

OBSERVATIONS

Georgia Tambasis & Robyn Maas

September 6 – October 27, 2023

The Top of WV CVB and Summit Art Gallery
Weirton, WV 26062

Adventures and traveling have always been a part of my life. My family would pile into a car for a month every summer to visit relatives in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The changes in landscape seen through a car window were like a movie. We visited unplanned points of interest that were advertised on road signs—hot springs, caves, rock formations, copper mines, and ancient Native American ruins. I am forever grateful for these family trips because they helped to shape my adventurous spirit. These trips are now mostly memories with little visual documentation. Now, as an artist, I document places I visit.

These images capture and document my recent adventures, which are now closer to home. I use photography as a tool for archiving what I see. Through my images I want to offer viewers a different way to (re)experience the nature and landscapes we often take for granted. The process of viewing these works is intended to be a grounding experience, a reflection on our connection with the earth's spaces, and I hope by interacting with these works the viewer might experience some peace and self-reflection.

Water: Great Lake Erie These images were taken in West Springfield, Pennsylvania. During the pandemic I spent most weekends quarantined with my friend Sean in his little cabin on the lake. I hiked the unexplored shores for miles and miles, and I was enchanted by the changing landscape of sky and earth.

Night: Arrel Farm For 12 years I have been a caretaker of an old farmhouse. I share the 200-acre property with fields of corn, hay, cows, barn cats, and numerous wildlife. The driveway is a half mile long with picturesque views that I see daily through my car window. I am surrounded by nature, and I notice the subtle changes that happen as the seasons change. I love taking night hikes under the moonlight. These night shots remind me of plein-air paintings, blurred landscapes, architecture, and my cow friends.

Water: Ganger Pond On one of my trips to West Springfield, Pennsylvania, the shoreline of Lake Erie was full of broken ice that was 6 to 10 feet high. We decided to walk the property and came upon Ganger Pond. The roots and tree limbs were reaching up but were trapped in the ice. It was like the underworld reaching up to grab us. The melting ice showed reflections of clouds and trees. It was a magical day. This property is close to the Lake Erie Bluffs, a part of Lake Metro Park. If you like to hike, I highly recommend you make the trip.

BIO:

Robyn Maas is an artist, curator, designer, and museum professional. She earned a BFA in studio art from Youngstown State University, Youngtown, OH and an MFA from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Since graduation, Robyn has been instrumental in growing the art community in Youngstown, Ohio. Annually she organizes community arts events at the Ward Bakery Building of the Mahoning Commons. Currently she is working on a project, LOOP Youngstown, whose initiative is to purchase a building to create an arts and culture center. As a visual artist, she has worked in many areas including ceramics, sculpture, installations, painting, jewelry, lamp work, glass, photography, and mixed media. Currently, she works primarily with photography, resin, and mixed media. Her work is exhibited in Youngstown, Warren, and in the Source Gallery in Lisbon, Ohio. Recent solo photography exhibitions include, ***The Ring Road of Iceland***, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH, and ***Northern Blues and the Golden West***, The Art House on Elm, Youngtown, OH. In addition to making her own work, Robyn worked as an Exhibition Designer and Production Manager for over 20 years. She also manages her warehouse studio art gallery in the Ward Bakery Building. Throughout her career, she has taught assistants and artists the importance of exhibition design, editing, displaying, installing, and handling of art. Robyn Mass has a keen eye for design and can make art shine in any space.