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At the galleries

Apr 19, 2008 04:30 AM

PETER GODDARD

The 12th annual CONTACT festival doesn't get underway for almost two more weeks. But at least five CONTACT-related shows around town can be caught before the onslaught of festival events begins with work from some 500 photographers, May 1-31.

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- **"ORD: Documenting the Definitive Modern Airport"** (Eric Arthur Gallery, 230 College St., U of T, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, to May 31) brings together Toronto photographer/teacher Robert Burley and Chicago photographer Hedrich Blessing with their contrasting visions of urban architecture presented by Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

- **"When You Get The Blues: Live Music Photography from Chicago, Detroit and Toronto"** (The Rivoli, 334 Queen St. W., until June 14) features Toronto photographer Timothy Campbell's look at some blues greats and the famous venues in which they performed.

- **"The Public Stage: Street Photography from the Mira Godard Study Centre"** (Ryerson Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 305, to May 10) Curated by Ryerson students in the conservation program, the exhibition draws on work from the likes of David Heath and Henri Cartier-Bresson to survey their recording of "the theatre of the everyday."

- **"Recurrent Memories: Historical Jewish Sites in Canada and Poland"** (Gallery 345, 345 Sorauren Ave. near Dundas and Roncesvalles. Opens Tuesday, on to May 18) Work from David Kaufman, Robert Burley and Wieslaw Michalak explore ideas about memory and loss in this documentation of the old inner city synagogues of Toronto and Montreal, as well as the gravesites and old architecture of Poland's former Jewish ghettos.

- **"Abandon"** (Impressions Art Gallery, 102 Yorkville Ave., Lower Level. On from next Saturday to June 7) Toronto photographer Mark Coatsworth surveys the effect of environmental collapse, from the abandoned fisheries on the Canadian East Coast to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

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