CAPE MAY: At the Edge of America

Photographs by Michael Domino

Artist Statement

Cape May exists at an edge—where land gives way to the Atlantic and generations of American history seem to gather in one place.

I photographed Cape May not simply as a seaside resort, but as a landscape shaped by survival, work, war, agriculture, architecture, and the sea. Victorian hotels and houses stand beside military towers, fishing vessels, farm machinery, lifesaving equipment, roadside relics, and reminders of the people who built and defended this coastal community.

In these photographs, I remove the visual distractions of the present and place each subject within a spare landscape of dry grass and open sky. A lighthouse, an abandoned ice cream stand, a fishing boat, a military aircraft, a Victorian house, or an old tractor is allowed to stand alone. Removed from its ordinary surroundings, each becomes less an object in a particular location and more a monument to the life that once surrounded it.

The series moves between two histories that have always defined Cape May: the elegance of the resort town and the harder history of the working coast. Fishing boats and anchors share the landscape with grand hotels; military artifacts appear beside farm equipment; lifesaving vessels and memorials recall the constant presence—and danger—of the sea.

I am interested in what remains after the people have gone: the buildings, machines, vessels, signs, monuments, and weathered objects that continue to carry their stories.

CAPE MAY: At the Edge of America is my portrait of a place where those stories remain unusually visible—a community standing between preservation and disappearance, memory and change, land and sea.

--Michael Domino

Biography

Michael Domino is a New York photographer whose work explores memory, history, and the passage of time through carefully constructed photographic exhibitions.

His recent projects include DOMINO: A Meditation on Time, Camp Hero, and HERITAGE, each transforming familiar subjects into contemplative visual narratives that exist somewhere between documentary photography and fine art.

Michael's work is inspired by the belief that ordinary places and objects often possess extraordinary stories waiting to be rediscovered.

Contact

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Cape May



Cape May Lighthouse



The Chalfonte



The Red Victorian



The Blue Victorian



The Purple Victorian



Congress Hall



Schooner



Stone Church



Harriet Tubman Museum



Cape May Lost Fisherman Memorial



World War II Lookout Tower



Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum Chapel



U.S. Army Field Gun



U.S. Army Helicopter



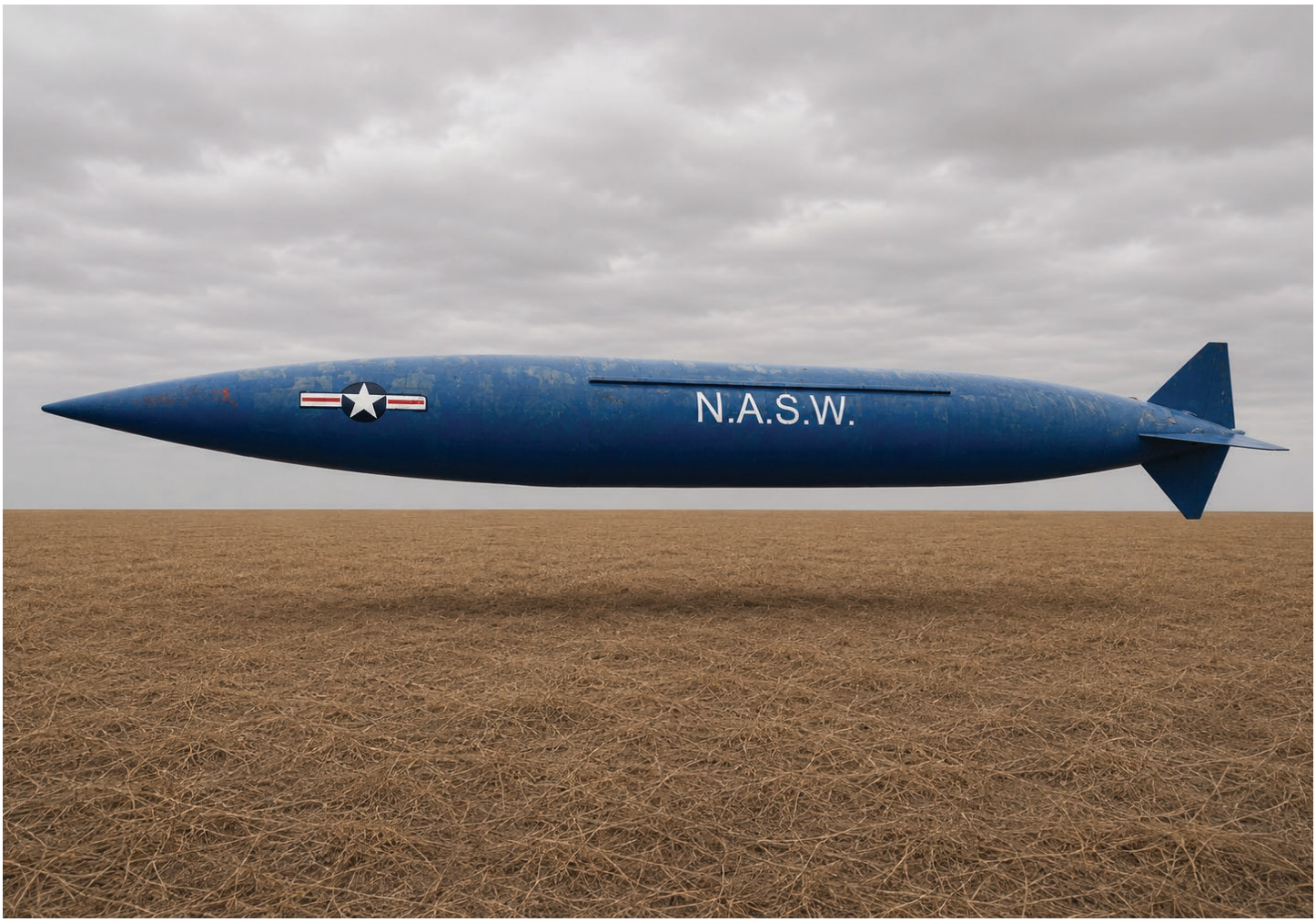
Army Observation Helicopter



Lady Luck



Military Transport Aircraft



Naval Air Station Weapon



Cape May Fire Bell



U.S. Coast Guard Life-Saving Boat



Cape Henlopen



Atlantic Capes



Nancy Elizabeth



Cape May Lifeboat



The Concrete Wreck



The Old Anchor



Black-and-White Anchor



The Thirty-Seven Pound Lobster



Mermaid and Dolphin



The Captain



Marlin



Cold Spring Brewery



Willow Creek Winery



Tuckey's Farm Market



Roadside Produce



Hidden Valley Riding Center



Ford Tractor



John Deere Baler



Chicken Silo



The Old Silo



Ship Yard Lift Truck



Abandoned Ice Cream Stand



Blue Farm Truck



Old Farm Structure



Victorian House



The American Safari



Cape Cod Inn