



John Ryan Brubaker
Recent Works

Every Path is Viable *in progress*

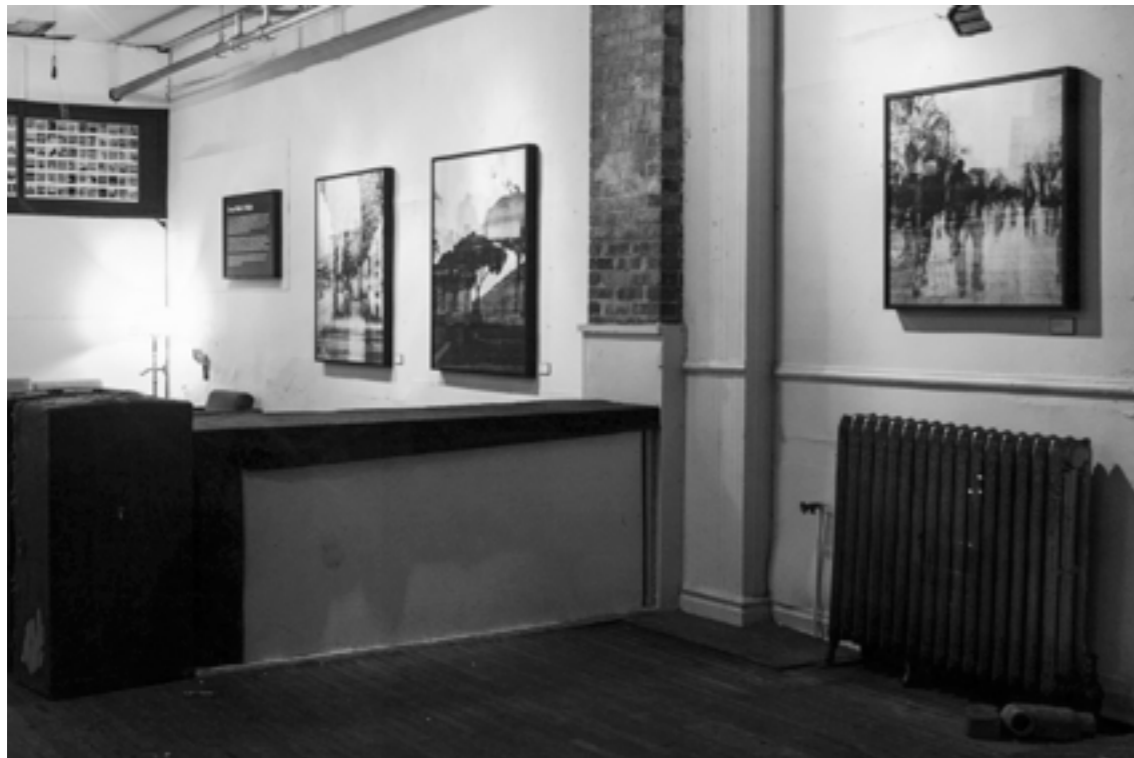
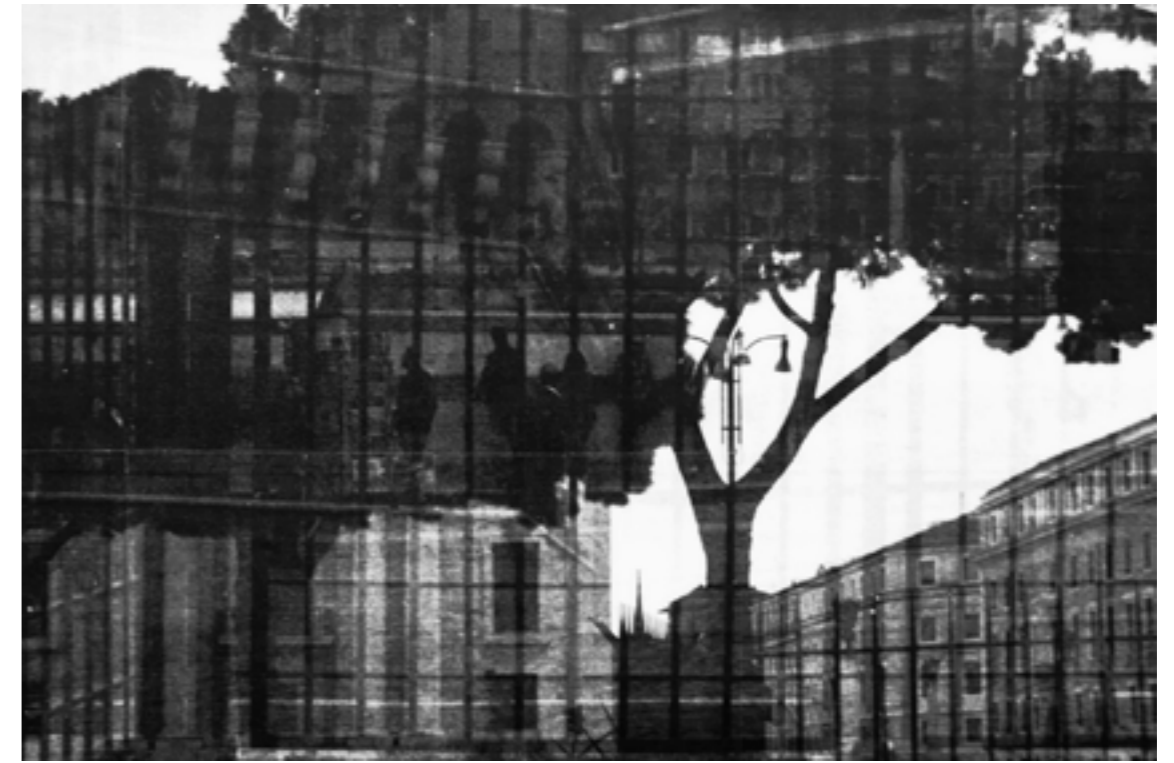
Every Path is Viable uses the unpredictable nature of the multi-exposure process to suggest the experience of looking in all immediate directions simultaneously. Each image is the result of four exposures, shot from a fixed vantage point, and captured on a single frame of film. The result is a collapse of the 360 degree view of space into a fixed, two dimension image.

