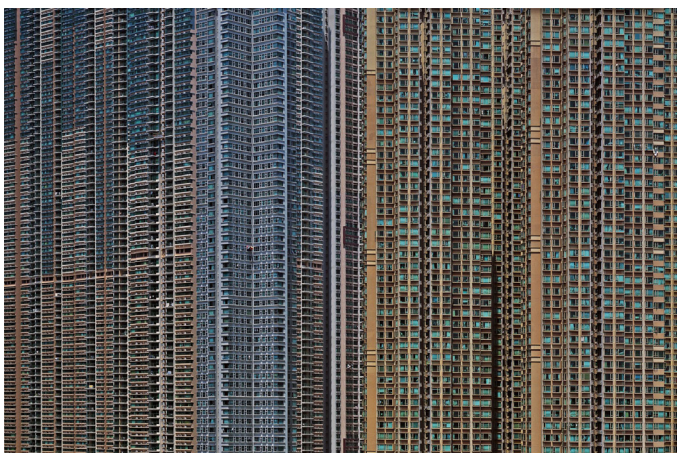


MICHAEL WOLF

25 November 2011 - 7 January 2012
Private View Thursday 24 November 6 - 8pm

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Flowers will present Michael Wolf's first solo exhibition in the UK. Wolf's photographic work tackles the complexity of city life through observations of how vernacular architecture and public space are used. This exhibition will be constructed from the following groups of work:

Architecture of Density
Tokyo Compression
Transparent City

Architecture of Density is a study of Hong Kong's high rise residential developments. The structures are photographed on large format in extreme detail without the context of sky or ground. Some buildings are seen in a state of repair or construction, adorned with grids of bamboo scaffolding, and protective fabric.



These large scale works operate as studies in abstraction and minimalism but offer an undeniable sociological context. On close inspection we see architecture as a framework upon which its inhabitants hang their personalities; clothes lines, bird feeders, mops and air conditioning units appear to give the feeling of peering into a human petri-dish.

Tokyo's subway is infamous for its cramped conditions but the psychological effects of the uncompromising close human proximity experienced daily by thousands of workers are rarely depicted. *Tokyo Compression* captures the moment and reaction when individuals are forcefully sandwiched between their fellow commuters and the parameters of the carriage. Heads are bowed, sometimes contorted unwillingly into unnatural positions of supposed rest. Noses, fingers and knuckles are compressed against the glass, eyes are almost always shut.

Transparent City depicts the architecture of both domestic and office buildings in the city of Chicago - a place renowned for its iconic towers. The structures are composed and compressed into groups and surfaces rather than shown individually. Wolf's distinctive views of Chicago can be thought of as metropolitan hives and reveal manifold sub-narratives beyond each glossy facade. Layered glass allows the viewer to discover fragments of life, just decipherable, through the geometric patterns: a young girl appears from underneath an office blind, parts of torsos and limbs are cropped unnaturally by window frames, whilst views into rooms allow us to peep into personal dwellings.

Michael Wolf was born in Munich, Germany. He now lives and works between Hong Kong and Paris. He has worked extensively across China with a diverse perspective and array of visual approaches. In Tokyo and Chicago Wolf continued to investigate similar ideas and more subversively in 2010 produced several bodies of work with material sourced directly from Google Street View.

Michael Wolf won the World Press Photo Award and the American Photography Award in 2005, and has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, the Deutsches Architektur Museum in Frankfurt, the Museum der Arbeit in Hamburg, and the Bauhaus Museum in Dessau, as well as in numerous art galleries across Asia, Europe and the United States. His work is widely published in numerous monographs and international magazines.

For further information and images please contact Ceri Stock on 020 7920 7777 or email ceri@flowersgalleries.com

Top left: *Architecture of Density* #57, 2005
Chromogenic print
122 x 183 cm / 48 x 72 in

Left: *Transparent City* #73, 2007
Chromogenic print
122 x 178 cm / 48 x 70 in

Right: *Tokyo Compression* #18, 2009
Chromogenic print
51 x 41 cm / 20 x 16 in

