

# TODD BOLTON

Mikhel Proulx



Trevor, 2011



Jessye, 2011

Calgary-born Todd Bolton lives with his camera. With it, he mythologizes in fragments his own life through the people he cares about. His photographic subjects are non-idealized, and face his lens with candour and compassion. They are friends cast into image: memories transcribed through light and film and given over to the impersonal format of a photograph. Bolton's photographs are objects that allow a reliving of these past relations, if only in glimpses.

His new body of work sees individual nude figures reposed against a pale sky, as Bolton expends a roll of film on his Montreal rooftop as the sun rises. They are quiet, and frank, perhaps honest, but reframe emotive minutia, momentary sensations more cinematic than real. Not bound by the edges of the picture-plane, our eyes are led interminably skyward along with the subject's gaze. This instability perhaps echoes a transcendent experience of the figure, in which an interior *self* is evoked. With the cloudless space above their heads may we infer the space within them. Here is an allusion to something interior, personal: an experience or emotion not so much registered on film as traced by it. It evokes a psychological *someplace-else*, and performs the photograph's limitations in really *showing* emotions.