

David Emitt Adams

Conversations with History

As long as people have been in the American West, they have found its barren desert landscapes to be ideal for dumping garbage and forgetting. I was born in Yuma, Arizona in 1980 and I have never known this landscape without the forgotten debris of urban sprawl. Today, the notion of land untouched by the hand of man is so foreign it might as well be make-believe.

The deserts of the West have special significance in the history of photography. By the time I became an adult I began to see that the Arizona desert was far different from the scenery once photographed by Timothy O'Sullivan in the 1860s. I have explored this landscape with an awareness of the photographers who have come before me, and this awareness has led me to pay close attention to the traces left behind by others.

I collect discarded cans from the desert floor, some more than four decades old, which have earned a deep reddish-brown, rusty coloration. This rich patina is the evidence of light and time, the two main components inherent in the very nature of photography. For this body of work, I manipulate these found objects through a labor-intensive 19th century photographic process known as wet-plate collodion. I create images on their surfaces that speak to human involvement with this landscape. The results are objects that have history as artifacts and hold images connected to their locations.



Before We Arrived

Wet plate collodion tintype on object
found in the Sonoran Desert

6 x 6 x 11 inches

Unique, 2014



Summit Picacho Peak

Wet plate collodion tintype on object
found in the Sonoran Desert
8 x 8 x 12 inches
Unique, 2014



Eagletail

Wet plate collodion tintype on object
found in the Sonoran Desert
8 x 6 x 11 inches
Unique, 2014

David Emitt Adams

Education:

M.F.A 2012 Photography Arizona State University

B.F.A. 2003 Photography Bowling Green State University

Collections:

Museum of Photographic Arts San Diego

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

The Center for Creative Photography

Candela

Northlight Gallery, Tempe, Arizona

Numerous private collections

Exhibition Record:

2015

Arizona Biennial, Tucson Museum of Art, AZ

One of a Kind: Unique Photographic Objects, Phoenix Art Museum

Five Alchemist: Contemporary Photographer Explore 19th-Century Techniques, Wichita Art Museum

Alchemical Ensemble, New Visions in Historic Photographic Processes, Columbia College, MO

Diffusion Annual, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO

PHOTOGRAPH, David Emitt Adams and Claire A. Warden, Kruglak Gallery, Oceanside, CA

Vibrant Matters, Instinct Art Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

2014

Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA

Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Denver, CO

Land Exposures, Etherton Gallery, Tucson, AZ

100 Photographs, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Look Again, Ashville Area Arts Council Gallery (invitational) Ashville, NC

Flash Forward, Magenta Foundation, 2 Battery Wharf, Boston, MA

Unbound3, Candela Gallery (invitational), Richmond, VA

Double Back: Photographic Reflexivity (invitational), University of Maryland ,Maryland, MD

Shifts, Roland Dille Center for the Arts Gallery,(two person) Mankato, MN

2013

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA (Solo)

Flash Forward Emerging Photographer Award Exhibition, Neubacher Shor Contemporary, Toronto, Canada

VOZ'Galerie, Complément D'Objet, Paris, France

Alfred and Trafford Klots International Program for Artists Exhibition, Léhon, France

Unconventional Inventions, Print Resource Center, Boston, MA

The Physical Photograph, Art Intersection, Gilbert, AZ

2012

INFOCUS 2012 Annual Photography Exhibition and Auction, Phoenix Art Museum.

Conversations with History, Northlight Gallery, Tempe, AZ. (Solo)

Herberger Theater Exhibitions, Phoenix, AZ.

Lens Culture International Exposure Award Winners, Digital Screening,

PhotoAlliance 2012 lecture series, San Francisco, CA.

2011

Notebook 4: Stilled Life, The Studio, London, England

Exploring the Roots of Photography, Art Intersection, Gilbert, AZ.

Lens Culture International Exposure Awards, Online Exhibition

SOHO PHOTO, Alternative Processes Competition, New York City, Juror Michael Mazzeo

Nowness, The Eye Lounge, Phoenix, AZ

Exploring the Roots of Photography, The Art Intersection, Gilbert AZ.

The Language of Light, Photoplace Online Exhibition

Celestial Sphere, McFadden Gallery, Malone University, Canton OH. (Solo)

Tool, The Night Gallery, Tempe AZ

2010

Night and Day, Step Gallery, Tempe Arizona (Two-person Exhibition)

Silvereye Center for Photography Benefit Auction/Exhibition, Pittsburgh PA.

Spatial Records, Intel Corporate Office, Ocotillo, Arizona (Solo)

An Equation of the Fanciful and Bizarre, Joel Meyerowitz juried competition Northlight Gallery

ASU

2009

Silver Eye Center for Photography, New Works Gallery, Pittsburgh PA. (Two-person Exhibition)

Awards/Honors:

2015

Arizona Commission on the Arts Research and Development Grant

Artnet's Must See Booths at AIPAD

2014

Fish/Pearce Award

2012

Artist in Residence at Art Intersection, Gilbert, Arizona

Society for Photographic Education Crystal Apple Award

Participant in Review Santa Fe

2011

Lens Culture International Exposure Awards, Honorable Mention

Nathan Cummings Travel Grant Research Award

2010

5th Annual Black and White Spider Awards Nominee

Professional Experience:

2013 •Adjunct Faculty at the University of Arizona
2011-12 •Adjunct Faculty Chandler Gilbert Community College
2009-12 •Teaching Assistant Arizona State University
2010 •Photography Assistant to Paula Chamlee
2010 •Photography Assistant to Michael A. Smith
2009 •Photography Assistant to John Coffey
2008 •Maine Media Workshops Photography Lab Technician
•Teaching Assistant to Jill Enfield

Lectures/Workshops:

Guest Lecturer Medium Festival of Photography, San Diego, California
Guest Lecturer Society for Photographic Education, National Conference, Chicago, IL
Guest Lecturer Society for Photographic Education, Southeast, Charlotte, NC
Guest Lecturer Carnegie Museum of Art, f295 Symposium, Pittsburgh PA.
Guest Lecturer Photo Alliance, Tintype Redux, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco CA.
Guest Lecturer/Workshop Art Intersection PHOTotopas, Gilbert AZ.
Guest Lecturer Art Intersection, Exploring the Roots of Photography, Gilbert AZ.

Publications:

Print:

Black and White Photography UK, Issue NO.152
A Guide to Photographic Alternative Processes: Popular Historical and Contemporary
Techniques, Focal Press

Web:

Lenscratch
NPR Radio Pictures
Jackalope Ranch Arts and Culture Phoenix
Gallery Representation:
Etherton Gallery, Tucson, AZ