

# METROPOLIS

Features April 2003

Visit METROPOLIS online at [www.metropolismag.com](http://www.metropolismag.com)

start page 88



## ART FOR ALL

By Martin C. Peterman

### The 59th Minute: Video Art on the Times Square Astrovision Times Square, New York

Thomas Struth

On the huge Astrovision screen at the center of the commercial chaos that is Times Square, at the 59th minute of the hour, a 14-year-old boy stares into the camera. He's not selling anything; he doesn't speak. His minute-long gaze occurs in real time. Since 1996 photographer Thomas Struth has created one-hour video portraits of people simply sitting in front of his camera. "To look into the lens for that long is like a meditation," he says. "When you photograph someone with a large-format camera, you often wait for a specific moment, and while waiting you notice small changes in mood and atmosphere. I thought it would be interesting to film that entire process."

In conjunction with a retrospective of Struth's work currently running at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on the last minute of every hour the New York public-art organization Creative Time is presenting one of four video-portrait excerpts on the Times Square screen. (Twenty-minute versions are being projected onto the walls of the Great Hall at the Met.) "In Times Square," Struth says, "I selected moments where you see a little bit of what's happening emotionally with them." Both projects run until May 18.

Metropolis April 2003

