In Transit

This series of portraits was made on commercial bus lines across North America. With the purchase of a multiple week pass, I ride long distances for several days in order to encounter a comprehensive group of subjects journeying in this way. The resulting photographs depict the demographic encountered through the least expensive means of travel.

An expedition by bus requires extensive periods of time spent in pursuit of reaching one’s destination. Buses make frequent stops for short breaks, but are almost perpetually in motion. This intense itinerary increases travel time and requires passengers to endure extended periods of waiting for arrival. Because of these features, most people purchase a bus ticket if another option is unavailable.

I am fascinated with the characters found traveling on buses. Often these are people in transit to something other than simply a place. Passengers include a diverse selection from ex-convicts to single mothers to European travelers to domestic students without much money. I am interested in the state of transition these subjects exhibit while traveling in this manner.

I choose to ride for the entire time while I am making this work in order to become one of the travelers. I must endure long layovers in crowded stations, extended delays due to seasonal conditions, little to no sleep over multiple days and all the inconveniences a bus passenger experiences. By submitting myself to this schedule, I can become part of the process and establish camaraderie with others on the bus. This knowledge provides a greater reference for thoroughly living the work I make. This project has covered 30,000 miles and will expand into Europe during 2014.

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