

Concentrate to the Quiet

Dennis DeHart

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Photographs, Exhibition, & Text



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Concentrate to the Quiet-Artist Statement

I spent 5 weeks in the Nordic countries of Sweden and Finland during the summer of 2013. A majority of my time was spent in Finland as part of the Backlight Photography Festival artist residency. The other participants included artists from Belfast, Berlin, and a curator from Paris.

The residency was atypical in the sense that we convened together to dialogue and co-develop the theme of trust for the 2014 Backlight Festival. As a hybrid residency, we lived together for several weeks at the Voipaala Art Center, working, meeting, and playing together. In addition, we traveled to Helsinki and Tampere to meet with arts organizations, attend exhibitions, and learn from Finnish artists and cultural workers.

The title for Concentrate to the Quiet came from a presentation by a board member of Backlight, who stated that Voipaala was an ideal place to “concentrate to the quiet.” This sentence resonated with me personally, particularly in regards to my interest in mindfulness. The quote also aptly describes a primary aesthetic of Voipaala and perhaps Suomâ in general.

Concentrate to the Quiet is composed of color portraits, landscapes, and still lives. It also includes temporal sculptures and founds objects expressed as photographs. The photographs are informed by Scandinavia/Nordic aesthetics including light, design, quality of craft, and simplicity. There is a formal play in the work. The play manifests itself in several ways including color and light, which developed from both the observation of natural light and the mixing of artificial (flash) with available light.

The freedom to roam and related rights are called “jokamiehenoikeus” in Finnish and “allemansrätten” in Swedish, which translates as “every man’s rights”. In Finland, everyone may walk, ski or cycle freely in the countryside where this does not harm the natural environment or the landowner. I spent a good portion of my time in Voipaala and environs roaming and photographing in the country side.

Being a US citizen of Nordic decent, I felt an uncanny familiarity with the unfamiliar. The residency was also a contemplative time, as my grandmother passed away in Oregon while I was abroad. These photographs reflect my desire to boldly connect and experience the people and places of Scandinavia.

-Dennis DeHart, 2013

“What these artists aim for in their works is not to accumulate heterogeneous elements, but to make meaningful connections in the infinite text of world culture. In a word, to produce itineraries in the landscape by signs taking on the role of semionauts, inventors of pathways within the cultural landscape, nomadic sign gatherers.”

-Nicolas Bourriaud, "The Radicant"





