

Flash Art

BILLY SULLIVAN

NICOLE KLAGSBRUN

Snapshots but more, Billy Sullivan's photos give reason for pause. The 17 uniformly-sized photos presented here in the back room of Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery give an insider's view of the artist and his tribe. A DVD/CD-ROM published by Artpix Notebooks is also available for purchase, which greatly enlarges the quantity of the oeuvre.

Taken in an offhand straightforward manner, the images exude naturalness and ease. The shots are also used as source material for the artist's own paintings and drawing. Captured activities range from the prosaic to the celebratory: cooking, eating, smoking, and drinking in mostly social contexts. What emerges is an insightful view of moments shared. Always natural, sometimes provocative, Sullivan describes the world with which he surrounds himself. Sharing much in common with the work of Nan Goldin, these photos, in contrast, show few of life's tragic elements.

Glowing in fuschia, the subject of *Sham* 2000, caresses a cellphone as if it were a Brancusi sculpture. *Cookie Cooking* (1980), is a wonderful photo showing Cookie standing in front of a stove with mitt on hand. This photo presents an ordinary context while the subject appears to be other than ordinary. *Hilton* (1996), depicts a man lost in thought while smoking a cigarette. These photos give one reason to take note and contemplate. What is important? What makes a life? Infused with humanity, Billy Sullivan has found a way to integrate his art and life through his photographs. **Gregory Montreuil**



BILLY SULLIVAN, *Cookie Cooking*, 1980.
C-Print on Fuji Crystal Archiva, 51 x 32 cm.