

Habitat

A Photographic Inquiry by Carl Corey

Habitat

Habitat is an open-ended photographic inquiry into the mysteries of scale and light through which the structures of our built environment — our habitat — disclose their contingent humanity most fully when no one is present to see them.

Habitat is an invitation to the viewer to enter into the unseen worlds of these vacant places, to experience their mystery, and to reflect on the character of the space we create for ourselves in the interstices between the social and the natural worlds.

Though not an exercise in interior, architectural, or landscape photography *per se*, *Habitat* ranges across all these genres to capture the paradoxically welcoming claustrophobia of a motel room, the enticing artlessness of a roadside diner on a wet summer night, the intense futility of a pole light on a stormy evening, and much more.

Begun in 2006, *Habitat* now comprises over 200 finished photographs. While these photographs were taken at many locations across the United States, the *Habitat* series to date has been predominantly Wisconsin-oriented, and Wisconsin's diverse communities continue to offer a rich array of accessible subjects for the *Habitat* series.

A number of *Habitat* prints already have been exhibited or scheduled for exhibition or acquisition by Wisconsin museums. Organizations outside Wisconsin have also expressed a strong interest in exhibiting *Habitat* (see response to *Habitat*, below).

A traveling exhibition of *Habitat* photographs is in the planning stages, with a catalog to be published as a separate monograph by the Picture Book Press.

I am available to present a lecture/slide-show of the *Habitat* photographs to interested organizations, either public or private.

I currently maintain an on-line archive and a rotating presentation of the *Habitat* series. The scope of the on-line presentation will be expanded to include participating communities as the series continues to develop.

Response to Habitat

In two years the *Habitat* series has attracted the interest of a number of museums, galleries, and other art-world institutions:

- The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art exhibited four prints from the *Habitat* series in its 2007 Wisconsin Triennial; the MMCA has acquired one of these for its permanent collection.
 - The Milwaukee Art Museum has committed to acquiring several *Habitat* prints for their permanent collection.
 - The Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Letters has scheduled a solo exhibition of *Habitat* photographs for Summer, 2010.
 - The National Arts Club in New York City has expressed a strong interest in the *Habitat* series.
 - Hamburg Kennedy has agreed to represent *Habitat* as the series' New York dealer and include the work in a forthcoming book about contemporary photography in New York City.

In addition, Vincent Virga, the renowned picture editor long affiliated with the Library of Congress, has agreed to curate a traveling exhibition of selections from *Habitat*; he has also accepted *Habitat* for publication as a monograph by his innovative Picture Book Press.

Habitat sponsorships

Habitat sponsorships are offered in units of \$1,250 each.

Sponsors at the \$1,250 level receive a 23 x 23 inch signed and numbered limited edition print and a copy of the (forthcoming) *Habitat* book of Wisconsin, signed by Carl Corey with a dedication to the sponsor.

Sponsorships at the @2,500 level receive either two 23 x 23 prints or one 35 x 35, and two copies of the book.

Sponsorships of \$5,000 or more will receive, in addition to prints and books, a custom-made archival clamshell portfolio case with a top sheet signed by Carl Corey with a dedication to the sponsor.

Sponsors will be listed (with permission) at all *Habitat* exhibitions and in all *Habitat* publications.

Community sponsorships

Sponsors at \$5,000 or above may contract for a *Habitat* portfolio of a specific community.

Habitat lends itself to community involvement, and offers the possibility of promoting community participation in the arts while capturing the most characteristic structures of the community.

Local cultural and educational institutions, e.g., public libraries and community colleges, will provide the project with meeting and exhibition facilities and will stimulate local publicity.

Community members will assist in identifying *Habitat* subjects and will learn skills and concepts that enable them to start local community projects in the spirit of *Habitat*.

Prints

Each print is an archival pigment print limited to a signed and numbered edition of 20 (in each size).

Portfolios of prints from these editions are delivered in a linen wrapped hand crafted archival storage case.

Multiple portfolios may be purchased at any time as investment or to give to institutions or individuals.

