



PANOPTICON GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Neal Rantoul | Twenty-Five Years (1980-2005)

November 10 – January 4, 2011

Reception with the Artist
Wednesday, November 10, 2010
5:30-7:30pm

Before Leonardo DiCaprio ever walked on the set and shot his first scene for the movie *Shutter Island*, photographer Neal Rantoul had already been there. The backdrops for the movie were these abandoned houses located in a wooded area on Peddocks Island, off the coast of Boston, Massachusetts. Rantoul created a series of photographs on the island in 2004 that were included in his recent monograph *American Series*. Now off-limits to the public, the buildings lay dilapidated and decaying, part of the old Fort Andrews, an inoperative artillery post that was built to protect Boston Harbor up through World War II. In his 'series' work, Rantoul states, *"I found a way to photograph that allows me to connect pictures to pictures, forming a narrative."*

For Rantoul, he uses the concept of 'series' to organize his work, putting his ideas and thoughts behind him so he can move on to something else. He elaborates, *"I became interested in the ability to speak more completely about a place, a frame of mind, light, or the relationship between things."* Panopticon Gallery is pleased to be able to exhibit a selection of his earlier works, including photographs from Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Utah and Washington State that appear in his monograph *American Series* accompanied by images from three distinct series from around Massachusetts.

Rantoul has been a working photographer and educator for over 30 years. He has taught at Harvard University and is currently the head of photography at Northeastern University. After studying with Aaron Siskind and Harry Callahan in the early 70's at Rhode Island School of Art & Design (RISD), Rantoul would soon go on to create over 40 separate projects and continues to capture each unique place with the point-of-view of a storyteller.

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