

Ted Leigh's photographs are daily records of color and form, culled from a pile of studio rubbish which he has accumulated through the years in his barnyard. These seemingly simple photographs are informed by a painter's awareness of color, composition, and surface texture. At the same time, they are most fascinating because they feature a quality quite specific to photography, which I would describe as the mechanical recording of the perfect, random beauty of everyday natural life. The light in these images, as well of the sense of gradual decay, attests to the transforming presence of nature in art, and at the same time, to art's ability to transcend. For while the materials recorded in the photographs will continue to decay, their photographic image will not. And it is the constant tension between these two forces -- between nature and artifice, between the inevitability of natural disintegration and transforming force of artistic imagination -- that gives these works their lingering power. They are beautiful, abstract photographic re-imaginings of the classic momento mori.

-- **Justin Spring**
Contributor to ArtForum and Art In America

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Remarks by Sculptor Sal Scarpitta

Of the many young artists I've known in the last 25 years....Ted Leigh stands out as a testimonial to the merging of the life experience as full corollary to the art itself....with results that are, at once, surprisingly fresh and yet profoundly crafted....[it is] understood as spiritual vehicle-- and embodies his work in singular embrace of predicament and humanism.

June 18, 1990