



Sentinels

A Roadside Attractions Project

Sean P Drysdale

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Let's Talk

- If you would like a physical copy of this publication.
- If you represent a gallery or exhibition space.
- If you would like to go for a walk.

Sean P Drysdale
<https://seandrysdale.com>
spd@seandrysdale.com

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Tools

All but one image was captured using Nikon D7100, Sigma 10-20 mm f3.5, AF- Nikkor 35mm f1.8, AF-S Micro Nikkor 105mm f2.8. One image was captured using a borrowed Sony a7r iii, Sony 100-400 mm f4.5-5.6.

Guidance on Viewing

As in previous digital monographs, I suggest viewing this one using Adobe Acrobat Reader in full screen mode (Ctrl / Cmd + L). Pages are presented as double page spreads.

Gratitude

Thank you Allyson for your editing prowess.

Foreword

I love this land and I love exploring it photographically. "Roadside Attractions" is an umbrella project that captures different visual and conceptual perspectives, which continue to evolve from my experiences of driving local paved and gravel roads. Those paths usually take me east onto the prairies versus west into the mountains. Besides the sense of hope that comes from a big sky, there is a graphic cleanliness to the prairies and foothills. Under shifting light, forms and subtle variations in the landscape become visually significant, and beg for quiet appreciation.

As a business analyst, I synthesized information from disparate sources and then produced material that was of value to my clients. A similar approach also touches "Roadside Attractions". Four of the sources informing this project are as follows:

Eadweard Muybridge was paid \$25,000 in 1878 by Leland Stanford to help Stanford win a bet that a galloping horse has at some point, all four hooves off the ground. Ever since then, the series has been near and dear to photography.

Hilla and Bernd Becher, founders of the Dusseldorf School of Photography, proposed, practised, and taught a rigorous approach to photography that valued technical excellence and objectivity. The Bechers' collection of fading industrial artifacts may not be instantly captivating, but time spent with those photos

is very gratifying. I find that much of the work from the Dusseldorf school has a melancholy quality, which is not always to my taste.

Edward Burtynsky has spoken about being influenced by painters. I also think he has some heritage in the Dusseldorf school. I have long been drawn to the conflict between beauty and subject matter in his work.

The flick and click of Instagram epitomizes our fleeting attention span. As a response, I strive for the antithesis of that experience. One of my photographic objectives is to first capture a viewer's attention through an expression of beauty, and then provide enough depth of content to reward the patient viewer.

"Sentinels" is a work-in-progress that began in 2018, and is a series under the "Roadside Attractions" umbrella.

Across the foothills and prairies, hay bales stand alone. Thanks to a friend, I now call these guardians muffets. Like cows, they make me smile. Grain bins are my new anchors for a long running interest in what is apparent or visible and what is unknown or hidden.

As always, thank you for being a witting or unwitting part of my photographic journey.

Love, Sean / October 2021











































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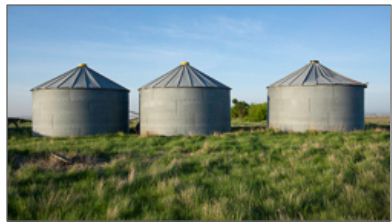
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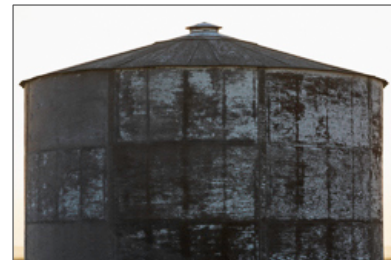
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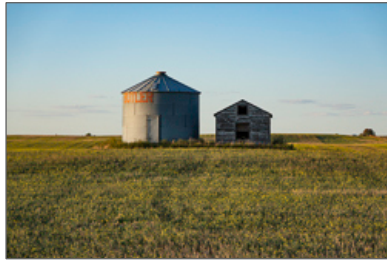
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Biography

Sean P Drysdale lives in Calgary between the overt beauty of the Canadian Rockies and the serenity of the prairies. He returned to photography as an art form in 2016. Drysdale graduated from Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1984, where he studied photography. Subsequent studies in mathematics and computers at Simon Fraser University led to a career in information management.

Exhibitions and Organizing

Graduation Group Show; Emily Carr College of Art and Design;Vancouver; 1984

Member of Organizing Committee;The Warehouse Show;Vancouver; 1984

Solo Photography Show; OR Gallery;Vancouver; 1983

Publications

30 New Walks (ebook) , 2020 ISBN 978-1-7774330-0-0

Meanwhile in Abingdon (ebook), September 2021

Rills (digital monograph), October 2021

Sentinels (digital monograph), October 2021