Each photograph is informed by the unique architecture, culture, language, and visual characteristics of the city in which it was taken. Yet, they are not meant to be representations of particular places. Rather, they are intended to be vehicles for getting lost in thought or contemplation.



Top: Brussels, Belgium 2012
Left: Knoxville, Tennessee 2014

Top: Staunton, Virginia 2014
Left: Pristina, Kosovo 2013
Right: Barcelona, Spain 2013



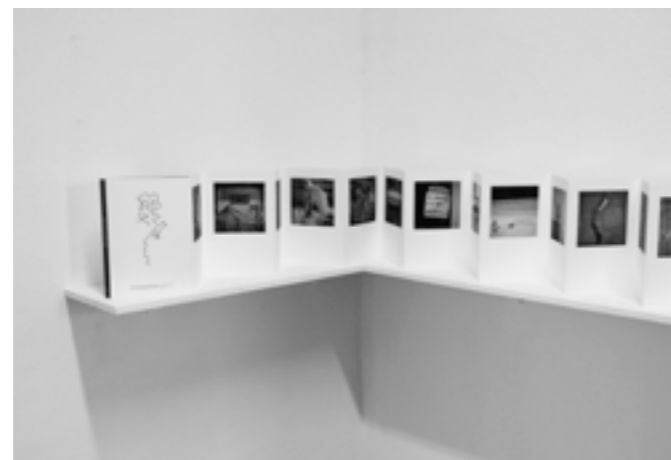
Production / Installation:
Pieces from *Every Path is Viable*
made of tiled A4 laser prints
pasted on MDF and framed by
hand.
Sizes vary from 80cm x 80cm to
120cm x 180cm

