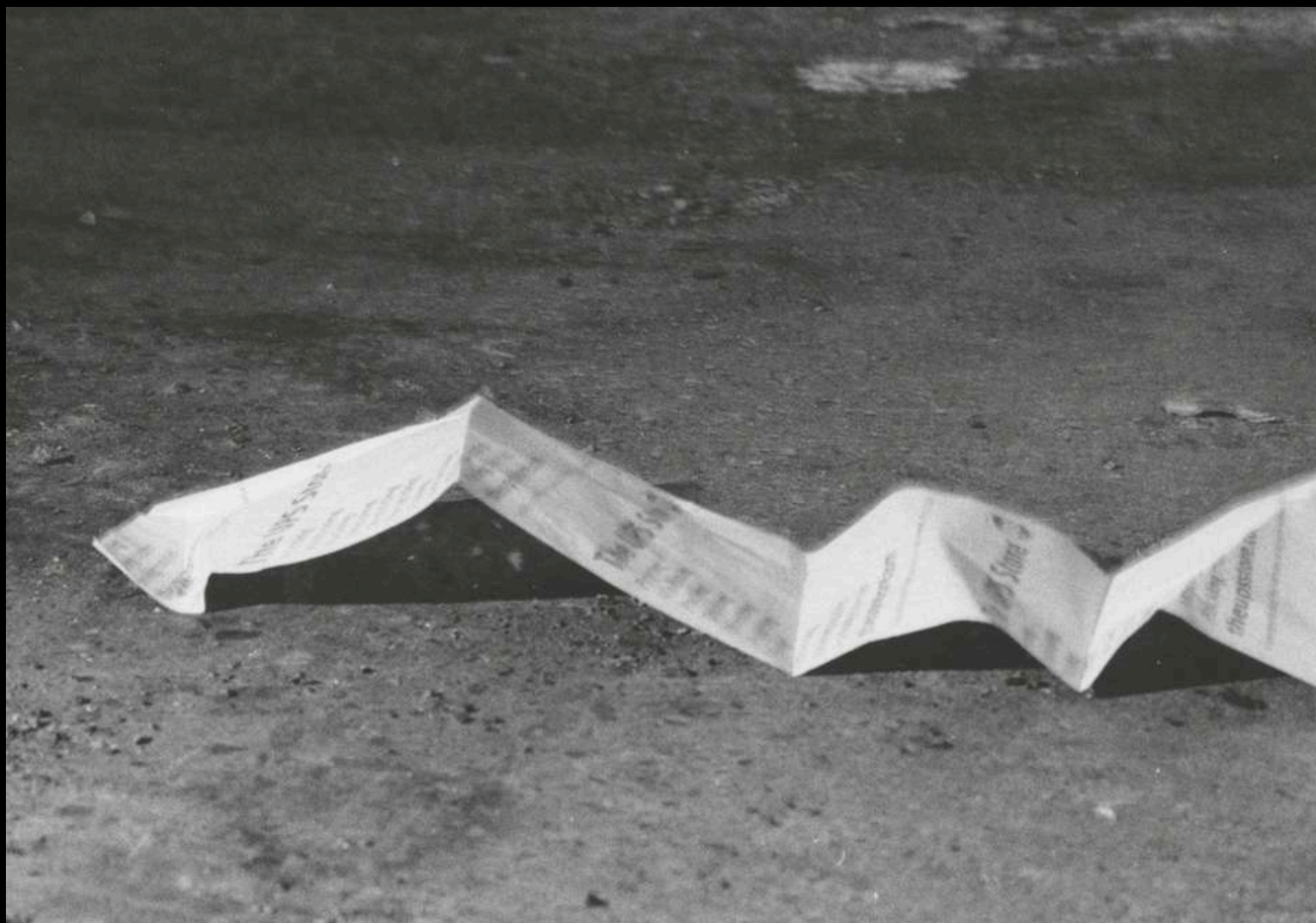


galerie du jour agnès b.



