

Fruma Markowitz Photography



Decompositions: Knowledge and Wisdom; advertising and political ephemera, and mixed media, ; 20" h X 24" w
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Decompositions Artist Statement

I have always been fascinated by what my childhood self called “the olden days.” Looking at the faded sepia portraits of family forebears, and hearing my parents’ stories of growing up as new immigrants, gave me an acute sensitivity to the way time works to both elucidate and obscure human experience. Photography, as a so-called “time-based art” became the perfect medium for me to express my own interpretation of time, as fleeting moments captured and preserved, as more permanent visual diaries of daily life matters, and, in my latest project “Decompositions,” as testaments to the wear, tear and constant dynamism of modern urban life.

Walking around city streets we are bombarded by promotional broadsides touting performances, political rallies, social gatherings and advertisements of the ideal lifestyle that waits for us, if only we will buy this or that product. Come back tomorrow, and what we see can be completely different. Posters get slapped up on walls surrounding temporary construction sites, mailboxes, and doorways. The rain and time shred them, graffiti artists paint over them, and newly minted ephemera go up directly on top of them. With my camera viewfinder I select and isolate discrete pieces that call me to attention because of the random, yet synchronized way these myriad layers have come together to tell me something about this city and its cultural values, at this particular moment in time. For tomorrow is indeed another day, and what was here will be changed or gone altogether, decomposed by time, weather and circumstance.