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Arts & Entertainment: Picks

Michael Borek at Multiple Exposures Gallery

Monday, July 1

By Louis Jacobson • June 28, 2013

As a teenager in Prague,
Michael Borek recalls
seeing "a one-armed man
in a shabby coat
schlepping a tripod and a
large-view camera." It was
Josef Sudek, a celebrated
Czech photographer.
Borek bought a book of
his images and
immediately fell in love.
Now, decades later, Borek
is mounting an exhibition



of works that pay homage to Sudek and his oeuvre. The connections aren't precise—Sudek worked in black and white, while Borek's images are in color—but both artists share an affection for low-key, somewhat abstracted tableaux. Borek's photographs include a gently draped piece of saffron fabric (shown); a car in a carport obscured by a light-blue covering; and a pile of rotting leaves on a grid of blue pool tiles. There's a sense of wistfulness in Borek's current works that echoes his previous exhibition at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, a series of empty images made in an abandoned lace factory in Scranton, Pa. Human presence in Borek's work is scant; more characteristic is the transitory geometric shadow in Marfa, Texas, that pays homage to the rigorous minimalism of Donald Judd.

The exhibition is on view Fridays to Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursdays noon to 9 p.m., to July 20, at Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 312, Alexandria. (703) 683-2205. multipleexposuresgallery.com.

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