



DOWNTOWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
SUSAN WIDES

From the series *Mobile Views*,
Bubble Pictures, 2000

Sixth Ave 3

Park Ave 2

Sixth Ave 1

Sixth Ave 2

Chromogenic prints
All photographs courtesy
of the artist

Susan Wides' photographs render the sleek surfaces and bright lights of Manhattan as a series of disorienting glimpses. By allowing her images to "go soft" at the edges and to lose the sharpness of a singular focus, she welcomes the camera's objective failures. The results are both precise and painterly: a general sense of the landscape is set up and then in certain places it snaps into clear focus. The photographs are part of a series Wides calls "The Bubble," referring to both the glassy, distorted reflections on the surface of a bubble, but also to the fragile and disorienting economic "bubble" of New York City. The images convey the atmosphere of city life, its conditions of light, movement, and the divided attention that urban existence demands.