

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2003

# JOHN BRILL

## *COSMOPHILIA*

### NEW PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

For Immediate Release

Kent Gallery is pleased to present a provocative exhibition of recent toned silverprints and new video by John Brill. The images have been created with specific regard for their dual role as two-dimensional representations as well as physical art objects. While these images necessarily begin their genesis with pure camera vision, all undergo an extensive process of post-exposure construction, transcending the seminal act of exposure and inevitably culminating in a polar extreme on the continuum of image transformation. The image that is ultimately perceived in the final print is not merely an interpretation of the original camera vision, but is an image—as well as physical object—that exists entirely on its own terms. That is, the image so constructed is not simply refined in the process of printing, but is essentially created in the process of printing.

**John Brill** has been making photographic records of his everyday existence since 1959. Self-taught in both technique as well as history, Brill's shift to photography followed initial studies within the field of physiological psychology in the early seventies. After college, the artist drove a beer truck in the northeast corner of New Jersey absorbing the raw visual beauty of a vast industrial wasteland. Working with an extensive pool of unpaid assistants and models, Brill organized shoots like performances – traffic jams, crowds, things set on fire, various states of undress, beer in unlimited supply, cops invariably showing up – most of which were irretrievably beyond the comprehension of the participants.

At the age of thirty, Brill committed himself to his art and to developing bodies of work that would be psychologically resonant in some universal sense. With no connection to the art world, Brill began to make frequent visits to New York, a divorced truck driver accompanied by his daughter, and first caught the attention of Bill Arning of White Columns. Exhibiting frequently since the mid-eighties, along with exhibiting frequently, Brill has focused on several thematically coherent, discrete bodies of work including Family Holiday Album, engrams, ennui, and Reliquary which are discussed within a new publication entitled:

### ***The Photography of John Brill***

Text by Leah Ollman

Hardcover, 7 x 6 in.

104 pages, 47 colorplates

Price: \$ 14.95

Viewing hours are from Noon to Six, Tuesdays thru Saturdays. For further information contact Kelcey Lee at the gallery, or access our website: [www.kentgallery.com](http://www.kentgallery.com).

*Originally exhibited at Kent Gallery, 67 Prince Street, New York, NY 10012.*