

### **New York, 1980 (printed 1992)**

This is a colour photograph, a dye transfer print measuring 35.6cm high by 43 cm wide. It shows a small section of city street, with Levitt's camera pointing downwards, towards the pavement.

On the opposite side of the street, a sky blue VW Beetle is parked in front of some steps leading up to a house. Metal trash cans stand against a matching sky blue wall. Near us, the left-hand side of the image is filled by the rear end of a shiny, lime green car, probably a Chevrolet, parked alongside the kerb. It smoothly tapers to a chrome bumper, with fancy tyres with a white stripe surrounding a smooth, mirror-like hubcap in the centre of the wheel. Although the tarmac seems dry, there is a pool of water in the gutter, with a brown paper bag floating in it; ripples suggest that the water is flowing. A young girl squats in front of the car, half on the pavement, half in the street, her face hidden, her arms and legs bent in a confusing tangle. One sandalled foot is braced against the kerb, the other is in the water. She balances herself with one hand resting behind her on the green car, just above the wheel arch, the other hand reaches forwards to touch the kerb with one finger. Her long brown hair has fallen forward, and her face is hidden as she looks down. It's hard to decide what she's doing – at first the posture suggests that she could be hiding in distress, or squatting to pee, but on closer consideration, she seems relaxed, perhaps gazing at the water flowing in the gutter, or trying to look at her reflection sidelong in the hubcap. Its convex mirrored surface shows a distorted image of street, face and hair – but is it a reflection of the girl or of the photographer, or both?

[ENDS]