

F A U N T



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RUSSELL MANIA

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"Untitled (UP\_UNIV 01)"

# AMIR ZAKI

written by **Lawrence Schubert**

**D** hotoographer, master printer, and Spiderman-wannabe Amir Zaki straps on his anti-gravity boots and scales the parapet of another Los Angeles high-rise. Well, almost...Zaki has been hitting the heights of L.A. for over a year now in search of "the fearful point of view" (never mind that most Angelenos think ground level is scary enough), draping himself over building ledges for long nighttime exposures with his 4x5 camera. Zaki scouts his locations by day, then goes on location after dark. "I was pretty legal about entry," the vertiginous photographer informs, "but getting out was occasionally problematic. I found

myself locked into one building." Zaki takes his locations as he finds them ("I like to leave the trash," he laughs), and makes no alterations to the images, which he digitally scans—"for added realism"—to correct the "reciprocity failure" that occurs with long exposures. (That's "light streaks" to you lightweights.) Zaki teaches photography at UC Riverside and between-times continues to seek the heavenly perspective on the City of Angels.

*"Amir Zaki: Photographs From" continues through May 27 at Roberts & Tilton, 6150 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. (323) 549-0223.*

