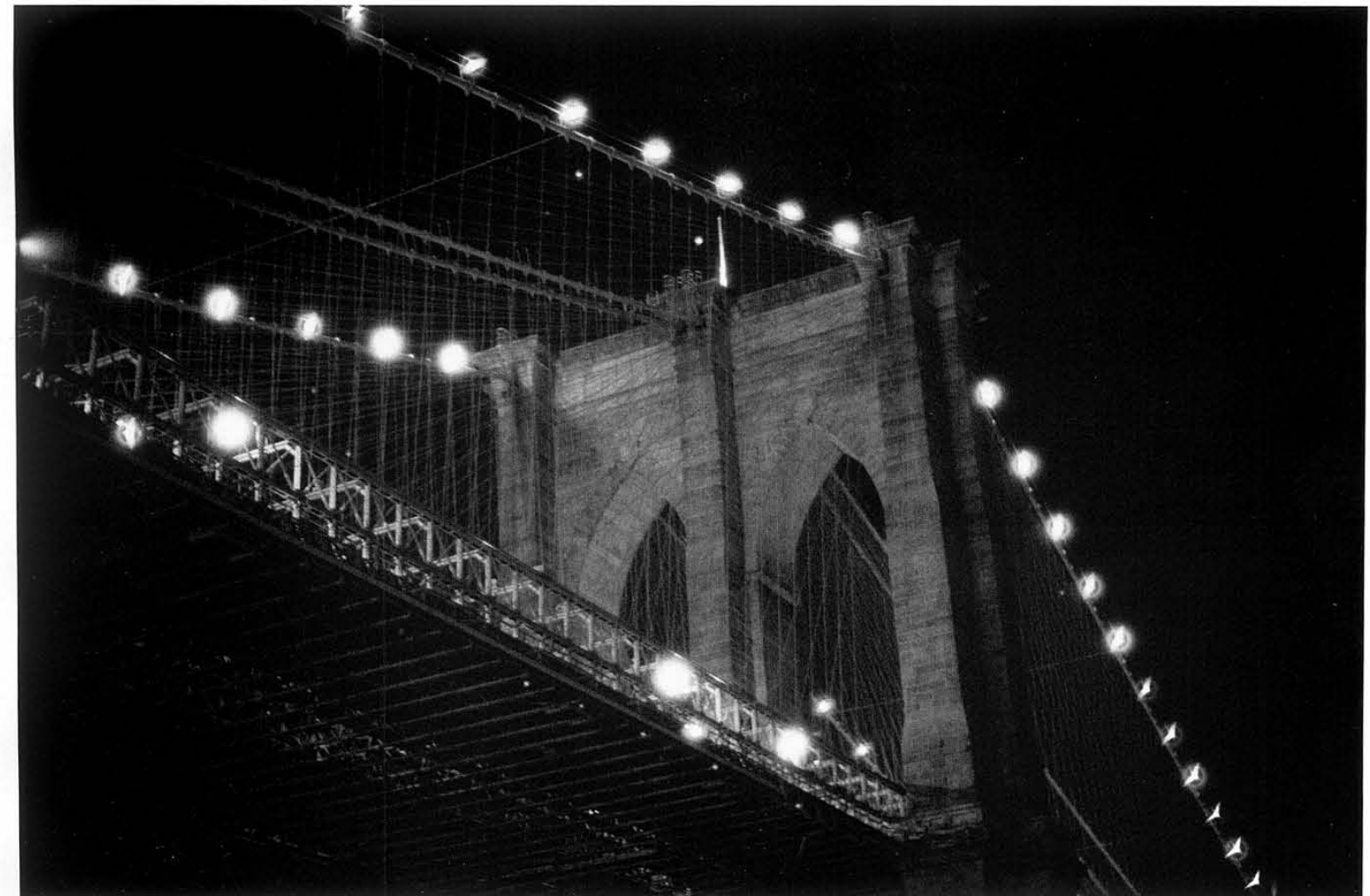


Focus Gallery: Dennis Letbetter



Artist's Statement

In a continuation of my work with the cityscape, the photographs in CityNights have extended my observations and urban peregrinations beyond sunset. The majority of my work in cities, in America, Russia, Europe and Japan, have been made using a 6 x 17cm format, almost exclusively in black and white, some of which can be seen on my website, www.studioletbetter.com. My photographs made at night have all been made with a handheld Leica and 50mm Noctilux, a different way of working, walking and seeing.

The world takes on a different aspect at night and especially with film because of the way light falls onto the emulsion, some objects can exhibit almost an ethereal glow, transforming

what might be commonplace in the daytime into something nearly magical when printed onto photographic paper.

An important aspect of chemical based photography, particularly in a digital age, is the opportunity of the hand of the photographer to be palpably present. Digital images, no matter what expanded dynamic range, elegant art paper used, and apparently infinite possibilities of reproducibility to my eyes simply lack some essential organic life or authenticity. After spending time working with pixels and digital processes, the beauty and depth of a well printed silver gelatin print by comparison jumps reassuringly off the paper, with depth and beauty. While not particularly fond of working in the darkroom,

I find that the only true control I desire is possible when I use self-determined film speeds, develop the film myself and make my own prints.

Because of the time involved in making each print the editions are open ended. There is something self-canceling simply because of the time restraints and the amount of work I do. The night images come in 11" x 14" for \$400, and 16" x 20" for \$550. Each image is archivally processed. A CDROM of several of the images is available for \$20.

You can contact Dennis, who resides in San Francisco, CA at 415.431.7546. You can also E-Mail him at studioletbetter@earthlink.net. You can view more images of Dennis' by visiting www.studioletbetter.com.

*Brooklyn Bridge, Dennis Letbetter, Gelatin Silver
Open Edition, 11 x 14 - \$400, 16 x 20 - \$550*