

[Museums](#) Review

In the galleries: Roving photographers capture street scenes around the world

By Mark Jenkins June 8 at 9:00 AM

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Fred Zafran

In 1689, Japanese poet Matsuo Basho began a nearly three-year walk later chronicled in his book "Narrow Road to the Deep." (English translations of the title usually add the word "North.") Almost nothing Basho might have glimpsed is visible in Fred Zafran's "Along the Poet's Narrow Road," a show at Multiple Exposures Gallery that focuses on modern Japan. But one barely visible sign that reads "Tohoku" (east-north) proves that the Virginia photographer did follow Basho's path.

There are a few evocative shots of pre-modern places and things, notably an incense burner outside a temple. New and old clash gently in a picture of a kimono-clad figure inside a bland modern building. Yet most of the drama in these coolly beautiful pictures is purely visual: multiple overlaid planes, reflections in glass or water, and the play of light and dark. Indeed, the person in that interior shot is cloaked as much in shadow as in silk.

Muted colors emulate the traditional Japanese palette, while blue light reveals the universal pall of artificial illumination. A face behind a train door window suggests various forms of distance, both physical and psychological. Zafran seeks the deepness of Japan via its overlapping surfaces.

Fred Zafran: Along the Poet's Narrow Road Through June 17 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. 703-683-2205. multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Source:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-roving-photographers-capture-street-scenes-around-the-world/2018/06/07/55069a24-6843-11e8-9e38-24e693b38637_story.html?utm_term=.51cf025ae144