Zig Zag Receipt, 2024 © Mark Cohen

# MARK COHEN

## LOW IDEAS

NOVEMBER 7TH 2025 → JANUARY 4TH 2026

PLACE JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT PARIS 13

# MARK COHEN

## LOW IDEAS

**Opening on Thursday, November 6th 2025 6pm - 9pm**

With *Low Ideas*, American photographer Mark Cohen, a major and radical figure in street photography, opens a new chapter in his work. Seven years after his first exhibition at Galerie du Jour, he returns with a series that continues his exploration of fragments of reality, urban debris, and the city as an unconscious stage. Around forty silver gelatin prints will be shown in Paris for the first time.

### **Seeing Without Aiming**

For Mark Cohen, photography is not about planning but about gesture. His method is fast, instinctive, frontal. In this recent series, his perspective has shifted. Where he once photographed at adult or child height: torsos, arms, cropped legs, his gaze now rests at ground level, as if the eye had descended to the pavement itself.

For over fifty years, Mark Cohen has roamed the streets with his camera in search of fleeting details, abandoned objects, and fragments of bodies. An empty cup, a folded leaf, a discarded piece of chicken become subjects in themselves. The images he captures extract samples of reality from the urban flow, like visual notes that obey no documentary logic.

*Low Ideas* explores this low-lying topography of residue and traces. It forms a poetics of almost nothing: a photography without horizon, without figures, yet rich in visual tension and intensity.

### **A Discreet, Urban, and Tactile Surrealism**

Mark Cohen describes himself as a surrealist action photographer. This surrealism is neither dreamlike nor metaphorical: it is direct, physical, rooted in the collision of reality with the photographic gesture.

It arises from chance encounters, between a piece of bread and a sidewalk, debris and light, packaging and a puddle. As with *Atget* or *Brassaï*, it is the city's margins, its debris, and its silent surfaces that become sources of apparition.

For Cohen, refuse becomes rebus. His images do not tell stories: they allow things to emerge. Each photograph is a visual fragment, a suspended notation. This form of surrealism takes shape in the stillness of the everyday and the density of detail.

Low Ideas brings together around forty prints, most of them previously unseen, produced in recent years and exhibited for the very first time in Paris. This is neither a constructed series nor a linear narrative, but rather a constellation of autonomous images, each isolating a fragment of reality, detached from the ordinary flow.

These photographs compose an intuitive cartography of the urban periphery, a landscape of margins and suspended matter. Mark Cohen here continues his search for a raw reality, stripped of spectacle, from which emerges a discreet and tangible form of poetry

A limited number of copies of Groundworks (Super Labo, 2024) will be available for purchase during the exhibition

# VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



*Black paper cylinder, 2015*  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen



