

Michael Semak - Clip 1

Seeing Photographically

When I went to school at Ryerson, I would go by streetcar. In those days they had the Bloor streetcar line, now it's the Bloor subway line. And I would go along Bloor Street - I think they had the Yonge line then - and then down the subway to Yonge. As I'm sitting or standing in the streetcar, and or the subway, I would be taking pictures with my eyes, and I would look at something, and I would say to myself, "Oh the light is interesting falling on that person." And I would look at some child, or an adult, whether elderly or not, and the expression would be interesting...and I would be studying, it's not just the quantity of light, but the quality of light. There's always, I would be going to school in the daytime as a rule, so there would be enough light coming in through the windows of the streetcar. In the subway of course it would be darker, but they had artificial light. But what I learned very, very quickly it's the...quality of light that will differentiate one's style. It's what moves me, as opposed to what would move another person...

