

I

One may take a stroll outside on a sunny day, pass by a rose garden, and decide to stop to photograph. Or, if it is sunny outside, one may take a walk, decide to take rest in a rose garden, and feel compelled to photograph how the sun envelopes the roses. Or, on a sunny day, one may decide to take a walk outside, happen upon a rose garden, and feel moved to photograph. Or, if it is sunny outside, one may decide to visit a rose garden and possibly take some pictures. Or, if it is sunny outside, one may take a camera to go photograph a rose garden. Or, one may take a walk, notice people photographing a rose garden, and stop to observe people taking pictures. Or, one may take a walk on a sunny day, notice others photographing a rose garden, and decide to join them in taking pictures. Or, if it is sunny outside, one may take a walk and pass by a rose garden, notice people taking pictures, and stop to photograph them taking pictures and interacting with each other and/in the rose garden!

II

Window, light, camera, person, person, building, bodies collaborating and colliding, attracting, attention, impulse, interest. Glass window, shifting light, camera person, person building. Double paned glass window, interior light reflecting, person inside a kitchen, person building a home outside. Window frame, camera, gesture, an instruction, a double check, a break. Relation, overlap, construction, reformation. Days getting shorter, nights getting longer, lights installed outside maintain the length of the working day,

window reflection, oven on, person leaves the room, camera remains. Corner apartment, kitchen window, kettle on, coffee on, construction site, interacting bodies, reflecting, cooking, talking, working. Zoom, sun moves, crane moves, men move to meet crane, window, attraction, impulse, camera, tripod, person. Look up: camera, rain, crane, kettle, waiting, craving. Person, craving, person, habit, impulse. Day after day. Look down. Anxiety of what will be left out produces noticing, camera choreography,

chewing. Pot boiling, window full of steam. Camera, support, lifting, extending, securing. A meeting, an accident, camera, tripod, knife catches the light. Something temporary, turnip, tempo—looking, caring, searching, finding, settling. Trusting the unforeseen amidst the consistent, amidst the consistently unfolding. Window frame, side of building, position of tripod, changing weather, shifting light, woman in her kitchen with a camera.

III

Is a photograph a decision? A craving? An invitation to ask questions? What differentiates state surveillance from artistic practices that photograph without being photographed? Is camera vision always predisposed to surveil, or can it be a pedagogical instrument? Less an instrument that gathers information, generates knowledge, and accumulates value, but an enabling force which, through an uncanny transmission, reinterprets beings to each other? An archive of impulses.

May Alkharafi 2023

¹ Alkharafi, May. "Street Photography Ethics Beyond Consent: A Relational Approach To An Ethics Of Encounter," 2020.