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# BRUCE WRIGHTON'S BINGHAMTON

**BY THEA TRAFF**

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Few people had encountered the work of Bruce Wrighton (<http://bit.ly/1fYb8ai>) when he died, twenty-five years ago, at the age of thirty-eight. His documentary photographs of his home town of Binghamton, New York, surfaced slowly in the following years, providing an intimate look at the small city during the economically depressed years of the late nineteen-eighties.

Wrighton took all of his pictures with a cumbersome eight-by-ten camera that took fifteen minutes to set up. In an interview given a few months before his death, Wrighton explained that the extensive process was meditative, saying, “It almost becomes a ritual to take a picture.” This patience and attention is visible in his studied, rich compositions of quotidian life in Binghamton. As a 2011 *Goings On* review of the photographs put it, “Even the most throwaway moments merit attention.”

Above is a selection of Wrighton's photographs taken from in and around Binghamton during the last two years of his life, from 1986 to 1988:

*All photographs courtesy Laurence Miller Gallery.*



**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Tioga County Courthouse" (1987)*



VIEW FULL SCREEN



*"Greyhound Bus Station" (1986)*

The New Yorker



**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Downtown Man # 3" (1987)*

The New Yorker




**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Woman with Oversize Glasses" (1987)*

The New Yorker



 VIEW FULL SCREEN

*"Arcade" (1986)*

The New Yorker





**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Glenwood Bar and Restaurant" (1986)*

The New Yorker



**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Basement" (1986)*

The New Yorker





 VIEW FULL SCREEN

*"Man with Johnny Cash Tee-Shirt" (1987)*

The New Yorker



VIEW FULL SCREEN



*"Yonda's Bar" (1986)*



VIEW FULL SCREEN



*"Young Man" (1987)*

The New Yorker



**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Fred" (1987)*

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The New Yorker



**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"Storage" (1986)*

The New Yorker





**VIEW FULL SCREEN**



*"V Drive-In" (1987)*

The New Yorker