



SHADOWS / SILHOUETTES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AVE PILDAS

Cover: Palm, Pole & Post, 1980
West Hollywood, California

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FOREWORD

Once, in the course of a long hike in the desert, nearly defeated by the August heat, I trudged on, needing to get to water, to shade, to my car. All the time I found myself keeping one eye on my shadow as it followed me faithfully across the ground, and after a while I began, in my pain, to wonder — might my shadow and I trade places? Could I take on his darkness, flatten myself into a cool silhouette, and could he, not me, become fleshy and thirsty and exhausted? It was a moment when the boundary between thing and shadow-of-thing fluctuated, danced, and these are exactly the kinds of moments — striking and unnerving glimpses of moments — that I see in the photographs of Ave Pildas. The intimate black and white world he conjures here draws us into the uncanny marriage of bright bodies and night-black shadows, always in ghostly but intimate contact, one to the other, the other to the one. Pildas' shadows, like those moving across the walls of Plato's cave, question our satisfaction with the truth of our

casual perceptions. Finally, for me, they bring to mind the richly ephemeral nature of our world, and the human lightness and darkness we forever contribute to it.

Rod Val Moore is the author of "A History of Hands" and "Brittle Star"

Self Portrait, 1983
Hollywood, California



LAX - Stop, 1988
Los Angeles, California



SFMOMA Bridge, 2009
San Francisco, California



Hobby Horse, 1980
Burbank, California



Phallic Mickey, 1977
Los Angeles, California



Shadow Tree, 2010
Santa Monica, California



Runners, 2011
Venice, California



Open Court, 1982
Venice Beach, California



EXIT, 2014
Hollywood, California



Palm, Pole & Post, 1980
West Hollywood, California



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