



PANOPTICON GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE

Photographs by: Steve Rosenthal, John Woolf, Keith Johnson, Peter Vanderwarker

September 10th – November 10th, 2009

Reception: October 15th, 5 – 7 pm

Balance of form and content is the foundation for this exhibition of four photographers representing architecture and structured landscape.

Churches of Rural New England – Steve Rosenthal presents an ambitious photographic project begun in the 1960's – exquisitely crafted, large format film generated digital photographs of pristine structures. He writes: *These are the buildings which give New England towns and villages a unique sense of place and define, in many minds, the New England character. Collectively, they are as important to the cultural and architectural history of these villages as are the great cathedrals to the cities of Europe.* The quality of the whites captured in these churches are as spiritual as the structures themselves.

Night Road – John Woolf's nighttime photographs of garish and mostly commercial places, with their dominating neon and electrical lights, are stark contrast to Rosenthal's mostly white structures. Woolf writes: *Diners and other 20th century roadside vernacular architecture are quickly disappearing from the American landscape. These treasures are from a time when commercial architecture was more playful and symbolic; a time when even common structures were made with a high level of craftsmanship and imagination.* Woolf uses a digital camera and makes multiple exposures for each light source, enabling him to accurately *portray the lurid color and dramatic lighting of these roadside structures.*

Grids, Typologies, Topologies and the Extended Image – Keith Johnson's new work isolates landscape elements, laying them out in grid and multiple linear formats. He suggests that the presentation of multiple images has a very structured and multilayered effect, creating a visual experience larger than the sum of the individual parts.

Pete Vanderwarker (like Steve Rosenthal) is a professional architectural and fine art photographer. Specific images chosen from Vanderwarker's professional and fine

art photographs serve as visual reference for this exhibition. His professional architectural images of The M.I.T. Stata Center and Green Center for Physics are the epitome of visual, balancing form and content. Images from his Marfa project (an art installation in a remote West Texas desert town) sometimes quite surprisingly juxtapose the architected structure with the natural landscape.

Architectural shapes define spaces within the structures themselves. A structure's eventual success or failure is built on the relationships of these spaces. As documents of architecture and landscape, these photographs face the same challenge.