



MICHIGAN'S GREAT LAKES

Photographs by Jeff Gaydash

November 16, 2019 – August 23, 2020*

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Albert and Peggy De Salle Gallery of Photography

www.dia.org/greatlakes

MICHIGAN'S GREAT LAKES

Photographs by Jeff Gaydash

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.

The Path: Muskegon, Michigan, Lake Michigan, 2011





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.

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

Albert & Peggy De Salle
Photography Gallery

Albert & Peggy De Salle
Photography Gallery



PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY



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



Small informational text panel next to the first photograph.



Small informational text panel next to the second photograph.



"I CHOOSE TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS along the shorelines of the Great Lakes in the off season."

When there are no crowds and the weather is far from what one would deem 'a great day at the beach.' During these outings I most often find myself in complete solitude, alone in the surrounding environment, usually in harsh weather conditions that provide the most dramatic visual results.

For me, making photographs along the shorelines of the Great Lakes has been a spiritual, meditative experience.

— Jeff Gaybach

About the Artist

Jeff Gaybach (American, born 1971) is a photographer and printmaker who specializes in long exposure photography and fine art black and white printing. He took these photographs over a six year period while exploring the shorelines and towns of the Great Lakes that surround Michigan.

The works on view are carbon pigment prints made by the artist in his Auburn Hills, Michigan studio.



Xo2STRL

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 ‘Xo2STRL’ 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



Photograph courtesy of the artist. This image was taken during a storm on the western shore of Lake Huron. The water is dark and the sky is filled with dramatic clouds. The wooden posts are remnants of a pier that once stood here.





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



Small informational text panel next to the central photograph.



Informational text panel next to the photograph of tree branches.



38

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



Small informational text panel next to the left photograph.



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



Photo
by [unreadable]
[unreadable]



[unreadable]



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



MINNESOTA
MICHIGAN
WISCONSIN
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW YORK
ONTARIO (Canada)

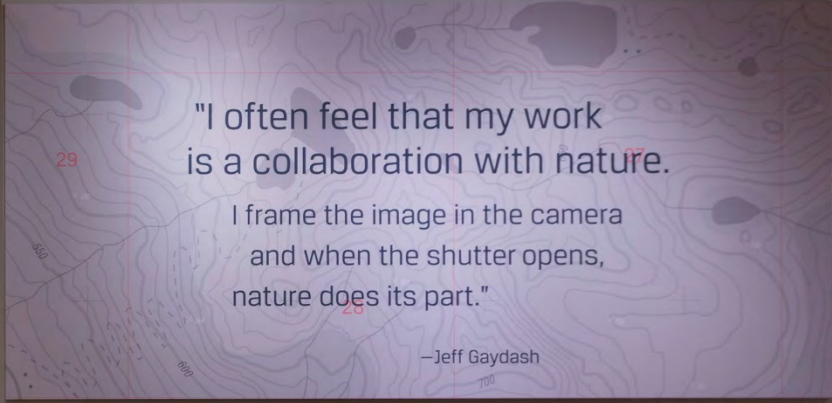
Lake Superior
Lake Huron
Lake Michigan
Lake Erie
Lake Ontario

SHARE YOUR CONNECTION
TO THE GREAT LAKES

Leave your response in the album.



A wooden table with several white stools, set up for visitors to write responses.



29
300
400
700

"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



A dark, tufted ottoman or bench.

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.





3 likes
pkms08 #MyGreatLakesAtTheDIA
February 22




32 likes
mittenphotog Only in Michigan ~ Lake Michigan in January #onlyinmichigan #surfsup #surferdude #surfers... more



32 likes
ambastio RIP Winter 2017-2018, you will not be missed. #mygreatlakesatthedia
View 1 comment



Liked by simon1k, sjaksen and 242 others
mittenpics Everything is a treasure on the Lakeshore.
#picturedrocksnationallakeshore... more

 **beachbum_prints** · Follow
Bluewater Bridge, Sarnia / Port Huron



133 likes


beachbum_prints #sarniaontario #sarnia #519 #ontario #canada 🇨🇦 #canada #pointedward #bluewaterbridges #sunsetporn #winter... more

View all 5 comments
March 21, 2018

 **allmond56** · Follow

 **wheezer30** · Follow
Frankfort, Michigan



41 likes



wheezer30 Sometimes ya just gotta let go and be free #puremichigan #frankfortmichigan #mygreatlakesatthedia

View 1 comment
July 30, 2018

 **...** · Follow

 **mittenphotog** · Following
Grand Haven, Michigan



41 likes

mittenphotog Lake Michigan #lakemichigan #michiganders #puremichigan #natgeoyourshot #michiganwinter... more

February 24, 2019

 **sjaksen** · Following
Grosse Pointe, Michigan



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

