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Photography

Past Lives

When the British artist and critic John Ruskin died in 1900, he left behind his autobiography, Praeterita, whose Latin title means "things gone over" or "things past" (Marcel Proust considered it the finest autobiography ever written and was the first to translate it into French). More recently, the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Arts, Oxford University's fine-arts department, commissioned British photographer John Riddy to create his own visual record of the places that Ruskin termed "a joy to remember." It was the perfect match, apparently: Riddy, already known for his ability to capture the personalities of places, decided to echo each of Praeterita's 28 chapters with an image that brings a favorite Ruskin moment to life



(pictured, London (EC3), 2000). Eerily enough, it's hard not to imagine Ruskin behind the camera. At Lawrence Markey, 42 East 76th Street; through November 3.