*Coke at Curb, 2023*  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen



*Ice in road, 2022*  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen

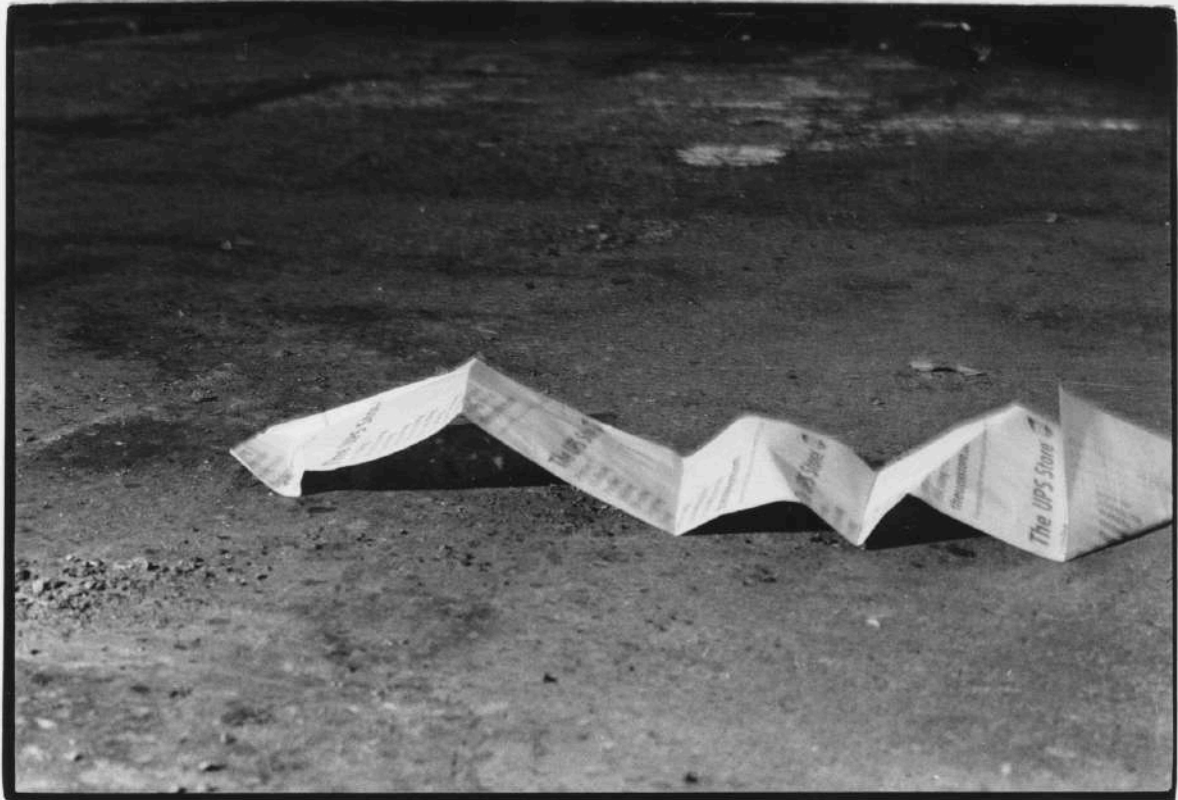


*Puzzle*, 2023  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen



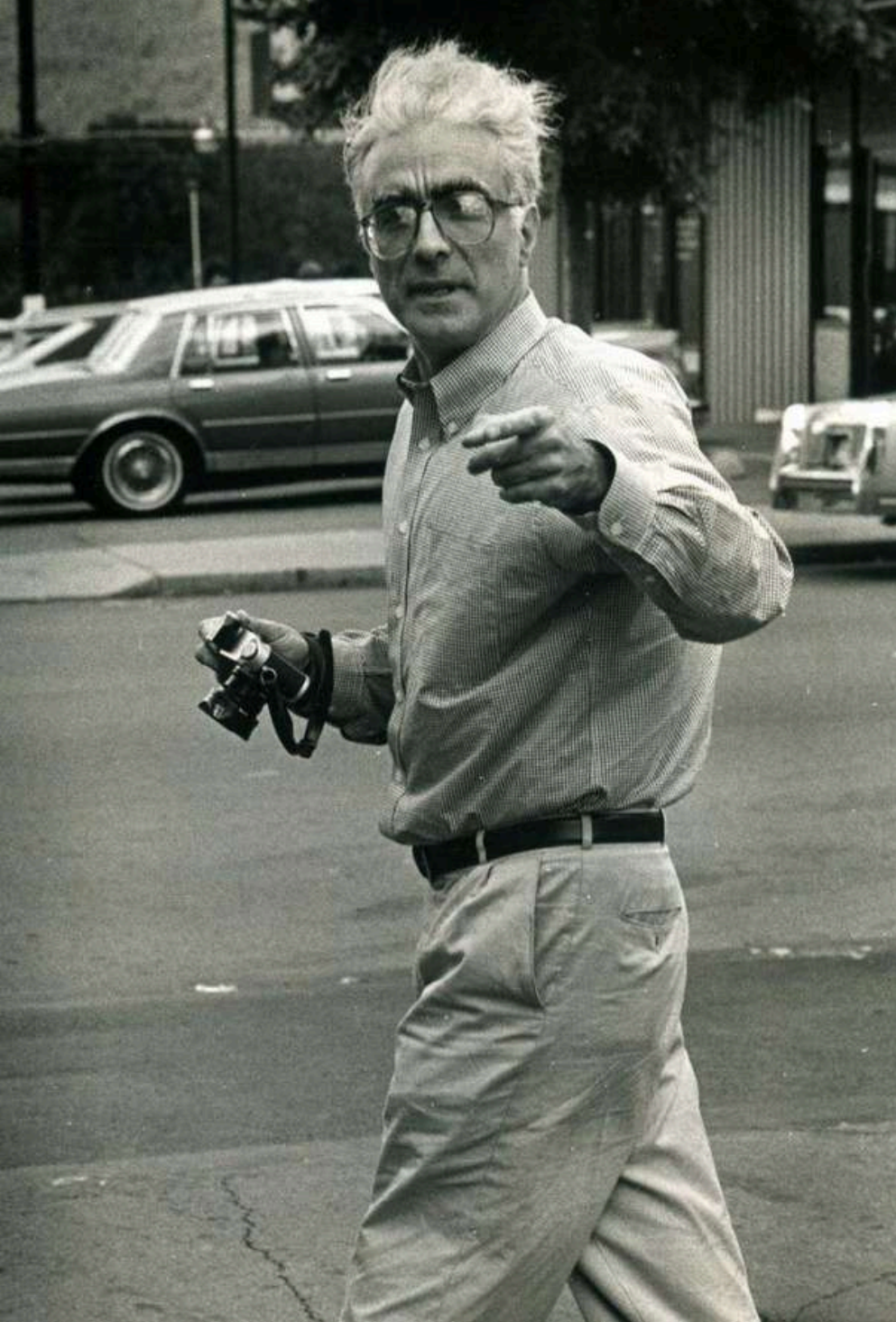


*Wholewheat bread*, 1974  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen



*Zig Zag Receipt, 2024*  
black and white silver print  
© Mark Cohen

# BIOGRAPHY



## MARK COHEN

Mark Cohen was born in 1943 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he has lived and photographed for most of his life. His work was first exhibited in 1969 at the George Eastman House, but he came to prominence with his first solo show at MoMA in 1973.

Best known for his black and white images, Cohen was also a pioneer of the color movement in the 1970s.

Working in an "on the fly" style and inspired by the legacy of street photographers from Eugène Atget to Garry Winogrand, Cohen flouts the conventions of traditional portraiture.

© Isaac Cohen

***"There's no conversation. I don't want to have to explain myself," he said. "I'm content to use people on the street in the most ephemeral way possible."