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"Urban exploration" is the investigation of man-made structures hidden within the bustling world in which they once took part. These exhausted spaces—factories, hotels, asylums, homes, junkyards—have long been forgotten by the public, yet they paradoxically often exist in constant view of the public eye. My images thus attempt to reveal the beauty of a decaying past fixed in the present, one often as intricately detailed and colorful as our contemporary context.

We urban explorers seek to illuminate the darkness and entropy inside these forgotten worlds by taking only pictures and leaving only footprints. Trying to preserve the unique nature of each space, we keep our visits short and poignant, as most abandoned structures are on the brink of destruction, either by Mother Nature or at the hands of society. The danger of ruin lurks around every corner.

Yet it is just this element of danger that attracts most urban explorers: the thrill of trespassing on private property, the suffocating darkness, the all-encompassing silence—these are admittedly some of the things that push me forward, also. The most prominent source of my drive to explore, however, is my fear. I fear that if I am alone too long among the ghosts of the past, I will lose my way and become abandoned myself. But there is something inside of me that urges me to push the limits of my imagination. In doing so, I have discovered the histories that these transient places hide within their walls, capturing their delicacy for viewers to investigate.

Some see these places as monuments of waste, hoping either to tear them down or to see them built back up to their previous glory. But I try to see them simply as opportunities to view time as a landscape. They are a testament to the cycle of decay and renewal which we, as humans, cannot escape.

Not unlike humans, each abandoned space has its own individuality, its own character. The small, black and white images in this exhibition seek to give you a general sense of the places I have explored throughout the past year; the color images pinpoint details within the spaces depicted by the black and white images. Across these two formats, my hope is to convey the atmospheric nature of the spaces via the quality of darkness and light that black and white images create, while the varying hues and textures depicted in the color images serve to illuminate the smaller, more fragile worlds within a larger spatial context.

This duality of light and dark, color and texture, illustrates my sense of fear and wonder as I get up close and personal with these temporary, obsolete, and derelict spaces. However, I do not believe that photographs alone can do them justice. They deserve to be appreciated in person, should you choose to see them.