

SEANKELLY

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The Eye Has to Travel

"I have never-ending curiosity about the character of the spaces that surround us," notes Cologne-based photographer Candida Höfer, best known for taking large-format, psychologically charged images of architectural wonders—places she calls "humble or proud, restrained or boastful, hurt by history or overcoming their fate, or simply beautiful." For her latest series, on view at Manhattan's Sean Kelly Gallery through March 16, the artist spent three weeks in Mexico, traveling by bus and plane to visit an array of historic buildings, among them the spectacular 19th-century Teatro Juárez in Guanajuato (pictured). There she made her way from stage to auditorium, moving from one side of the balcony to the other "in search of similarities and differences in similarities." As always, she worked alone save for an assistant, forgoing additional lighting or interventions to the furniture. "Empty spaces excite the imagination," explains Höfer, who has also included in the show smaller, at times abstract, images taken by a handheld camera. "Spaces without people lay bare their functions, what they do to people and what people have done to them," *skny.com* —SAM COCHRAN

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