Critical Review of Habitat

"In the visual arts, 2007's most significant show was probably the Wisconsin Triennial at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA). Installing a show the size and scope of the Triennial — MMoCA's signature survey of current Wisconsin art — in the museum's expanded space made the experience a richer one for both viewers and artists. Among my favorites were pieces by photographer Carl Corey..."

Jennifer Smith – Isthmus Magazine

"Carl Corey provides a stunning selection of photographs that resonate with a sense of altered familiarity. While so many photographers obsess over finding geometrical shapes and symmetry in urban landscapes, Corey instead offers us everyday scenes of the American experience—a motel swimming pool, a highway—that are warped just enough to make these warm, familiar sights seem alien and otherworldly. His highway bends unnaturally into the distance and the motel pool glows in a frozen light, looking ominous yet inviting. Everything is decidedly Americana, but incapable of being placed within any definite decade and somehow unlike anything you've seen before. These truly are something to marvel at..."

Joe Lynch – Madison Magazine

"One of our most primal responses to being alive on planet earth is our sense of place. Just how primal it is to capture and express the uniqueness of each place can be seen in the cave art of our earliest ancestors. Paying attention to our surroundings and carefully noting them is also fundamental to our survival as a species. Working in the tradition of those great cave painters, Carl Corey uses his camera to teach us how to look at what we see. Each of his exquisitely crafted images is a physical, mental, and spiritual journey that helps us convert universal space into the particular places we inhabit in our lives and in our dreams. Carl Corey is a master. To enter the world of his images is to enter the cave of the heart."

Vincent Virga – Picture Editor with the Library of Congress, considered America's foremost picture editor

"Carl Corey's photographs, for example, document iconic American places that are taken for granted - car washes, hotel swimming pools, highways. They are comforting images, places we know, but also eerie and remote, presented with a sense of romance and nostalgia that suggests they are already past.".....places we know, but also eerie and remote, presented with a sense of romance and nostalgia that suggests they are already past."

Mary Louise Schumaker – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"Mr. Corey has caught the city that never sleeps while she is sleeping, and looked up her skirt. Corey's stunning portfolio on New York City is a masterpiece of formal compositions that treat the viewer to an intimate experience of the big city. Corey's photographs allow us to see beauty in both the commonplace and the majestic sides of Gotham. From the precisely composed dance of stacked garbage bags with rhythmic architecture - to the magnificence of the Chrysler Building from a new angle, Corey takes the viewer on a fascinating, mostly nocturnal, journey that allows one to see New York as it is almost never experienced. Like the other portfolios in the Habitat series, this group of photos focuses on our environment without us. Without the distracting element of people, the pictures allow us to appreciate subtle nuances of light as it falls on the structures we have built. We see the places we inhabit with a slowed down approach that gives the elements of design in these photos a chance to open up to us. The uninhabited scenes, while devoid of human presence, nonetheless have a very human quality that speaks volumes about who we are through the places we live and work. In this new body of work Corey's sharp eye penetrates the otherworldly qualities of our environment with a sense of drama that makes this some of his strongest work to date."

Jeffrey Neumann - Art Educator / Critic, New York

"The new Portfolio is amazing! I feel like I live in a brand new city. The lighting has really come to perfection!!! Carl Corey should live here! "

Shawn Brydges – Art Department, NYC

Carl Corey

A career artist since 1979, Carl Corey's award-winning photographs are increasingly sought by collectors, galleries, and museums. Exhibited widely in solo and group shows in the United States and abroad, his work has also been featured in several of photography's most prestigious periodicals, and is represented in a growing number of museum and other curated collections.

The recipient of over 100 awards from the advertising, design, and photography communities, Carl Corey's assignment clients include Nikon, Kodak, Chevrolet, Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, General Mills, Kraft, Marlboro, Miller Brewing, Ford, TWA, Northwest Airlines, Blue Cross, State Farm, Allstate, and Proctor & Gamble.

Highly regarded as a teacher, he has led workshops for the Advertising Photographers of America, The Society of Artists and Photographers Representatives, Peninsula Art School, Northern Illinois University, and Purdue University.

