

Bio

Chris Shepherd

Toronto artist Chris Shepherd works to document, interpret and make sense of the rapidly shifting and changing world around us. His approach is directed by composition, colour and form, and influenced in large by contemporary architecture, design, painting, sculpture, literature and music.

For the past decade Shepherd's focus has been capturing everyday urban life in isolated moments of calm, quiet tranquility. His work pays tribute to—and celebrates—the mundane and ordinary, working as a constant reminder that if we take the time and pay attention there is vitality and beauty in everything around us. Empty subway platforms, hallways, storefronts, concrete sidewalks, vacant interiors, or myriad of other day-to-day tableaus can and do rival the serenity and peace of the most spectacular sunset.

There is at the same a prominent otherworldly, post apocalyptic, undertone to his work. Humanity in all its humour, absurdity and industry is strongly insinuated throughout his output but never directly shown. In any given piece, the mass of humanity could be waiting just outside the frame or completely irradiated for all time. His photographs could very well capture the split second immediately after some global rapture—frozen at the exact moment when people disappeared forever and nature is left to reinstitute itself as the dominant force of the future narrative.

Interwoven with his observational approach and themes of calm and trepidation is a fascination with the process of making and the definition of a work itself. What is a painting, sculpture or a photograph and does the process and time used to create something be examined in and of themselves rather than simply for the stories they tell? What is work and what is art? How does time and change affect us and how can we make further make sense of our world and humanity by examining the very tools and process for telling stories.

Shepherd's work has been exhibited across North America and is included in major corporate and private collections in Canada and the U.S.