MICHIGAN’S GREAT LAKES
Photographs by Jeff Gaydash

November 16, 2019 – August 23, 2020*

DETOUR INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Albert and Peggy De Salle Gallery of Photography
www.dia.org/greatlakes

*Closing date subject to change
Large scale black-and-white photographs of Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior and others are the subject of this exhibition by Detroit-area photographer Jeff Gaydash, who captured the sublime beauty and quiet solitude of Michigan’s coastlines.

The DIA encourages Instagram submissions in keeping with the spirit of the exhibition – please use #MyGreatLakesattheDIA to post your photographs of the Great Lakes. A selection will be printed at the DIA and on view in the exhibition.
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jeff Gaydash (American, born 1972) is a photographer and printmaker who specializes in long exposure photography and fine art black-and-white printmaking.

The photographs in this exhibition (17 total) were made over a six-year period (2010-15) while he explored coastlines that are part of the Great Lakes system including Lakes Huron, Erie, Michigan and Superior as well as Lake St. Clair and the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers (Lake Ontario is not included).

Works on view are carbon pigment prints made by the artist in his Auburn Hills, Michigan studio. Photographs were printed in 2019.

Photo credit: Brian Day
I AM AMAZED by our human ingenuity and desire to master our environment. But I’m also humbled by the powerful forces of nature.

“When I head to the shores of the Great Lakes, I continually witness nature behaving in all its glory. The crystal-clear water, sandy beaches, billowing clouds and breathtaking sunsets are truly awe inspiring. It is the human artifacts that I always see in disrepair. While the pursuits of humanity have had negative effects on the environment, my confidence lies in nature’s ability to renew, repair and cleanse itself from our destructive habits. We are hurting ourselves but nature will endure, and I find that inspiring.”

—Jeff Gaydash
Lost Horizon
Muskegon, Michigan, Lake Michigan
2011 (printed 2019)

Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.108
Lake Michigan
X02STRL
Cudahy, Wisconsin, Lake Michigan
2010 (printed 2019)

Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.118
“This structure is the remains of a drainage outlet which presumably directed runoff water or perhaps sewage into Lake Michigan. When first built, I imagine it was a relatively nondescript cement structure but over time the elements have turned it into a sort of ancient ruin. The archway became known by locals as ‘the TV’ and has since collapse into the water.

The graffiti tag “X02STRL’ provides a human element to the image. I found myself wondering who tagged the wall. How long has it been there? What does it mean? What was the significance of the letters to who ever wrote it?”

—Jeff Gaydash
YES
Brevort, Michigan, Lake Michigan
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.119
The Path
Muskegon, Michigan, Lake Michigan
2011 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.115
Lake Huron
Last Known Surroundings
Forester, Michigan, Lake Huron

2011 (printed 2019)

Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.
Carbon pigment print
Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust, 2019.107
“Although majestic, much of the Great Lakes shoreline is fairly nondescript. Sandy, pebble-strewn beaches often stretch as far as the eye can see. When I happen to stumble upon a location like this at Forester Park with so much visual interest, it piques my curiosity. What is this? Why is it here? How long has it been here? What was its purpose?

I imagine a time when this was once a pier with a boat moored at the end, ready to take on passengers and carry them off to the open waters. I named it ‘Last Known Surroundings’ to suggest the point of leaving dry land.”

—Jeff Gaydash
For A Moment I Was Not Alone
Bayfield, Ontario, Canada, Lake Huron
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.106
Ruin
Port Sanilac, Michigan, Lake Huron
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.111
Lake St. Clair
On Anchor Bay
New Baltimore, Michigan, Lake St. Clair
2015 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 30 x 74 in.; Sheet: 34 x 78 in.
Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust, 2019.109
Stranded
Point Pelee, Ontario, Canada, Lake Erie
2011 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.113
“When a traditional photograph is taken, the lens opens up for only a short time—often less than a second—which creates the illusion of stopping time. However, the technique I use extends exposure times in daylight from a fraction of a second into many minutes.

This technique allows anything moving in the frame, such as clouds and water, to become blurred or smooth. Anything that does not move remains sharp. The results are often ethereal and convey a sense of time passing rather than standing still.”

—Jeff Gaydash
25 Cent View
Metro Beach, Michigan, Lake St. Clair
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.117
Detroit River
Chaos Theory
Belle Isle, Michigan, Detroit River
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.104
The Belle Isle Bridge
Detroit, Michigan, The Detroit River
2011 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.114
Zug Island
Detroit, Michigan, The Detroit River
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.120
Various Lakes
Solitude
Metro Beach, Michigan, Lake St Clair
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.112
Rockport Ruins
Rockport, Michigan, Lake Huron
2012 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 30 x 74 in.
Sheet: 34 x 78 in.
Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust, 2019.110
Three
Whitefish Point, Michigan, Lake Superior
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.116
Churning
Port Sanilac, Michigan, Lake Huron
2010 (printed 2019)
Carbon pigment print
Image: 36 x 36 in.
Sheet: 40 x 40 in.

Museum Purchase, Albert and Peggy de Salle Charitable Trust
2019.105 2
SHARE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE GREAT LAKES
Leave your response in the album.

"I often feel that my work is a collaboration with nature.
I frame the image in the camera and when the shutter opens, nature does its part."
— Jeff Gaydash
SHARE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE GREAT LAKES

#MyGreatLakesAtTheDIA
A Community View of Michigan’s Great Lakes

Share your views of Michigan’s Great Lakes. Tag the DIA using #MyGreatLakesattheDIA and we might choose your photo to display in this room.
32 likes

ambastio • Follow
Lake Superior

ambastio RIP Winter 2017-2018, you will not be missed. #mygreatlakesattheedia

Liked by simon1k, sjaksen and 242 others
mittenpics Everything is a treasure on the Lakeshore.
#paintedrocksnationallakeshore... more
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Bluewater Bridge, Sarnia / Port Huron

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March 21, 2018

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Frankfort, Michigan

41 likes
wheezer30 Sometimes ya just gotta let go and be free #puremichigan #frankfortmichigan #mygreatlakesatthedria
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Grand Haven, Michigan

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Note to teachers:
Send the following page to students for them to share their response.

Then, print and display in the classroom.
SHARE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE GREAT LAKES
#MyGreatLakesAtTheDIA