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In Response to Place: Place Matters

William Christenberry Lynn Davis Terry Evans Lee Friedlander Karen Halverson Annie Leibovitz Sally Mann Richard Misrach Mary Ellen Mark Hope Sandrow Fazal Sheikh William Wegman

The relationship between human beings and the natural world has been a topic for artists of the camera since photography's invention in the early nineteenth century. Then, as now, the challenge for the photographer was not only to record the specific character of a place but also to convey its cultural and personal significance. This is the challenge taken on by the photographers commissioned to take pictures for In Response to Place, which seeks to extend an historical tradition of "place photography" into a new millennium.

Place Matters: Hope Sandrow/Time(space)

In the waters off Komodo (Indonesia), where conservation work focuses on preserving the threatened marine environment of its coral reefs, Sandrow produced a series of panoramas constructed from pictures taken with the lens of her camera halfway under water. The technique allows us to see the marine and terrestrial "landscape" simultaneously, although at different magnifications.

Since each camera image is a single exposure, the composite panorama embeds time as well; the variations of color, horizon line, and point of view indicate that chance also plays a large role in the artist's activity. In addition to the photographs, Sandrow has produced a video that describes her experiences on the trip and a web site that functions as a day-by-day journal.

The installation of this work also includes a series of boxes (arranged in 6 rows of 6) that contain powdered white chalk. The boxes are in the proportion of the Golden Rectangle, a form based in nature and revered by classical civilizations, and the chalk they hold is the ground remains of coral, the essential component of the reefs now being devastated by fishing techniques using dynamite and cyanide.

Andy Grundberg, Curator 2001





































