



# **ODD SHOTS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY AVE PILDAS**

Cover: Mexico City Dress, 1995  
Mexico City, Mexico

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## FOREWORD

We live in a world of quirky juxtapositions and anomalies, and sometimes it takes a photograph, a captured moment, for us to stop and see. Ave Pildas has an eye for those “odd shots” – where everyday moments are frozen and presented to us in a pictorial frame. That frame makes us look, it makes us focus, and then we see something that we might have passed by without a second thought. He is also an inveterate traveler, and he goes to places where we have not been, with his camera ever at the ready.

In New Hampshire he captures a sign along a road which advertises “America’s Perfect Pool,” with a bulky kidney-shaped fiberglass pool next to it. Our eye is naturally drawn to the words “America” and “perfect”, but the sign is rather crude, and the pool insert looks alien in the landscape – a strange idea of perfection is presented to us. Elsewhere, in front of an art gallery, perhaps a temporary one, a sign is propped on a parked van which says “Free Art Sale Today” – with the word “free” underlined,

thus creating an inadvertent contradiction. “Cloud Leg” is one of my favorites – a single mannequin leg is suspended in a show window, with puffy cumulous clouds captured in reflection. It’s the Ascension of the Stockinged Leg, what could be more absurd and more delightful?

It intrigues me to think that when most of these photographs were taken – in the 1970s and 1980s – we were still in the Age of Analogue. That is, most of these photographs were shot on film, and processed in a darkroom. Photography had a certain preciousness then when we were aware of using up limited resources, a roll of film with 24 or 36 shots, and each shot needed to count. Ave Pildas makes his shots count, and thus, memorable.

*Scarlet Cheng is an arts writer based in Los Angeles; she has been a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times, Artscene, and Artillery art magazine, and was formerly a picture editor at Time-Life Books. Currently, Ms. Cheng also teaches art and film history at Art Center College of Design and Otis College of Art and Design.*

Rocket, Rocket, 1978  
Ventura, CA



Metro Mannequins, 1975  
Paris, France



Showers, 1979  
Bedrock, Colorado



Car Wash, 1981  
Los Angeles, California



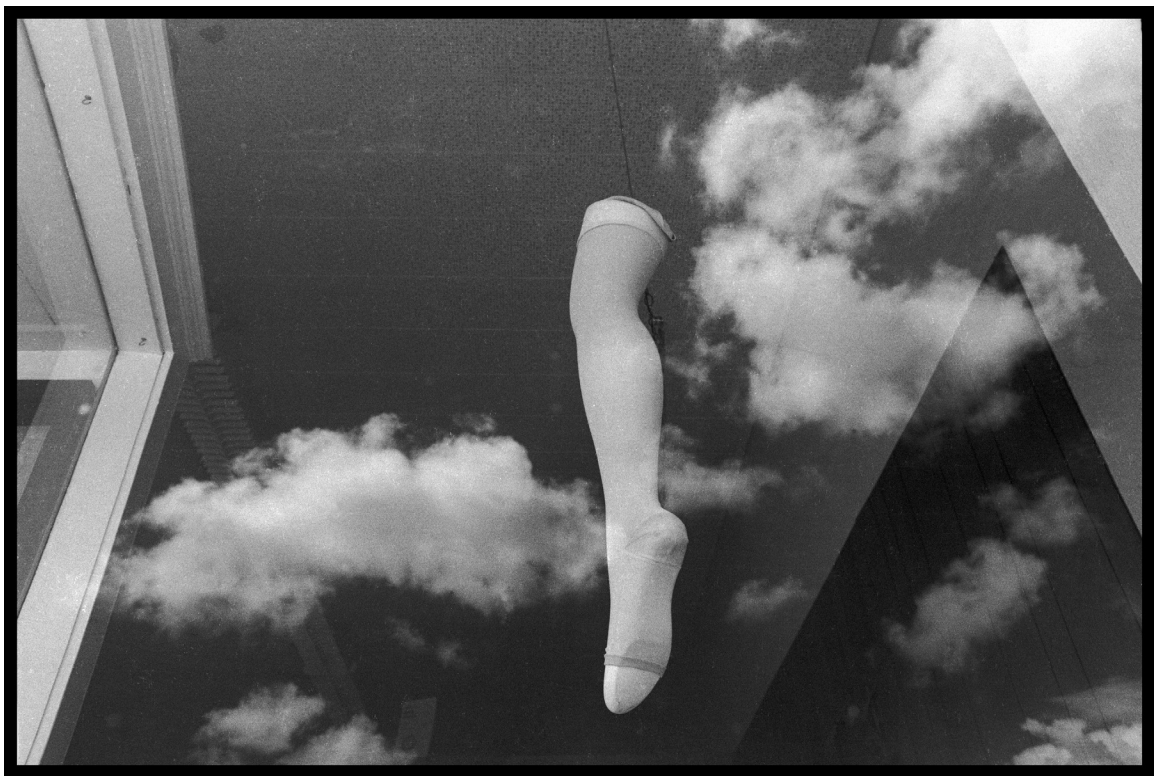
Free ART Sale TODAY, 1979  
Los Angeles, California



Hollywood Mansion, 1976  
Hollywood, California



Cloud Leg, 1978  
Los Angeles, California



America's Perfect Pool, 1979  
Claremont, New Hampshire



AMERICA'S PERFECT POOL  
ONE PIECE FIBERGLASS CONSTRUCTION  
NORM ST. AUBIN CONSTRUCTION  
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Trailer, 1977  
Los Angeles, California



Mexico City Dress, 1995  
Mexico City, Mexico



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