

## PICTURING BROOKLYN



♦ The photographer, Thomas Roma, as subject.

When Thomas Roma was recuperating from a car accident, instead of feeling sorry for himself, he picked up a camera and started shooting.

To say that Brooklyn became his muse is an understatement. "I love everything about Brooklyn," said Roma. "The sound of the name, the shape on the map. From the neighborhoods to the architecture to the width of the streets and the people who live there, it's impossible to be bored in Brooklyn."

Despite seemingly ordinary moments and backdrops, Roma's photographs are timeless: children playing, families worshipping; abandoned buildings, city playgrounds and pools. All captured in the rare Brooklyn light and—like all great photographs—emblematic of a period but still resonant today.

Roma's talent has led to two Guggenheim Fellowships, one-person exhibits at MOMA and the International Center of Photography, teaching stints at Yale, Fordham, Cooper Union and The School of Visual Arts and, since 1996, an appointment as director of Photography at Columbia University School of the Arts. His next book of photographs, his twelfth, is a photographic record of Army National Guardsmen as they prepare for deployment to Iraq called *Dear Knights and Dark Horses*.

In the **Greenwood Heights** home he shares with his wife, Anna, and son, Giancarlo, Roma not only develops his own film, but designs and makes his own cameras. Inventor, artisan, renowned educator and critically-acclaimed photographer, no matter what you call him Thomas Roma masters them all.

Visit www.thomasroma.com for more information about the photographer and to see examples of his work.



♦ This tropical fish

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