

**FOTOFOCUS
BIENNIAL
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OCTOBER 2018**



FOTOFOCUS

Chris Engman: Prospect and Refuge

ALICE F. AND HARRIS K. WESTON ART GALLERY

September 21–November 18, 2018

Curated by Carissa Barnard, FotoFocus Deputy Director

Prospect and Refuge, an ongoing series of work by photographer Chris Engman, investigates the medium of photography through complicated juxtapositions. This body of work explores the relationship between illusion and materiality, nature and the man-made universe, moment and memory. Through Engman's laborious process—a careful documentation and detailed re-creation—the artist asks the viewer to consider how we understand photographs and how we experience the world.

Engman works with photographs as objects in physical space, scaling them to fit into the confines of a constructed environment. A mass of photographic images is meticulously transferred to the material surfaces of a space—covering the walls, ceiling, floor, and everything in between—then photographed from one single vantage point. The result is a “straight” photograph of a manipulated existence—a fabricated reality that feels incredibly real. The logic of the two spaces overlaps, sometimes agreeing and sometimes colliding. A photograph, here and by analogy, tries and fails to be a container for moments and places.

This project explores Engman's *Prospect and Refuge* series in two parts: a suite of photographs in the East Gallery; and *Containment*, a site-specific installation in the street-level gallery. Created specifically for the FotoFocus Biennial, *Containment* offers viewers a rare glimpse into the artist's process, and the chance to see Engman's manufactured “architectural landscapes” for the first time. This constructed environment fuses the tangible and surreal, playing with preconceived notions and expectations about time, space, memory, and images as truth-telling mediums.

Chris Engman: Prospect and Refuge is a curated exhibition for the 2018 FotoFocus Biennial: *Open Archive*. Now in its fourth iteration, the Biennial spans over 90 projects at museums, galleries, and universities across Greater Cincinnati; Northern Kentucky; Dayton and Columbus, Ohio; and features more than 400 artists, curators, and educators. The *Open Archive* theme emphasizes the centrality of photography and lens-based art to modernism, and examines our fundamental need to preserve photographs and to tell stories through their collection, organization, and interpretation.

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**400 + ARTISTS
31 + DAYS
ART + EVENTS**

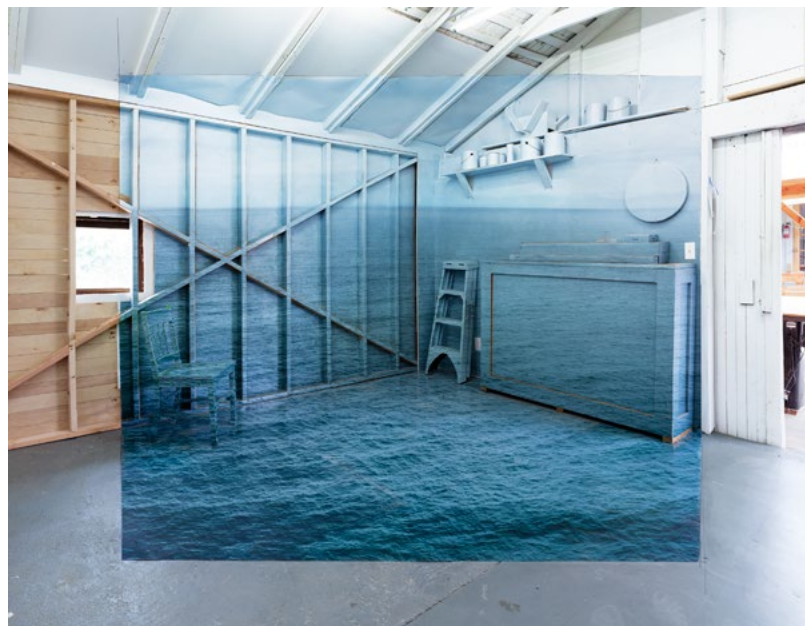


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Chris Engman, *Refraction*, 2018. Digital Pigment Print, 43 x 55½ inches. Courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles



Containment, 2018
Sight-specific installation
Approximately 131 x 304 x 493 inches
Photo by Tony Walsh



Prospect, 2016
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 55½ inches

Landscape for Candace, 2015
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 55½ inches



Containment, 2015
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 58 inches

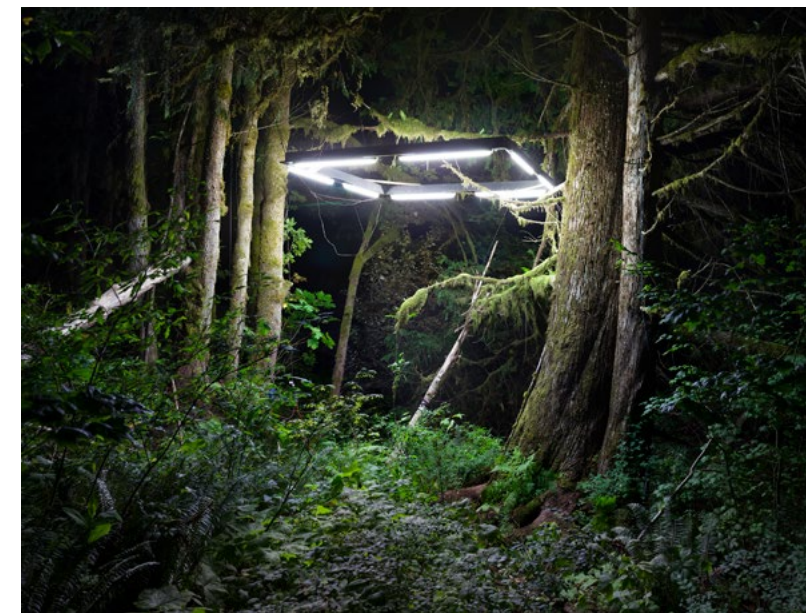
Refuge, 2016
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 53 inches





Landscape for Quentin, 2017
Digital Pigment Prints
43 x 55½ inches

Shelter, 2016
Digital Pigment Print
38 x 50 inches



Equivalence, 2017
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 55½ inches

Refraction, 2018
Digital Pigment Print
43 x 55½ inches



All works courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles

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