

# **Livre Acte Sud, en collaboration avec le Prix de la Fondation CCF pour la photographie, 1999.**

*New York : Urban Rituals*

*In the Urban Rituals series, New York architecture sometimes appears as a mosaic of shifting colors, sometimes as a stage on which characters take their place. My perception of New York was governed by a « passer-by's » impressions and by the place of a stroll itself, so that the city unfolds in sequences connected like visions in a dream. This perceptual pace yielded a collision of images on the borderline between photographic snapshot and video recording.*

*New York's urban scenes translate into visual strips that are simultaneously smooth and jerky, broken by the chance comings-and-goings of traffic.*

*The city's micro-events act like successive clicks of the shutter ; taxis and buses intertwine, while building overlap with scaffolding and are criss-crossed by the panoramic bustle of the crowd. Sparser elements (offices, doors, advertising slogans, reflections, trucks, individuals) interweave in counterpoint, forming part of the whole urban fabric.*

*The interplay of facades and windows is highlighted by the colorful curves of cars. Passer-by play token roles – some mere walks-on, others brief stars. People crowd together in a drumming, dancing way : their individuality fades in the preponderant jumble of hair and glances, faces and bodies ; their clothes sweep by, their paths (whether predictable or random) collide or collude, and their emotions surface, make contact and die.*

*The scenarios of all the city's human doings – sometimes codified, sometimes improvised – suggest an urban ritual, a mechanical ballet in which characters conduct a quest whose meaning endlessly intrigues us.*

Catherine Gfeller, 1999