART BASEL. HIS WORK IS INCLUDED IN SEVERAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MUSEUM COLLECTIONS.



# **PORTRAITS: REALITIES IN TRANSIT**



**This exhibit brings together the work of Cuban-American artists Frank Guiller and Juan Sí González in a visual dialogue in which both bear witness to a very personal vision of their very different surroundings.**