

Landscape – Interval

Robert Craig & Phillip Chen

Second Floor Gallery

Sept 13 - Nov 8, 2025

Exhibit Statement:

Robert Craig and Phillip Chen construct worlds in which human presence is conspicuously absent yet deeply felt. Their landscapes do not depict people, but they reveal the consequences of human agency—offering scenes that hover between nature and culture, permanence and erosion, motion and stillness. We don't simply observe these scenes; we intrude upon them, entering like accidental actors onto a film set.

Craig's sculptures capture the sensation of glimpsing a landscape from a speeding vehicle. At first glance, each element appears familiar—a rock, bones, a bird, fencing: an entanglement of random debris. Yet on closer inspection, these forms resist resolution, opening space for emerging meanings. Their ambiguity conjures ideas that cannot be directly named but are nonetheless sensed; an assemblage of parts whose seemingly precarious balance conveys an instant and simultaneously its extension through time.

Chen's paintings and woodcuts resemble actual, tangible environments, yet their photographic clarity suggests a different temporality—an evidentiary trace, the aura of something “having been there.” We are placed out of phase, in a time that feels adjacent but inaccessible. His works ask: “What deserves our stewardship? What is worth remembering?”

The works in this exhibition have the quality of a memory—half-remembered, half forgotten. Time resists chronological measurement, offering an interval that is both fleeting and enduring. The visible elements in their artworks evoke what is absent. Human presence is seen only through its traces: the imprint of altered terrain, abandoned fragments, and built environments. Craig and Chen's art asks us to consider our bond with our world—a relationship marked by entanglement, consequence, and possibility.

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