***

Photographing in the squalor of working-class Pennsylvania, Cohen has brought a literal, innovative closeness to street photography, due to the way he holds the camera at arm's length without looking through the viewfinder, while using an unusually wide-angle lens. Cohen has been awarded two Guggenheim fellowships, and his work is included in the collections of major museums worldwide.

INFORMATION

# ABOUT LA GALERIE DU JOUR AGNÈS B.

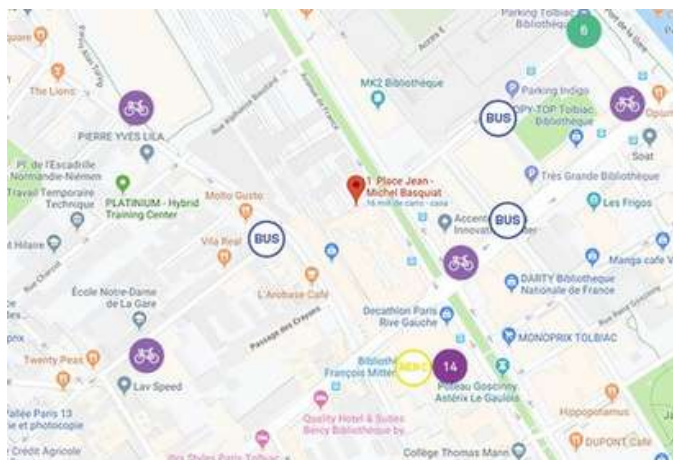
After its creation in 1983 on rue du jour, next to the historic agnès b. boutique, and twenty years of activity on rue Quincampoix, galerie du jour is now located on the first floor of La Fab. in the 13th arrondissement of Paris. Five exhibitions a year take place in a modular space of around 200m2. Through its exhibition and sales activities, the gallery continues to discover and support French and international artists.

## ACCESS

Galerie du Jour / La Fab. - Place Jean-Michel Basquiat - Paris 13e

Wednesday to Saturday 11am - 7pm / Sunday 2pm - 7pm

-  Ligne 14 Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Ligne 6 Chevaleret
-  RER C Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Lignes 25, 61, 62, 71, 89, 325
-  Vélib rue Paul Casals, rue du Chevaleret



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