

FFOTO

MICHAEL WOLF

Born in Germany, then raised in Europe, Canada, and the United States, Wolf began his interest in photography when studying at UC Berkeley and the Folkwang School with Otto Steinert in Essen, Germany. Wolf later moved to Hong Kong in 1994 to begin his artistic career as a contract photographer for *Stern* magazine. Since 2001, Wolf has been focusing on his own projects, drawing his focus to the tradition of socially concerned photography, while also engaging with the radical transformation of photography of recent years.

Wolf found his inspiration as an artist living in Hong Kong and China, where the ever-shifting cityscapes provided him with constant stimulation. Rather than creating images that describe the immensity of China's urban transformation, Wolf's work in this region is based on the power of the vernacular. By 'collecting' a series of these urban minutiae he has been able to paint a much larger picture, not only of the contemporary Chinese city, but rather of the more universal realities of urban life. The stunning 'blown-up' images of Chicago's modernist architecture in 'Transparent City' offer a point of contrast against the closed-up concrete towers from Hong Kong and China. These images oscillate between a microscopic and macroscopic view of the city, and seek to reveal what goes on inside the windows within each cityscape.