

## ***From Japan series***

### **《日本》系列**

**Boris Mikhailov**

波利斯·米凱洛夫

Type C print

A set of 17 photos; 55 × 70 cm

2006-07

C 型式冲印

一組十七張相片；55×70 厘米

2006-07

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'I want to know what is real Japan and what is the difference between Japan and me', was Boris Mikhailov's motto, as he embarked on his first long stay in Japan with his digital camera... Mikhailov photographs street scenes spontaneously, which at first sight seem to show quite normal people on normal streets. A closer look reveals details we [...] find strange, weird or even grotesque, a feeling we share with the photographer himself. Mikhailov does not show us the hip, consumer-oriented youth of the metropolis, nor does he show us typical business people. Instead he looks at old, poor, or particularly small people, and is interested in their sense of isolation, or their relations to each other, their faces, gestures, clothes, and body language... Boris Mikhailov's critical and respectful view is aimed at various cultures. As an observer who was born in the former Soviet Union, he reveals social ambivalence that is not normally seen in standard clichéd images of Japan.'

Excerpt from Barbara Buchmaier's essay in the exhibition catalogue for *Boris Mikhailov-Banzai!* at Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin, 6 November-22 December 2007

「『我想知道甚麼是真正的日本，以及日本和我之間的差異』——當波利斯·米凱洛夫第一次帶著數碼相機來到日本長期逗留時，就是以這句話作為格言……米凱洛夫即興拍攝的街景，乍看似乎只是尋常街道上的尋常人；再仔細一看，就會發現令我們[……]感覺不尋常、怪異，甚至荒誕的細節，而這也是攝影師的感覺。米凱洛夫並沒有向我們展示時尚、消費主導的大都市青年，也沒有向我們展示典型的商業人士。相反，他將目光投向年老、貧窮，或特別弱小的人，並一心想捕捉他們的孤獨感，或是他們彼此的關係，他們的臉、姿態、服裝及肢體語言……米凱洛夫批判和謙恭的觀點是針對各類型文化的。作為一位出生於前蘇聯的觀察者，他發現了在日本標準刻板形象中不常出現的社會矛盾。」

節錄自 Barbara Buchmaier 載於展覽「Banzai!」畫冊的文章，柏林芭芭拉·維斯畫廊，二零零七年十一月六日至十二月二十二日