

onodream GALLERY

In The Context of Their Surroundings By Mat Gleason

The photography of Greg Velasquez consistently shows its subjects in the context of their surroundings. Almost every image centers on some fascinating site, relic or situation. But the artist makes sure to almost never isolate them from their surroundings.

The result is pictures which privilege a world view of integration over isolation. We see new and old architecture enveloped by sky, cultural landmarks both important and transitory centered in scenes that are stages, always a scenic co-star or two informing the context of the image at which we are looking.

The idea of a stage pulsates throughout the photography of Velasquez. Instead of delivering the drama, though, he just meticulously sets up the scene. Imagine his images as fading in from black after the opening credits have rolled, or after returning from a commercial break.

Who then are the actors? Where is the script? Velasquez is intelligent enough to know that no artist can control the context of their work after it goes on view. He knows the viewer ultimately digests the work; this artist crafts his sensual stage settings for us to imagine our own dramas, great or small, within his work. This is photography that embraces the viewer, inspires each of us to join it in our imagination and enriches all who give in to their own imagination.