

# New California Views

## Photography Portfolio Blanden Permanent Collection

East Gallery

January 16 - March 13, 2021

**"California was almost entirely a dream, a dream vague but deep in the minds of a westering people."**

**Bernard DeVoto,  
The Year of Decision 1846**

California has a connection to dreams and a laid-back attitude. Many artists have captured this vast landscape over time, creating images of the west's untamed territory. This exhibit is a contemporary manifesto by artists and highlights a raw and unique recording of a cultural landscape seen directly through a camera lens.

This collection presents a portfolio highlighting the individual artist's view of a changing landscape. Each image is ripe with the potential for a statement about contemporary California and contemporary photography.

California has supplied artists with a rich palette witnessed in the evolution of photographic images produced over 100 years. Over time, a record has been created that shows the enduring changes to what was called a pleasant land, transformed by imprints of the diverse aspirations, which outsiders carried to California and imposed upon it.

The west was once the untouched frontier, but now from years of settlement, it is one of America's most diversified cultural melting pots. An untamed rawness is found as cultures collide and are captured by these artists' images. They are visual poetry of a damaged dream, the destruction of the wilderness, and the untouched landscape.

The photographers utilized composition and framing to interpret images of shallow spaces and reflect the urban environment vs. the wide-open views from the past. California becomes a marketable dream found on a car lot full of the falseness of reality duct-taped and glued.

The photographs present an ironic dialog. A dialog of the California dream myth and the promise of beautiful landscape pitted against the noisy disenchantment of urban life that has been confronted by reality and human intervention. "New California Views" is a visual essay on a land that was once a wilderness turned into a multi-leveled cultural metaphor of life and a crossroads to the imagination of dreams.