Maps for Getting Lost 2012 - ongoing

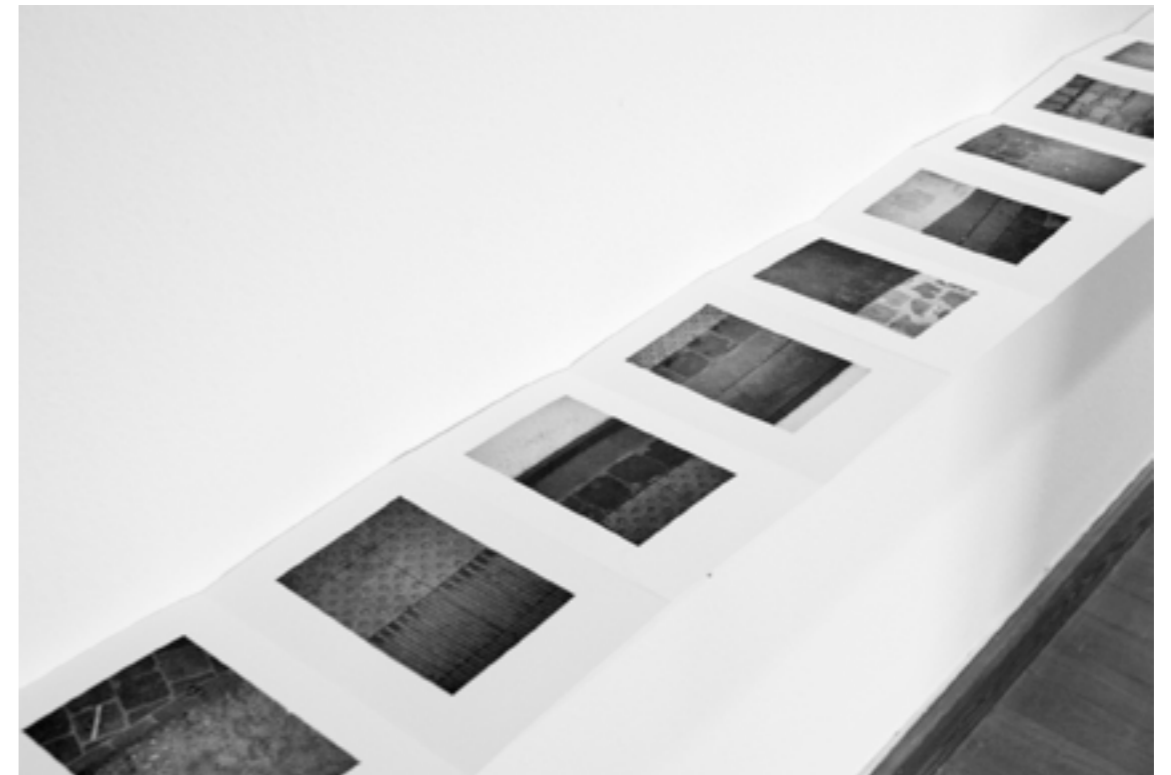
Maps for Getting Lost is an ongoing series of photo books based on exploratory walks through urban environments. They are an investigation of the process of travel without destination, or orientation.

Each book chronicles a single journey, often based on absurd or errant methods of navigation. These include, for example, using a map of Brussels to cross the city of Rome, following the heights of buildings or patterns in sidewalk tiles and moving against the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Maps for Getting Lost is available as a series of hand-made artists books and in digital book format.



Top: From *Maps for Getting Lost* #3, 2012
Bottom: From *Maps for Getting Lost* #7, 2012





Strange Cities 2010-2011

Strange Cities is a publishing and design collaboration with Ampersand Gallery & Fine Books in Portland, OR. It consists of an artist book of images from a month spent wandering the cities of Vietnam, as well as an exhibition of the book designed to show the work in a gallery setting.

Myles Haselhorst, of Ampersand:

"Portland photographer, John Ryan Brubaker, first showed me the photographs he shot last spring while traveling through Vietnam in the form of a small artist book he had made by hand. Shot on 35mm film, the photographs record the tangled chaos, the wounded patterns, & the congested horizon, street & railway lines that comprise any strange city a traveler gets lost in. The book, by nature requiring reexamination & revision, became a tool of understanding, a medium through which the disparate interrelation of countless photographs found meaning & order."

Doug Stockdale, of The Photo Book:

"Brubaker captures a glimpse of the din raised by of a sea of scooters, the tangled chaos of the electrical and communications infrastructure, aging and deteriorating built landscape that many call home, and a sense of the tenacity of the people to adapt and survive. He provides vignettes of his subjects, an indirect portrait of the social fabric granting us the freedom to add to his narrative."



STRANGE CITIES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN RYAN BRUBAKER

OPENING RECEPTION & BOOK RELEASE PARTY
THIS SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 6-10PM
DRINKS COURTESY OF HONKAI BREWING

AMPERSAND
2700 NE ALBERTA STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97218
503.833.3458





Random Strangers 2011-2012

Random Strangers is a series of photographs taken of strangers via the internet.

As culture becomes progressively digitized we spend increasing amounts of our time and attention in front of screens of all kinds. We are often looking at computers, but we rarely allow them to look back at us, let alone capture our expressions and surroundings. This series of photographs is both a collection of individual portraits and an effort to consider how we look as we spend countless hours of our lives engaged with digital media.

The series contains hundreds images and is freely available in digital book format.

Blake Andrews:

"John Ryan Brubaker has tapped into the Zeitgeist with his recent project Random Strangers. Brubaker, an anthropologist by training, spent last year conducting fieldwork on Chatroulette, the social media site which connects video feeds at random from around the world.

...

