

# TOUCHSTONE GALLERY

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Participant in



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 12 – December 6, 2008

## “be: there”

A Photographic Essay  
on a Contemporary Lounge

**MICHAEL LANG**

**Opening Reception:  
Friday, November 14, 6 - 8:30 pm**



Michael Lang is an accomplished social documentary photographer living in the Washington area. His 1957 photo-essay, *A Nice Clean Room*, focused on a Baltimore poolroom known as Benny's. He approached the subject as an outside observer, presenting atmospheric images of the poolroom and the people who hung out there using a hand held camera, available light, and black and white film.

Lang has returned to the genre 50 years later with an essay, *Be: There*, about the Be Bar, a lounge in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, now undergoing a rebirth after the riots of the 1960s. Again Lang uses available light and a hand held camera; but now he employs digital techniques to capture the stark raw, color of the place and the people. He's always there and not there at the same time, observing the community - the bar



tenders, the drag queens, the go-go boys, and the people who gravitate to the atmosphere of the place. *be: there*.

For more information please contact Ksenia Grishkova at [touchstonegallery@verizon.net](mailto:touchstonegallery@verizon.net)

**A portion of show proceeds to counter discrimination and neighborhood hate crime.**

*NOTE: adult content. Some images may not be appropriate for children.*

*Images by Michael Lang*