


TOUCHSTONEGALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31 – November 25, 2012



THE DRAG ILLUSION

Photographs by Michael Lang

www.mikelangphoto.com

Opening Reception: Friday, November 2, 6-8:30 pm
Third Thursday: Thursday, November 15, 6-8:30 pm

Michael Lang, a social documentary photographer, presents a photo essay about drag queens to explore the illusion and how it is created.



After visiting several drag clubs in the DC area, Lang focused on one that he felt offered a particularly professional performance. He visited Town Danceboutique on weekends for 8 months, observing the drag queens and how the illusion was created. Lang documented the backstage creative process in black and white as the reality. And then he went out front with the audience and photographed the drag queens performing in color as the illusion.

As performance art, drag queens are a special category of gay men who dress as women. The performance can be singing or lip-synching music, dancing, comedy, or impersonation. The character they create is often an exaggerated version of women.

Lang began social documentary photography with his essay on a Baltimore poolroom in 1957. The multimedia project 'A Nice Clean Room', was featured at the 2009 Palm Springs Photo Festival. Other essays focused on the Northern Hill Tribe People of Thailand, Farrish Street, an historic community in Jackson, Mississippi, and most recently Be Bar, a former gay bar in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington that was shown as a multimedia presentation at the Slideluck Potshow, FotoWeekDC, 2011. Lang has been a member of Touchstone Gallery for over 12 years, and has presented several one-man shows.



For more information please contact Ksenia Grishkova, Director, at 202-347-2787 or e mail info@touchstonegallery.com

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