

43 8TH AVENUE GALLERY, NYC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**PHOTOGRAPHER JOSEPH MICHAEL LOPEZ
FEATURED IN SOLO EXHIBITION: ABOVE BELOW**

**OPENING FEBRUARY 7th, 2008, 6-9 PM
VIP & PRESS PREVIEW FEBRUARY 6th, 6-7 PM**

New York, NY. January 2008 - Joseph Michael Lopez photographs those moments of introspection we steal on the way to or from our destinations, as well as frenetic, over looked moments of life in an urban metropolis. In one shot an unconscious man appears to have just fallen off his seat on the subway; one leg still caught up on the armrest. In another a child, back pressed against a subway pole, clasps her arms behind her in a perfect cross formation.

Lopez began his obsession with photography in film-making school, where he realized that to express himself in 24 frames per second he first had to understand how to communicate within a single frame, and do it with an element of acuity. He began carrying his camera with black and white film everywhere and training himself to make pictures in public environments.

In describing his work, Lopez states: "I'm sensitive to a physical vocabulary, body language of movement, and gesture; a human condition where light and an understanding of graphic composition meet a passion to intersect my internal and external worlds."

His instinct is to monitor relationships on a visual level. He skillfully creates unintentional moments of juxtaposition, such as a dark skinned person walking beneath an etched piece of graffiti spelling the word "WHITE." His ability to sense the nature of an interpersonal relationship enables him to unobtrusively intercept a couple embracing and about to kiss through a taxi-cab window. His eye trained on framing people within their environments, he snaps a singer on the subway platform bending forward to hit a deep note, her back perfectly parallel with stairwell above. The space seems to shape her.

A protégée of notable photographers in the city, Lopez is fortunate enough to consider Danny Lyon, Bruce Weber, Chuck Kelton and Mitch Epstein his personal mentors. His extensive formal and informal education and real world experience makes him one of the most important personal reportage photographers of his generation.

Lopez is currently working on a new series entitled Birth Write, which explores American woman addressing the unsettled medical, philosophical, theological and scientific issues of reproductive rights, abortion policies and alternative choices through a series of portraits and words. He is securing funding from investors and non-profit groups to continue the project in states where abortion would be completely banned if Roe vs. Wade is overturned.

*Above Below runs from February 3rd until February 23rd, 2008 at 43 8th Avenue Gallery
(cross streets Horatio and Jane).*

Established by curator Alex Beitler, 43 8th Avenue Gallery in the West Village features emerging and mid-career fine artists who have come to New York City from all over the world. Mr. Beitler gives each artist a solo exhibit in NYC. For more information call 212.366.1733 or email alex@yellowskyagency.com.