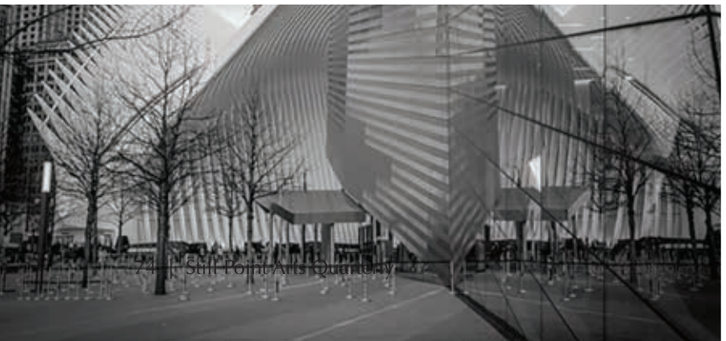
Streetwise — NYC

poem by
Lawrence Gregory

photographs by
Birgit Gutsche



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to all the
possibilities
the morning can
bring HOPE to all
violators I should
~~probably~~ get a ride
home but I have already
broken free of landscapes
having nothing whatever to do
with outer reality hieroglyphic
forms glimpsed in the intimacy
of their home while the eye in the
picture is buzzed staring at me driving
in a live immersive adventure I have so
many things inside of me just bursting a
sense of alienation a sense of vulnerability a
sense of danger STOP don't be afraid of anyone
make no distinction between painting and poetry
read all the news that's fit to print don't yield to
fake news fake President making America hate again
one vehicle at a time he'll make you see in a whole new
way Wait Really? if you see something say what you see
RESIST sitting no standing no loitering dump business trash
here watch your step exercise caution at 725 5th Ave merge
right yield to all pedestrians worshiping the sacred what are you
waiting for her loins are hot restricted access authorized personnel
only get willing get able get serious imagine hard hats covering
everyone in New York no smoking no piggybacking don't walk consider
idling in old school zone all philosophy classes begin all visitors must stop
here on red all Queens must check in at field office she loved New York one
way or another look special look up look out look left look right look down look
both ways make yourself look unforgettable bring your vision to life STAY TRUE
but get your brand recognized I'm free! free as the guy break dancing in Times
square time out time's up to you What would you like the power to do? Imagine it
Imagine a better future not just sparkling dazzling this location permanently closed Wait!
I'm still here! Really? Think color think coffee too many humans not enuf souls anonymously
reporting unsafe conditions I want to crush you in my arms cover you with a million
kisses give me one more chance no way shaft way Broadway be mindful walk honestly
actually literally ride free dismount dive into the black hole stare into the blue reach
for the sun Zap! leap up stand with a friend and smile eat drink dance! Pleasure should
be fair game Did they just? Would you just use me on the next available table? Thank
you for visiting we'll miss you don't worry one way or another you can keep shopping.

What is Found Poetry?