

ANDREW BUSH

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As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, M+B is pleased to present Andrew Bush's *Vector Portraits*—the celebrated series of color photographs shot between 1989 and 2012 in and around Los Angeles and abroad. Using his car as a tripod, Bush mounted a medium-format camera to the passenger seat with a strobe and shutter release cable, cruising the city's freeways and surface streets while moving in parallel with his subjects—or pausing alongside them in traffic—to capture a fleeting moment inside their rolling, air-conditioned worlds.

Los Angeles, with its miles of asphalt and legendary congestion, provided the perfect stage for these portraits. Each image adheres to a uniform composition: drivers framed at the same scale and distance, their vehicles as much a part of the portrait as the people themselves. Some exude car pride; others appear lost in thought, or mid-conversation with passengers. The series captures the ambiguous in-between space of driving–neither public nor private–where the illusion of control, solitude, and anonymity shapes the way we present ourselves.

First exhibited at M+B in 2009, *Vector Portraits* remains an indelible portrait of a city in motion, at once mundane, idiosyncratic, and telling. For our anniversary, the presentation includes rarely seen and newly released photographs from the series.



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Andrew Bush graduated from Yale University with an MFA in Photography in 1982 and has been pursuing the Vector Portraits series since he moved to Los Angeles in 1989. Captured on the expansive roadways of Los Angeles and across the West, the work speaks to a democratic American ideal—not just that of the open road, but the personal vehicular space sacred to Angelenos who spend so much time ensconced en route. Bush's photographs allow access into those private moments, defying the fleeting nature of car culture. The viewer holds the privileged role of voyeur, observing and surveilling the oftentimes unaware subjects.

The Vector Portraits series has been exhibited extensively in solo and group shows, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Fondation Cartier (Paris, France), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College (Wellesley, Massachusetts) and Staatliche Kunsthalle (Baden-Baden, Germany). Bush's work is held in prominent public collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York), The Museum of Fine Arts (Houston), The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (California), The Victoria & Albert Museum (London), and The Getty Museum (California). In 2008, Yale University Press published his monograph Drive, which includes an interview by Jeff L. Rosenheim, the Curator of Photography at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Andrew Bush currently lives and works in Los Angeles.



















Andrew Bush | Woman heading southbound on the 101 freeway at approximately 77 mph on weekday in June of 1994, 1994



Andrew Bush | Person driving somewhere in the last decade of the previous millennium (whereabouts unknown), c. 1990s



Andrew Bush | Woman wheeling down Sunset Boulevard at 34 mph in Beverly Hills on an afternoon in the summer of 1990, 1990



Andrew Bush | Man drifting near the shoulder at 61 mph on Interstate 405 around the Getty Drive exit at 4:01 p.m. on a Tuesday in September 1992, 1992





Andrew Bush | Woman gliding southeast at 64 mph on U.S. Route 101 near Santa Barbara at 4:39 p.m. sometime in March 1990, 1990



Andrew Bush | Man driving southwest at approximately 72 mph on Interstate 40 in Arizona on an afternoon of the July 4th weekend in 1989 (possibly with an air conditioner malfunction), 1989



Andrew Bush | Man drifting northwest at approximately 68 mph on U.S. Route 101 somewhere near Camarillo, California, one evening in 1989, 1989



Andrew Bush | Man headed southwest at 0 mph on a dirt road near a farmer's market outside of Rome, Italy, at 9:38 AM on March 15th, 2012

















Andrew Bush | Man rolling along (whistle audible?) on U.S. Route 101 at approximately 55 mph on a summer day in 1989, 1989



Andrew Bush | Man headed south at approximately 68 mph on US Route 101 somewhere in the Los Angeles area at 4:05 PM in the Fall of 1992, 1992



Andrew Bush | Women racing southwest at 41 mph along 26th Street near the Riviera Country Club, Pacific Palisades, California, at 1:14 p.m. on a Tuesday in February 1997, 1997





Andrew Bush | Woman headed southwest at 71 mph on an Interstate Highway in the Midwestern United States on a Tuesday in 1994, 1994



Andrew Bush | Woman headed west on Melrose Avenue at 33 mph on a Monday at 4:44 PM in January, 1995, 1995



Andrew Bush | Men travelling 61 mph on the Ventura Freeway near Santa Clara Avenue in Oxnard, California on Thursday afternoon in the summer of 1992, 1992







