

# LUHRING AUGUSTINE

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“Joel Sternfeld”

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## JOEL STERNFELD

The photographer's first pictures were made all over America between 1971 and 1980, with particular focus on a New Jersey mall, New York and Chicago street life, and the beach-resort town of Nags Head, North Carolina. They're not as sophisticated or as formally satisfying as the American-scene photographs that came later, but there's a ready-for-anything looseness and vivacity here that's pretty irresistible. Happily, unlike so much current photography, these pictures aren't printed at an overblown scale, and their modest size is a big part of their appeal. In the best pictures, Sternfeld is more than merely engaged with his subject matter, he's loving it: the juke joint, the blond beehive, the tan lines, the girls at the take-out window. Through Feb. 4. (Luhring Augustine, 531 W. 24th St. 212-206-9100.)