For me Random Strangers raises all sorts of fun, messy questions about digital culture and photography's role in it. Where is the line online between public and private? What is appropriate to share with strangers? What counts as sexting? Do people online have any rights to their images (Brubaker didn't ask for consent)? What's the nature of voyeurism?"



“Dissent is the cornerstone of Democracy. If we apply this to personal habits, instead of institutions, issues or ideologies, dissent represents a form of insubordination; a breaking of practice that unlocks hidden potential. It’s a fracture that might get you lost, or even into trouble, as it opens the door to the unexpected. For John Ryan Brubaker, breaking practice is a core part of the creative process; maps, paths and destinations appear as conclusions that only come into existence through action.

Brubaker’s images are willing to stand up to the slap in the face you’re likely to get when you break ranks and take risks. They point to the fragments of life you see everyday but never notice by spinning your head around. This is why they come across as sweet, bewildered, genuine, and sometimes, breathtaking.

He says he is not a conceptual artist, and I’d agree with him. He produces images that speak more of context than concept, though the search defines the outcome more than any original intention. Besides, of course, the need to challenge the way in which he perceives the world; to see differently. This might be the most crucial lesson that any sort of artistic production offers to the world; making the invisible visible, giving the ephemeral a ground to root itself, creating a safe zone for the forgotten, the unspoken and the unseen.

Experimental, psycho, cultural, and so on, his work explores the wrinkles of a geography that’s so often taken for granted.”

- Harlan Levey





John Ryan Brubaker

b. 1978 Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA
Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium
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Solo Exhibitions

- * 2015 Carnegie Hall Museum Gallery - Lewisburg, WV
- * 2014 *Maps for Getting Lost*: Hors Format - Brussels, BE
- * 2013 *Every Path is Viable*: The White Room Gallery - Thomas, WV
- * 2012 *Every Path is Viable*: C1.02 Project Space - Brussels, BE
- * 2012 *The Last Year of Polaroid*: The White Room Gallery - Thomas, WV
- * 2011 *Strange Cities*: Ampersand Gallery & Fine Books - Portland, OR
- * 2011 *Night Portraits*: Installation at Emerson Space Case - Portland, OR

Books & Publications

- * 2015 *Wunderkammer*, AGENDA Magazine
- * 2014 *.tiff Magazine*: FoMu's showcase of emerging Belgian photography
- * 2012-2104 *Maps for Getting Lost*: ongoing series of handmade photobooks
- * 2013 *LPV Magazine* #7
- * 2012 *The Blank Horn Magazine*: Issue #1 Uncharted
- * 2011 *Strange Cities*: hand-made artist book published by Ampersand Gallery
- * 2011 *Street Portraits*: single edition hand-made artist book
- * 2011 *Forty-Eight Polaroids of Portland, Oregon*: single edition hand-made artist book
- * 2009 *Game Over*: The Virginia Quarterly Review

Selected Group Exhibitions

- * 2015 *Every Day I'm...* Harlan Levey Projects - Brussels, BE
- * 2014 *.tiff Magazine Premiere*: Unseen Photo Fair - Amsterdam, NL
- * 2014 *The No New Enemies Penthouse Art Event*: Hotel Bloom - Brussels, BE
- * 2014 *Myth*: Lamplight Gallery - Thomas, WV
- * 2013 *Photography at the Edge*: Newspace Center for Photography - Portland, OR
- * 2013 *In the Cave*: The Room Gallery - Rome, IT
- * 2012 *Maps for Getting Lost*: NVT Gallerie - Gent, BE
- * 2012 *Maps for Getting Lost*: Sint Lukas Master Exhibition - Brussels, BE
- * 2012 *Demonstratie #3*: Recyclart Art Center - Brussels, BE
- * 2011 Crooked Wall Gallery - Portland, OR
- * 2010 *Obscurae #2*: Unsmoke Systems - Braddock, PA
- * 2009 *Art Makes Eye Contact*: Secret Project Robot - Brooklyn, NY
- * 2009 *Squares*: Emerson Space Case - Portland, OR
- * 2009 *Obscurae #1*: Unsmoke Systems - Braddock, PA

Education

- * 2012 Master of Fine Arts, Sint Lukas Brussels College of Art & Design
- * 2005 Master of Social and Cultural Anthropology, KU Leuven
- * 2000 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Florida State University

Previous Page: From *Maps for Getting Lost* #5, 2012

Left: *Every Path is Viable*, Rome, Italy 2012

John Ryan Brubaker

Brussels, Belgium & Thomas, West Virginia

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