

conveyor



| smoke + mirrors |

Adam Ekberg

Photographic Documentation of Ephemeral Occurrences

Vacations and holidays trump Monday morning breakfasts. We look towards milestones—birthdays, anniversaries, parties—which act as chapter markings within the long timeline of our mostly idle lives. Paging through old family albums, these milestones are often the key moments that grace the pages. Adam Ekberg's stunningly simple photographs urge us to pause and revel in the smaller happenings. They re-contextualize and relocate celebration by reminding us of the splendor that occurs not just in these grand occasions but in the moments in between.

Ekberg locates his process in the cross hairs of photography and performance. Through the careful placement of everyday objects, he employs a playful eye as he tinkers both behind and in front of the camera with a process one might describe as alchemical. The objects, treated here as venerated subjects, reference the everyday but with an extraordinary focus.

While cheaply made and consumed, Ekberg's raw materials—balloons, lights, smoke—are celebratory symbols and, in that regard, abandon the material realm for one of myth and magic. Abstracting these elements from their standard uses, Ekberg creates alternative moments of celebration mixed with solitude, alluding to a darkness that can be wrapped up in these events and, conversely, the need for levity in an otherwise desperate time.

The balloon leaks its air enabling its erratic flight. The smoke carefully blows past our vision, carried away by the swift wind. Droplets fall from fingertips, one by one. Ekberg's mundane arrangements are transitory, existing just long enough to be captured by the shutter. It is in this moment, however, that they are transformed.







Smoke Ring, 2007
Untitled (Hand and Mirror), 2009



Balloon and Disco Ball, 2010





A Cluster of Helium Balloons Drifts into the Atmosphere, 2008
Bottle Rocket, 2007