

ZOLLA/LIEBERMAN GALLERY INC.



SUZANNE ROSE

Blind Spot

September 11 – October 10, 2020

"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." — Leonard Cohen

It has been said that nature and man are imperfect friends. Observations in the rural Midwest reveal a quiet dignity within vignettes of an altered landscape. Examining this relationship through the pastiche of first photography – with direct influences of Carleton Watkins and Timothy O'Sullivan – appropriating the original style but the subject is reimagined with the commonplace scenes invoking a sense of grandeur, incongruously, in an unlamented song. Theodore Roethke wrote, "Whatever was still is / Says a song tied to a tree." In the unsung stories shrouded in a cloak of antiquity, these images speak to the ongoing relationship of nature and her occupants – blurring the boundaries of time and timelessness, of use and misuse.

With a concerned eye to how symbolism shapes our thinking, interconnectedness is examined through the theme of natural versus manufactured – physical versus cerebral. While in tandem asking the question of the perception thereof: hidden or disregarded, unseeable or inconspicuous?

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To thin the veil between artist and viewer, the titles are the GPS coordinates giving the exact location of the site of the subject. This not only offers a deeper level of intimacy but, as Virginia Woolf implied in her novel *To the Lighthouse*, a place weaves into itself the happenings of the surroundings over time, folding them into silence becoming forever present and pinned to that place. This delicate presence is an imbued immortal rhythm that adds layers of temporal whispers to the work via modern mapping technology.

John Muir stated, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." In this mindset, merging art and history, mind and matter, to visually explore identity and place in not only the seen but in the unseen.

Be it in any gap in the visual field, selective or unconscious, the age of Anthropocene is gently present in the rural Midwest amongst these friends, and despite a relationship imperfectly paired – each is bound to this land and each other, blindly or otherwise.

- Suzanne Rose, 2020