

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gail Albert Halaban: *Out My Window*
February 5 – March 28, 2009
Reception: Thursday, February 5, 6-8pm

DESIGN TRUST
FOR PUBLIC SPACE



Out My Window, Chelsea, 29th Street, 2007



Out My Window, Long Island City, Bedroom, 2007

In her latest series, *Out My Window*, Gail Albert Halaban has ventured into the private spaces of New York City, photographing its inhabitants and the views that define their lives. In a world framed by windows, there is both an intimacy and remoteness in the proximity of so many strangers. Though the archetype of the photographer training her lens on her neighbor is easily associated with the voyeurism of Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, the experience Albert Halaban records is far less menacing. In as much as we are aware of our display, the city is also on display to us. Window and camera are inextricably bound in the framing of a world.

New York is iconically identified with the view, and particularly the skyline—those swathes of horizon and bands of light pierced by familiar skyscrapers. But as often as not, the everyday life of New Yorkers is visually defined not by these icons, but rather the more quotidian views of each other's private spaces: the couple across the air shaft, the professional across the street. Proximity both highlights and abolishes such boundaries. Floating thirty stories high above the bustling city below, there is a comfort seeing one's neighbor. They are strangers perhaps only in the sense that they may not know each other's names. Though a word may never be spoken between the two, there is an indelible connection offered by a shared, reciprocal view. While adopting the visual language of photojournalism and its anthropological approach, Albert Halaban also finds precedence in the characters of Edward Hopper's universe, using architecture to suggest the inner psychology of her subject and the subtle interactions of urban life. As with her earlier bodies of work, Albert Halaban has delved into the lives of her subjects, narrating their anxieties and desires through the small gestures, habits, and minor events that make up the rhythm of their lives.

Out My Window is Gail Albert Halaban's second solo exhibition at Robert Mann Gallery. The project was created for her Photo Urbanism fellowship, an ongoing program of the Design Trust for Public Space to encourage the examination and re-imagining of New York's public spaces through photography. Albert Halaban's work has been reviewed and featured in publications including *Aperture*, the *New Yorker*, and the *New York Times*. The artist attended the Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Yale University, from which she received a Master of Fine Arts in Photography. *Out My Window* is co-sponsored by the Design Trust for Public Space (designtrust.org).

View *Out My Window* online at www.robertmann.com beginning February 5, 2009.

Robert Mann Gallery is located at 210 Eleventh Avenue between 24th and 25th Streets, Floor 10. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm. For additional information and press materials, please contact the gallery by telephone (212.989.7600) or by email (mail@robertmann.com).