

01/2019

David McMillan

Growth and Decay

Pripyat and the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

Main description

Since 1994 David McMillan has journeyed 21 times to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Inspired by his teenage memories of Nevil Shute's *On the Beach* (1957), a disturbing vision of the world following nuclear war, McMillan found in Pripyat the embodiment of an irradiated city still standing but void of human life.

As one of the first artists to gain access to "The Zone," McMillan initially explored the evacuated areas with few constraints and in solitude, save for an occasional scientist monitoring the effects of radioactivity. Returning year after year enabled him to revisit the sites of earlier photographs—sometimes fortuitously, sometimes by design—thereby bearing witness to the inexorable forces of nature as they reclaimed the abandoned communities. At times his unhurried approach to picture making led McMillan to look at unassuming subjects, which gave rise to engrossing compositions. Above all, his commitment has been to probe the relentless dichotomy between growth and decay in The Zone.

Biography

David McMillan is a Scottish-born Canadian photographer who began his career as a painter, receiving an M.F.A. in painting from the University of Wisconsin in 1973. An interest in the tension between the natural and the built environment led him to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, where he has photographed regularly since 1994. McMillan has exhibited internationally, and his grant and awards include multiple Manitoba Arts Council Visual Arts "A" Grants, two Established Artist Grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Banff Centre's Barbara Spohr Award.

Bibliography

David McMillan

Growth and Decay

Pripyat and the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

English

Book design: David McMillan, Bernard Fischer / Steidl Design

262 pages

200 photographs

30.5 x 26 cm

Clothbound hardcover with dust jacket

€ 65.00

ISBN 978-3-95829-397-7