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| **Night/Shift**

Photographs by Lynn Saville
Introduction by Arthur C. Danto
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In her new book *Night/Shift*, Lynn Saville memorializes the empty and abandoned sites of old New York, which linger in the twilight, awaiting the ever-encroaching bulldozer of progress that will turn them from ominous to habitable. Using long exposures to capture deep shadows, soft tones and twilight hour lighting effects, Saville turns uninviting locations into accessible spaces for the viewer. She is a hunter of old New York and relishes in shooting sites versus sights. As we imagine her, alone with her camera, waiting for the perfect moment of day shifting into night among these empty and menacing spaces, Saville keeps tension alive. In her mediation she becomes the watcher or collector of this “urban desert,” using her craft to pay respect to the dilapidated landscape of down trodden buildings, empty alleys and forgotten infrastructures, whose one constant threat is the city’s need for renewal.

Saville’s images take us out roaming into neglected regions and leave us feeling as if something will happen or is about to happen. Most of them are void of the human element, so the mood it created by the mixture of color, form and the twilight hour. Saville calls this “transitional zones seen at a transitional time.” Her image *West 42nd Street*, reveals an unfamiliar aspect of one of Manhattan’s busiest streets. This space is desolate but for one ghostly figure walking past multi-colored, shuttered doors and a shadowy presence lingering behind. This is very unlike the better-known 42nd Street, whose blaring lights and sounds delight the ever-present tourist.

Saville’s images of sites less traversed, in a city full of people, is like sharing a secret world, which only exists in the twilight. *Night/Shift* is a tour of New York’s forgotten frontiers and each photograph is access to a landscape waiting to shift into the urban façade. Catch while you can, before it’s gone.

- Elizabeth Barragan