Jokamiehenoikeus, Archival Pigment Print, 30x40, 2013



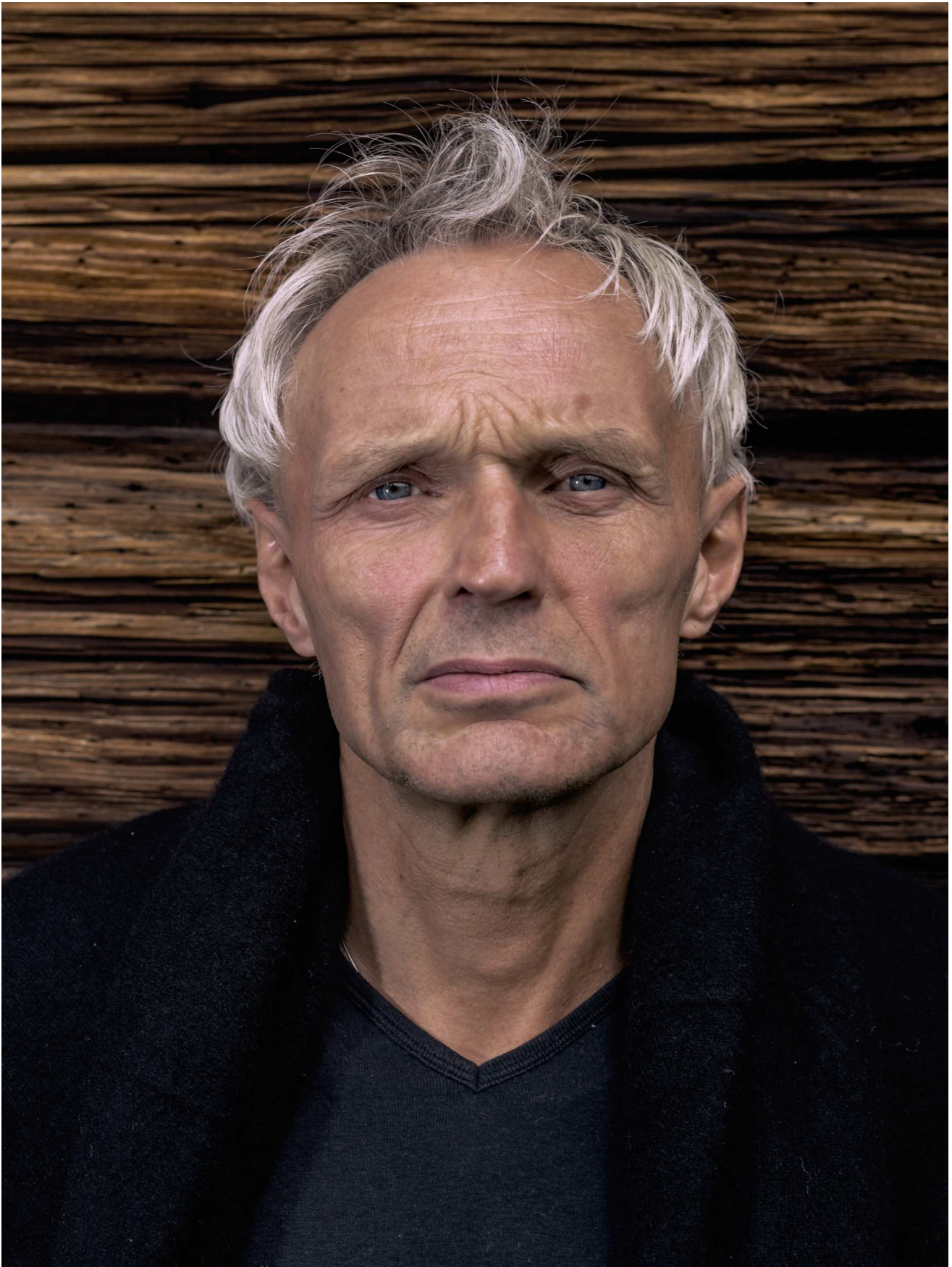
Tampere Seating, Archival Pigment Print, 30x40, 2013



Above Image, *Mushroom Map*, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013
Lower Image, *Structure (Voipaala)*, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



Above Image, *Lookout* (Lake Pyhäjärvi), Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013
Lower Image, *Triangulating* Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



