



Variation 1 Salt Marsh High Tide View

I am a walker. I amble, saunter, stride, trip through all climates in anticipation of enduring my own weather systems. I am aware, as I walk, of emotions as they rupture and extract in my wake, overlay landscapes with too human desires and expectations. Nature, here, though is not seeped in nostalgia – nature becomes solace, healer, educator just as it remains autonomous, prey, predator. Framed thus, nature reveals little about itself, if anything at all. Nature’s opaqueness upends any scale I apply for comparison. I am the transparent one. Any sensible affectation remains a mockery – bittersweet – of my walking as immersive. No matter how deeply I inhale, exhale, gaze, taste, touch, listen, these saltwater lands accentuate my presence as performer. I am a stalker.

[>>>> FORWARD]



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A Remnant Salt Marsh

by Lisa Szabo-Jones



Variation 2 Salt Marsh High Tide View

Blackie Spit, a remnant salt marsh, at the confluence of the Nikomekl, Serpentine Rivers and the Salish Sea, denatures. Middens and pilings, there is no finality to this water land's occupation. There is only an enduring present. Snokomish, smallpox, Semiahmoo, honeybees, Chinese labourers, railroad, draining and diking, oyster farms, Sikh labourers, summer resort, birding, sailing, agriculture, condos... within the constraints of specific conditions unpredictable material transformations emerge and these indeterminate relations are what make all responsible for the health of these saltwater lands.

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A Remnant Salt Marsh

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Variation 1 Northwest Crows at Rest

Despite their rich natural history and their significant role in human history, salt marshes' monocultural (and monochromatic) expanses often fail to inspire understanding that these seeming coastal barrens maintain a distinct and crucial ecological role. As interstitial habitats, as significant 'blue' carbon repositories, they are integral to the health of both terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems in mitigating the effects of climate change (if left intact). Furthermore, they secure shorelines from erosion; buffer storms and flooding; act as a nursery and feeding ground to sea and terrestrial life; serve as resting grounds for migrating birds; and provide humans with nourishment.

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A Remnant Salt Marsh

by Lisa Szabo-Jones

Years of seasonal retreats and returns – winter, spring, summer, fall – exercise attempts to destabilize my finder’s fixed position on and within this wetland. The images mobilizing manifest in pastoralizing artifice and enact a complexity that emerges materially in the blending of digital, 19th and 20th century photographic process. Each image cannot be replicated; each iteration, as with a salt marsh environment, becomes an expression of variability.



Variation 2 Northwest Crows at Rest

Salt marshes are open systems, their formation and continuance dependent on tidal fluctuation, turbidity and deposition. Each image is contingent upon fluctuations in material properties: duration, exposure, application, substrate, chemical balance, pigment, water, humidity, and temperature. As such, the images’ processing intersects with the salt marsh ecosystem’s unpredictability and obliges a slow, responsive relationship, and in doing so, proffers an ethic that embraces uncertainty.

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A Remnant Salt Marsh

by [Lisa Szabo-Jones](#)



Seasonal Return, Low Tide



[>>>> BIOS | COVER]



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