

Life & Arts

FTWeekend



SNAPSHOT

‘Los Angeles II, California, 1974’ by Mitch Epstein

Mitch Epstein has taken the American landscape and the country’s social psyche as his subject for decades. *Recreation*, a series of images dating from 1973 to 1988, captures his fellow citizens at play in the pre-internet age.

Drawn to the ambient absurdism of humanity at leisure, Epstein remains attuned to the spectrum of human emotion in a nation buffeted by crises ranging from war to recession to political scandal.

Epstein’s subjects and scenes

appear fiercely expressive, present and often enthusiastic; frames are busy, bristling with detail. “Sometimes I was aware of these details,” Epstein says of his complex scenes. “They were gifts that punctuated and filled out these pictures.”

Alastair Bailey

‘Recreation’ is at Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, February 23-April 8. The series is also available as a book, published by Steidl