The German, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



Terhi, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



The Simulacrum of Apples, Archival
Pigment Print, 30x40, 2013





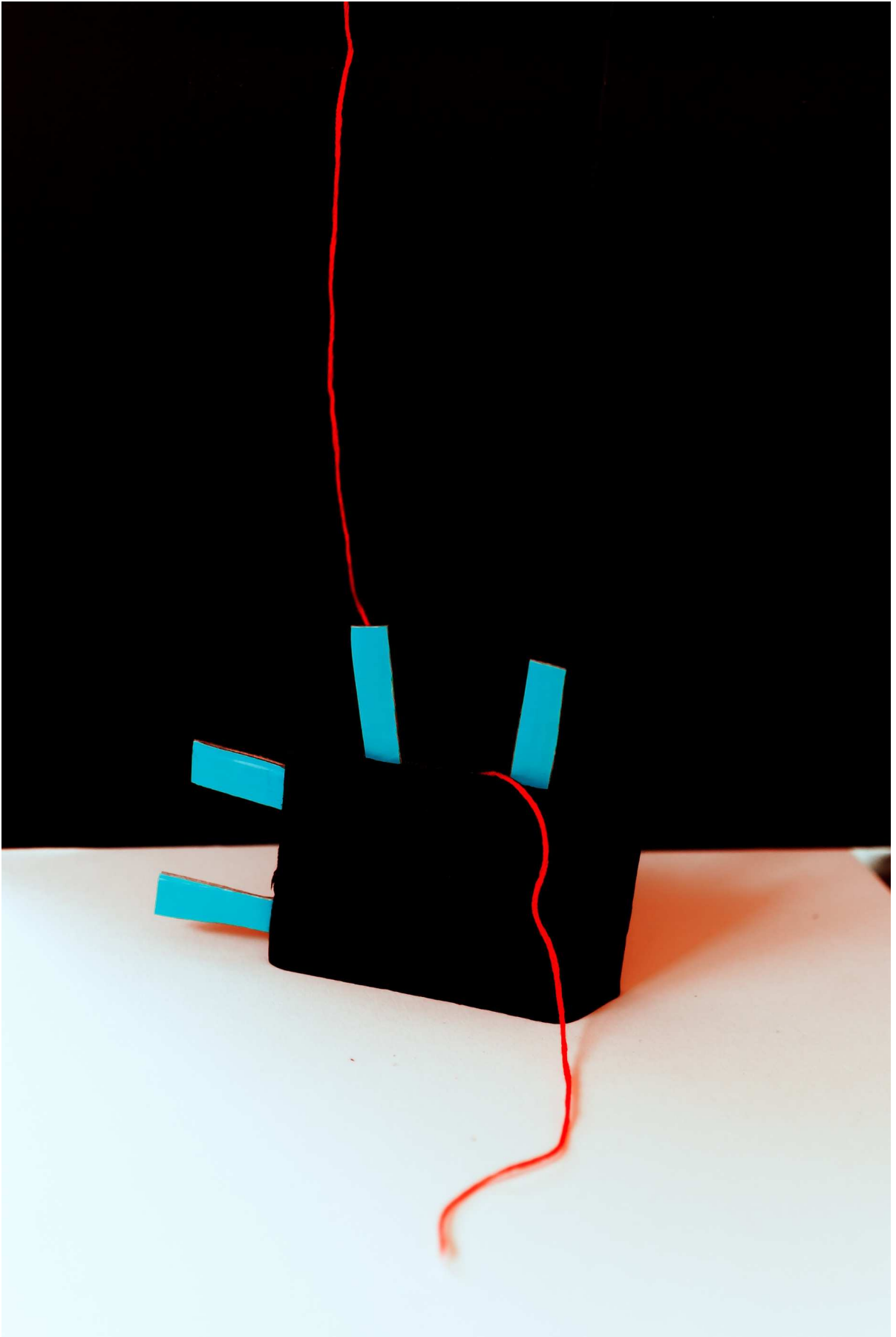
Penciling (In collaboration with the Valkeakoski Youth Art School), Archival Pigment Print, 30x40, 2013



Above Image: *Stir Sticks Drying*, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013
Lower Image: *Children's Work*, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



Childrens Toy's (Stockholm) Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



Temporal Sculpture (Study #14), Archival Pigment Print, 22.5x28, 2013



Clare, Archival Pigment Print, 24x30, 2013



Installation Views, *Spot Photo Works*, Los Angeles, August, 2014. The solo show included 22 archival pigment prints ranging in size from 11"x14" to 30"x40".





Valokeskus **nykyaika** **Backlight**
Photographic Centre PHOTO FESTIVAL

visuaalisen **frame**
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Previous Page: Images from opening at *Spot Photo Works*, Sunset Blvd./Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, August 2, 2014

Above Images: Snapshots from *Backlight Photo Festival/Residency* including *Frame Finland*, Helsinki, *HIAP Residency / Suomenlinna*, Portfolio Review, *Photo Center Nykyaika*, Tampere, *Voipaala Art Center*, Valkeakoski, August 1-30, 2013. Photos by Tuula Alajoki.

