

Michal Fedeles – Light Moves

Visual Description

This exhibit is of photographs taken by Michal Fedeles in various urban areas of Metro Vancouver. I will describe the 5 of the photos. The photographs in the exhibit, ranging from 15 x 24 cms to 40 x 65 cms. All images in the exhibit are framed with plain black frames and white mats that are about 5-10 cms wide, and are behind glass. They are arranged on large, freestanding gallery panels covered in a beige carpet-like material. There are four double sided panels, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces also point north-south. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel.

Michal talks about his exhibit: “When a day fills with sunlight, our mood – and moves – change. In this little collection, I aim to capture the lightness of sunny moments and our moves through that light: a bike courier lost in thought in the big city, a group of colleagues sharing a lunch walk, tourists whizzed by on a bus. Enjoy the light and the moves, with a bit of an abstract feel, achieved by a slight overindulgence in light.”

He says of himself: “I became a photography enthusiast as a kid — when my buddies and I discovered that our school had a darkroom, we started a club. These days, I take delight in long walks with my camera – in New West and beyond – getting lost in thought as I wander, seeking light.”

All artist quotes come from the descriptive note cards posted next to the images.

Panel 1

The first image is a landscape presentation (65 x 40 cms) called **Light Moves**. Michal says, “Granville Street comes alive as it fills with bright light and movement.”

In this photograph, filled with light and movement, we look out over the streetscape on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver. In the foreground are several groups of pedestrians, walking or sitting on benches. They are brightly coloured with orange, green, blue and pink, and their movement across the over-exposed image comes through the streaks, waves, and smudges of light around their figures. Further down the street the colours fade to white as the pedestrians walk toward an increasingly bright horizon. Beyond the figures are buses and an ambulance in the street, and the glass-sided buildings of downtown Vancouver. Signs can be seen for Old Navy, Nordstrom, Helly Hansen, and Zennkai.

Panel 2

The second image is also a landscape presentation called **Small Business**. It is the top image of three medium sized works, all 40 x 30 cms. Michal says, “The beauty and power of making the most of life, on your own terms”.

In the foreground of this image, just off to the right side, a cyclist rides heading left. The bicycle is a folding model with little wheels, and the cyclist is dressed grey, with pants and running shoes, a winter jacket with a fur-trimmed hood up, and a face mask. On their back is a box-shaped, pink food delivery backpack. The figure is mostly in focus, but a little blurred as they make their way down the road, however, the urban background of the image is abstracted into geometric shapes and bright colours. On the left, 2 pink diamond shapes pop out, and behind the cyclist on the right, a building becomes a mass of green, blue, and yellow squares. The overall impression is a cheery, movement-filled image.

Panel 4

This panel has four smaller works, 15 x 24 cms. The left-most image is a portrait presentation called **Boardwalkers**. Michal says, "Your private time for letting the mind wander as you enjoy your walk, jog, or run along the river."

In this image, the boardwalk on the New Westminster waterfront leads straight away from the viewer, then curves to the right. The boards in the boardwalk can be seen and are half in shadow, half exposed to sun. The pedestrians on the boardwalk are dark figures with few details and long shadows. They are in contrast to the bright sun. On the right of the image is a tree silhouette with some light spots on it.

The rightmost image on Panel 4 is also in a vertical presentation, and is called **Riders**. Michal says, "Taking a day off to enjoy the sun with your best friend, and their friend, and their rider."

This image is very washed out, but one can see two horses with riders, stopped for a visit. The horse on the left is a lighter brown, with black lower legs, and black mane. Its right eye is turned toward the camera. We can't see much of the rider on the left, but can see their boot, and some lines indicating the strap of their helmet. The horse on the right is darker than the first horse, its head is lower, and we can see more details on it than on the other horse. We can see its bridle and chest straps. Its rider is looking toward the first horse. Their shoe is visible, and a few lines on their helmet and jacket. There is some gravel on the path visible beneath the horses, but the rest of the background is bright white.

Panel 5

The final image is also a vertical presentation (40 x 65 cms), with vertical movement streaks, and is called **Sunburst**. Michal says, "Lose yourself in the moment and enjoy the warm sun on your face."

This photo shows the streetscape of Granville Street in downtown Vancouver. We can recognize some of the business signs, and the large glass buildings on either side of the street, as well as the bus stops and wide pedestrian sidewalks with distinctive patterns of different types of pavement. The photo shows small groups of one or two pedestrians passing by the photographer. They are mostly dark figures, almost silhouetted, but some aspects of their figures are visible such as their face masks. Just above and to the left of centre is a huge sunburst which dominates the photo. It is white at its centre, but radiates out to the very edges of the image in pale shades of orange, pink, and green. There are a few large sun spots on the lower right of the photo, also tinged with colour. The effect of the sunburst and the radiating streams of light is in contrast with the dark walking figures, and gives the impression of a very bright day where the sun illuminates every corner.