

Still Standing

Mark True

East Gallery

June 4 – August 27, 2022

Artist Statement:



I use photography to translate the world around me into a story worth telling. As a trained journalist and experienced marketer, I have always tried to understand a subject's essence, document it and communicate it to others in a way that engages, challenges and informs.

In the past, I've worked with acrylics on canvas and built assemblages with found objects. Only through the lens of a camera, however, am I able to accurately represent the subject accurately, selectively compose its placement in its environment and edit to create art that tells a compelling story.

While I can be found photographing the streets of Midwest cities, I'm more naturally drawn to the rural America and the people, architecture and landscapes that the rest of us often drive right by. I work in color and black and white, equally at home capturing the breadth of the Iowa landscape or an abstract slice of it. Whether people, animals or structures, much of my work features a simple, graphic composition that isolates the subject in its larger, contextual environment. Other images are intimately cropped to draw the viewer into the subject's world or create an abstract perspective.

I often present my images on canvases, without frames, so the subject matter is not impeded by the unnatural barrier of a frame. Big and expansive as the countryside itself.

Bio:

Mark True was born in Memphis, Tennessee, but he grew up in Iowa. He was educated in journalism at Iowa State University and has been a professional writer, graphic designer, and brand consultant for more than 30 years.

True's introduction to art included acrylics and assemblages made of found objects in the spirit of Robert Rauschenberg, but today, he uses photography to create regionalist art inspired by Grant Wood, Charles Sheeler, Edward Hopper, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

Based in Carlisle, Iowa, True's work captures the rural landscapes and small towns of Iowa and the Midwest. His work has been juried into group shows at the Polk County Heritage Gallery and the Ankeny Art Center, and he was featured in a solo show at the Ankeny Art Center in 2018.

He is the founder and current president of the North River Arts Council, a non-profit organization creating a place for artists and the arts in Warren County, Iowa.