

For Immediate Release

## What Does Street Photography Look like Shot with an iPhone from a Car?



**March 14, 2017—New York, NY—Patrick Gookin** is excited to announce the debut his new book of photography, *Surface Relations*. Gookin shot the photographs that appear in the book using a smartphone while commuting by car through Los Angeles from 2012-2016. Designed by Niall Sweeney and printed in an edition of 250, *Surface Relations* is the artist's second self-published photobook.

In *Surface Relations*, views of isolated pedestrians, parking lots, suburban lawns, advertisements and sad trees are compiled in an unsentimental catalog of the everyday. The photographs may preserve that which is overlooked, or, if noticed, quickly forgotten—but they do so without suggesting that these moments hold hidden value that makes them worthy of a greater depth of attention.

From a dirty windshield to the graininess of a low-resolution image, the images in *Surface Relations* are conspicuously mediated. If a figure appears, he or she is alone; if he or she notices the photographer, it is with an intense knowingness. The detached, roving gaze of a driver dulled to the world by the routine of

commuting slides over Los Angeles' automotive landscape and the people who live within it, finding little worth beholding.

***Surface Relations*** is a photographic project originating at the intersection of three of the world's most revolutionary advances—the automobile, the phone and the camera—that nonetheless consists of images so ordinary that they can be uncomfortable to look at. It owes much to ***American Surfaces***, the 1972-1974 project by **Stephen Shore** in which he documented his road trip across the U.S. with a point-and-shoot camera—a technology that was convenient and accessible, but that produced photographs considered unworthy of the gallery.

**Patrick Gookin** states, “When you drive down these seemingly endless, scarcely populated boulevards, your impressions of your surroundings and your interactions with people and the landscape never go beyond the surface level. 'Surface streets' is this uniquely LA phrase that brings to mind a very different city from the quintessential crowded freeway image, and to me it had unintended resonance with the way I experience the city. I think that in *Surface Relations*, what emerges is a portrait of LA that many people will recognize.”

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

A release event for ***Surface Relations*** will take place **Saturday, April 1, 1-5pm** at **Sunday Takeout (29 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, New York, 11217)**.

To view or download additional illustrative imagery, visit the following Dropbox folder: [bit.ly/2I9QMS4](https://bit.ly/2I9QMS4)

## ABOUT PATRICK GOOKIN

Born near Boston in 1983, Patrick Gookin graduated from Emerson College in 2006 and has spent the eleven years since split between Los Angeles and Tokyo. He works as a commercial and editorial photographer. His work has appeared in numerous group shows in California.

Patrick's first self-published photobook, *LA By Car*, was released in 2014. Much of his work is made on and about the Los Angeles landscape.

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