SPOT Photo Works announces its August 2, 2014 opening in the landmark architectural buildings known as “Crossroads of the World” at 6679 Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. SPOT, a contemporary photography gallery, will present the work of artists whose images reference nature and development, notions of home and family, social change and identity – in other words, life and the human experience.

In its inaugural exhibition, Spot Photo Works is pleased to present “Concentrate To The Quiet,” new photographs by artist Dennis DeHart. An opening reception will be held Saturday, August 2, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm with the exhibition continuing through September 16, 2014.

Compelled by the connections, conflicts, and intersections of the natural and cultural worlds, Dennis DeHart’s work weaves together stylistic observation with a personal voice. Experiencing place through participation is an important conceptual component as DeHart states: “My main concern is in expressing interconnections; that what we do in our own backyard has a broader affect on the larger world we live in.”

“Concentrate to the Quiet” is composed of color portraits, landscapes and still lives taken while Dennis DeHart was an artist-in-residence at the Backlight Photography Festival held at Voipaala Art Center in Finland. The work includes temporal sculptures and found objects expressed as photographs. “In Finland, everyone may walk, ski or cycle freely in the countryside where this does not harm the natural environment or the landowner. I spent a good portion of my time in Voipaala and environs roaming and photographing in the countryside.” The resulting photographs are informed by Scandinavia/Nordic aesthetics including light, design, quality of craft, and simplicity.

Dennis DeHart (b. 1970, Hood River, OR) is an artist and Assistant Professor of Photography at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. He previously served as an Assistant Professor of Photography at State University of New York College at Buffalo. DeHart received an MFA in photography from the University of New Mexico in 2002. He was awarded grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Dennis DeHart’s photographs are included in private and public collections including the Getty Archives in Los Angeles, The City of Phoenix, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Most recently DeHart lectured at the University of Nantes in France and exhibited his photographs in a solo exhibition at the Pingyao International Photo Festival in China. This is his first Los Angeles exhibition.

SPOT Photo Works is a partnership between Kathleen Clark and Russell Adams. SPOT’s Director Kathleen Clark, has mounted exhibitions at a variety of locations including Clark|Oshin Gallery, Leica Gallery Los Angeles and Month of Photography LA, exhibiting such artists at Dan Winters, Jill Greenberg, Hugh Kretschmer, Marjorie Salvaterra, David Strick, Fredrik Broden and Gregg Segal. She was the longtime Photo Director at Los Angeles magazine and LA Weekly and was Publicist for the NW Film Center at the Portland Art Museum. She has an MFA from UC Irvine, and her personal and collaborative work showed extensively throughout the West Coast in the 1980s-90s.

Russell Adams has owned and operated Schulman Photo Lab (located next door to SPOT) since 1991. The boutique analog darkroom and digital lab specializes in fine art exhibition printing as well as printing and drum scanning for photographic book projects. Clients for Russell Adams’ master photographic printing include a range of established and emerging fine art photographers, cinematographers and publishers. Adams studied Art at Tulane University.

Spot Photo Works location at Crossroads of the World follows a long and storied tradition of the complex housing creative businesses and artists from a variety of disciplines. Designed by architect Robert V. Derrah and built in 1936, Crossroads of the World was initially opened as America’s first outdoor shopping mall. Derrah’s unusual design features a central streamline moderne building resembling a cruise ship at dock between buildings reflecting an array of international village themes: Spanish, Moroccan, English Cottage.

The quirky and intimate design drew an extensive clientele of tenants for Crossroads’ office space including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Beatrice Wood, Alfred Hitchcock, Tim Burton and Taschen Books, while numerous musicians recorded or rehearsed at the complex including Crosby, Stills & Nash, Bonnie Raitt, The Eagles, Melissa Etheridge, Fleetwood Mac, Gladys Knight, BB King, and Aretha Franklin. In short, a visit to Spot Photo Works, is also an opportunity to view one of Los Angeles and Hollywood’s architectural gems.

Press Release, Spot Photo Works, July 2014



