

## AVIGAIL SCHIMMEL



AGE	32
BORN	Israel
RESIDENCE	New York City
EDUCATION	Bezalel Academy of Art & Design, Jerusalem
EXHIBITS	Tibor de Nagy Gallery (New York), Museum of Israeli Art

Every so often you come across a photographer who really does see the world in a different light. A photographer whose beautiful images compel the viewer to sit back and take a deep breath. A photographer whose talent is pure, relying on the old-fashioned virtues of waiting for the right moment before pressing the shutter and then seeing what comes out in the dark-room (with not a computer in sight). Avigail Schimmel is that person.

Based in New York for the past six years, Schimmel has produced hundreds of her unique land/seascapes of the city and its environs—all of which combine the natural with the man-made, the still with the moving, and the clearly defined with the abstract. Water and light are the recurring themes in her work, especially how they interact. "I love the strange effects between the two, and what is surprising is how the water always remains the sharp element in my pictures because everyone knows that it's in motion," Schimmel explains. "I never know exactly what I'm going to get, which is very intriguing."

She works in an old-fashioned way by setting up with a tripod, shooting long exposures, usually between sundown and complete darkness, and printing her own work in the darkroom full frame. She also keeps darkroom adjustments to a minimum, saying that she wants to be as "loyal" as possible to what she originally saw in the viewfinder. Schimmel is too modest a person to be a spokesperson for any movement, but in her own quiet way, she certainly bangs a drum for pure photography.

Not surprisingly, as the work really has to be seen big, she's had a solo show at the prestigious Tibor de Nagy Gallery (her work is also being sold through the Rosenberg Kaufman Gallery). While not shooting landscapes, she photographs editorial portraiture as well as pieces of art for Sotheby's. Yet she can never be kept away from the water for too long: "There is nothing I like more than getting on the Staten Island Ferry with my camera and seeing what happens."

—REUEL GOLDEN

