



Noida Soliloquy is on view at Photoink, April 11 — June 12, 2010. www.photoink.net

Noida Soliloquy

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Darkness has always held a fascination for me. Night, by its very nature, leaves itself open to interpretation — the ambiguity of darkness and shadows makes the night more alive. The silence and stillness of night has drawn me to look and photograph ever since I picked up the camera. I look at dark spaces to see what they will reveal. The longer I look, the more I can see.

I have been visiting family in Noida since I was a child. Having grown up in Jaipur and lived in Bombay, Noida always struck me as a slightly dark place. Built on the other side of the river, Noida is an urban sprawl assaulted by rapid development for more than a decade now — roads, bridges and

flyovers, underpasses and the metro. Construction sites and vacant plots dot the landscape. I moved to Noida in the summer of 2007; instinctively, I began to photograph it.

I am attracted to desolate spaces — places that lie on the edge of urbanity, inhabiting a borderland. Sites around the electric towers running through and along the river are not accessible spaces. Other spaces — teeming during the day, are deserted and desolate by night. The spaces around and under flyovers are in plain view, yet are mere background to commuters. My camera finds these half-seen places on the periphery of vision to reveal what would ordinarily be left obscure. It is this disclosure I seek in order to find a sense of sentience...