Since 2000 he has directed his energy to more personal work focusing on social/aesthetic issues of the environment and landscape.

Born in Chicago in 1954, he holds a BFA from Southern Illinois University.

Permanent Curated Collections

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art
West Bend Corporation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Normandale College
Nikon
Philip Morris

On Line Exhibits

www.carlcorey.com — A resource for current projects and an archive of work by Carl Corey.

www.absolutearts.com

www.galleryprint.com

“Serendipitous Landscapes” — an eclectic collection of color landscape work.

“Southeast Side”- Environmental study of the industrial Southeast side of Chicago.

“Holiday Shores” — Austere winter photographs of the New Jersey Boardwalks.

“Portraits of Empty Places” — Ghost Towns of the American West.

Recent Exposure (Solo)

“Habitat” — Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Letters, Madison, WI, scheduled for Summer, 2010

“China: with my Brownie” — Art Beatus, Hong Kong, March 2008

“Rancher” book signing and exhibit — Dahl Art Center, Rapid City, SD, January 2008

“Habitat” — Johnsonese Gallery, Chicago, IL, November 2007

“Rancher” book signing and Exhibit — Iris Gallery, Great Barrington, MA, May 2007

“Rancher” book signing and Exhibit — VP Gallery, Milwaukee, April 2007

“Woods and Elements” — Normandale College portfolio purchase for the permanent collection; exhibition, February 2006

“Woods and Elements” — Oxygen Gallery, Saint Paul, MN, November 2005

“Woods and Elements” — Hendrickson Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, October 2005

“Camera Work-Centennial Special Edition” — solo featured contemporary photographer

Recent Exposure (Group)

"The Populated Landscape" — Flanders Fine Art, Minneapolis, MN, February, April 2008

"Back to the West" (including Andy Warhol, Luis Jimenez, David Levinthal, John Buck, & Joan Busing) — Michele Mosko Fine Art, Denver, CO, October 2007

"Triennial Exhibit" — Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI, April–July 2007

"Habitat" — Bridge Art Fair, Chicago, IL, April 2007

"Signature Work: Best of GalleryPrint" — Oxygen Gallery, Saint Paul, MN, October 2006

"MIAD Venezuela" — Selected Finalist, September 2006

"Represented Photographers Group Exhibition" — VP Gallery, Milwaukee, WI, July 2006

"Blue Earth Alliance Invitational Exhibit and Benefit Auction" — Seattle, WA, November 2005

"Lessedra" Juried Print Exhibit — Sophia Bulgaria, November 2005

"Beyond Boundaries: The Art of Digital Photography" — Fairfield Art Museum, Sturgeon Bay, WI, March–May 2005

"Holiday Shores" (two person show) — Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, MN, November–December 2004

"Eye on Nature" — Peninsula Art School, Door County, WI, 2004

"A Quilt of Main Street" — Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI, August–September 2003

"The Photo Review Competition 2001" — Award for "Southeast Side" series

"Mixed Media Invitational Group Show" — Phipps Center for The Arts, Hudson, WI, December 2001

"New Growth" Las Quintals Cultural Center Gallery — Albuquerque, NM, 2001

"The Photo Review Competition, 2000" — Award for "Holiday Shores" series

"Photo San Francisco" — San Francisco, CA, 2000

"Americas 2000" — Northwest Art Center, Minot, ND, 2000

Publications

Rancher, monograph published by Bunker Hill / GalleryPrint. Sixty-four photographs, 112 pages hardbound. An accompanying exhibit will travel to multiple national venues.

Media attention

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel— review of MoCA Show, May 2007

Fox Television Milwaukee — interview, April 2007

Arches Paper Master Printmaker Campaign — featured photographer for 2006, 2007

Camera Work Centennial — featured contemporary photographer 2003

Shutterbug — interview, 2005

The Photo Review — 2003

Kodak Studio Light — featured photographer

Education

Associates Degree in Graphic Design, Northern Illinois University, 1974

BFA, College of Cinema & Photography, Southern Illinois University, 1976

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