

THE ADVOCATE

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

6E ■ Sunday, August 24, 2008 ■ The Advocate

Photographer's New Orleans scenes far from ordinary

BY ANNE PRICE
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Blocks of deep blue sky, sometimes spattered with clouds, punctuate the vision of *Fallen Paradise* by photographer

William Greiner.

The exhibition, on view at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum, 100 S. River Road, through Sept. 28 is a collection of ordinary scenes from New Orleans, from 1995 to 2005, and they are far from ordinary as captured and presented by Greiner.

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Icons emerge from the show—a round sign displaying a red rubber boot stands atop the brick wall of the Rubber Co. The London Lodge makes a splashy appearance from its or-

inary rundown location on Airline Highway. The famous blue drainpipe, the 17th Street Canal Drain, lies solidly across the dirt path.

Perhaps the most striking piece in the collection is "Lounger Chairs: New Orleans Athletic Club Rooftop." Two lounge chairs are randomly

abandoned on a red brick floor with a rusty wall separating the roof from a view of downtown New Orleans. You know at once right where you are, and the title of the show becomes immediately imperative.

White fluffy clouds all but obscure the view of the sky, but Greiner's deep, persistent blue comes through. It is this wonderful blue that distinguishes the collection, both for its historic accuracy and its artistic worth.

The Greiner photo collection is showing upstairs in the museum, over the Michael Crespo exhibition, *Myth and Magic*. Don't miss this remarkable photographic record of the decline of parts of a great city.



'Kim Sorn, New Orleans, 1998' is a photo by William Greiner.