

EVERYWHERE WAS WHEREVER



Damien Drew
2-21 June 2015

Exhibition Statement

In November 2013 I embarked on a motorcycle trip from Miami to Los Angeles. I wanted to experience America from the road and had long been seduced by the romance and nostalgia of wheeled portrayals in film, music and literature. My route led me through 12 states riding 10,000kms over 18 days.

Photographers Stephen Shore, Joel Sternfeld and Ed Ruscha had primed me for a world different to the one I found. The sense of place and roadside texture of their America was starkly absent. Instead I moved through a landscape of relentless franchises, hotels and gas stations. Many towns seemed closed for business. Their vernacular buildings stood vacant and all traffic was focused on the ubiquitous chains.

This was the periphery of an America perched tenuously between decay and development. Remnant facades stood witness to my journey like locations for a film not yet made. As lonely masks each sat incomplete yet interchangeable. In this increasingly anonymous landscape every intersection presented a choice, seemingly arbitrary, as every destination felt the same.

I note Howard Kunstler's lament of America's descent into 'placelessness' in 'The Geography of Nowhere'. A country transformed from vital places and communities to a land where every place is no place in particular. This became a lonely journey in search of both personal and geographical identity.

In photographer Jeff Brouw's monograph 'Approaching Nowhere' William L. Fox writes; "the vernacular was in peril. Everywhere was wherever and there is no escaping it".

Damien Drew, June 2015

Biography

Damien Drew is an Art Director and Production Designer whose feature film credits include The Great Gatsby, Superman Returns, Star Wars Episode 2 and 3 and The Matrix films. He studied Architecture at UNSW and his passion for the creation of place and visual story telling is clear and concise. With a humble nod to great documentary image makers such as Jeff Brouws, Ed Ruscha and Walker Evans this is a personal moment in time.

Black Eye Gallery is proud to present Damien's first solo exhibition 'Everywhere was Wherever'

Prints

Archival pigment prints on fine art cotton rag. All images are available in either size.

Large prints - 120 x 86cm
limited edition 1 of 3 plus 2 AP
\$1850 framed
\$1450 unframed

Medium prints - 81 x 59cm
limited edition 1 of 8
\$1100 framed
\$850 unframed



Petrified Forest N.P 1
Arizona
120 x 86cm



Decatur 2
Alabama
81 x 59cm



Carmel
California
81 x 59cm



Presidio
Texas
81 x 59cm



Decatur 1
Alabama
81 x 59cm



Batchelor
Louisiana
81 x 59cm



Natchez 1
Mississippi
120 x 86cm



Grand Canyon N.P
Arizona
81 x 59cm



Kingman
Arizona
81 x 59cm



Springerville
Arizona
81 x 59cm



Leighton
Alabama
81 x 59cm



Highway 90E
Texas
81 x 59cm



Sanderson
Texas
120 x 86cm



Flatrock
Alabama
81 x 59cm



Camp Wood
Texas
81 x 59cm



Essex
California
81 x 59cm



Scottsboro
Alabama
81 x 59cm



Estill
South Carolina
81 x 59cm



Truxton
Arizona
120 x 86cm



Chambless
California
120 x 86cm



Natchez 2
Mississippi
81 x 59cm



Bueche
Louisiana
120 x 86cm



Palm Springs
California
120 x 86cm



Petrified Forest N.P 2
Arizona
120 x 86cm



Interstate 5
California
120 x 86cm



Seligman
Arizona
120 x 86cm



St Johns
Arizona
120 x 86cm



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