

PINNACLE II

Photographs by Michael Domino

Artist Statement

Pinnacle II grew from a simple idea: remove an object from the world in which I found it and give it a world of its own.

The photographs begin with things I have encountered and photographed—buildings, machines, boats, sculpture, agricultural equipment, maritime artifacts and remnants of Long Island history. I isolate them from their original surroundings and place them on an open, nearly endless plain beneath a gray sky. Without the visual noise of their original environments, familiar objects begin to change. A rusted machine can become sculpture. A lighthouse can become a monument. A forgotten truck can become a portrait.

The plain is intentionally spare. It has no particular address and no particular moment in time. Objects that could never have occupied the same landscape are allowed to exist together. Scale shifts. History overlaps. Some images remain quiet and documentary in spirit; others move toward humor, memory, mystery and the surreal.

Despite their differences, these subjects have something in common. They are things that caught my attention and made me stop. Many bear evidence of use, weather, labor and age. Others survive because someone thought they were worth preserving. By separating them from their surroundings, I am asking the viewer to look at them again—not simply for what they were made to do, but for what they have become.

Pinnacle II is ultimately about seeing. It is a collection of objects and places removed from ordinary context and brought together in one imagined landscape—a place where history, memory and invention can occupy the same ground.

— Michael Domino
Port Jefferson, New York

Biography

Michael Domino is a photographer, writer and filmmaker based in Port Jefferson, New York. His photographic work explores Long Island's architecture, maritime heritage, working landscapes, industrial remnants and found objects, often transforming his original photographs by isolating their subjects within a recurring spare landscape of dry grass and gray sky.

Domino works in extended photographic series, allowing a single subject to develop into a larger visual narrative. His bodies of work have explored Camp Hero in Montauk, Long Island barns and structures, working waterfronts, whaling history, anchors, boats, agricultural machinery, rusted vehicles and other artifacts of regional life.

His approach combines photography with digital transformation while retaining the photographed object as the foundation of the image. By removing surrounding distractions and relocating the subject to an invented landscape, Domino emphasizes form, age, surface and history and creates a visual language that moves between documentation and imagination.

In addition to photography, Domino has worked as a novelist, poet, screenwriter and film producer. Across these disciplines, his work is connected by an interest in place, memory, history and the overlooked objects that remain after the world around them has changed.

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Camp Hero Radar Tower - Montauk, NY



Camp Hero Large Gun Battery - Montauk, NY



Brutalist Architecture



Double Diamond Beach House



Silo



Grain & Feed Silos



Lighthouses on the Plain



Lighthouse Down



The Witch's Hat



The Star Gazer - 1991



White Sculpture



Man on the Endless Plain



Woman and Stag



Caesars - 1890



Whaler's Wife



Winnie the Witch - St. James



The Castle at Westhampton - 1904



Elegance



The Golden Bull



Rearing Stallions



Running Driftwood Horses



Barn and Rabbit



Farm Hand Tools on the Plain



Rust Tractor



Giant Piston - 1908



Machines



Duck Farm Equipment



Duck Farm Valve



Duck Farm Compressor



Duck Farm Lamps



One-Eyed Buried Pickup



Wrecked Pickup with Surfboard



Buried Truck



A Place of the Past



Americana



Airport Diner



Vintage NY Police Cars



Cabanas



Historic Cabin Cruiser



Viking Star



Fisherman



Trawler's Nets



Early Generation Outboard Motors



Propeller



Buoy Field



Large Wooden-Stock Anchor



Harpoons and Whale Vertebrae



Corset with Whale Bones



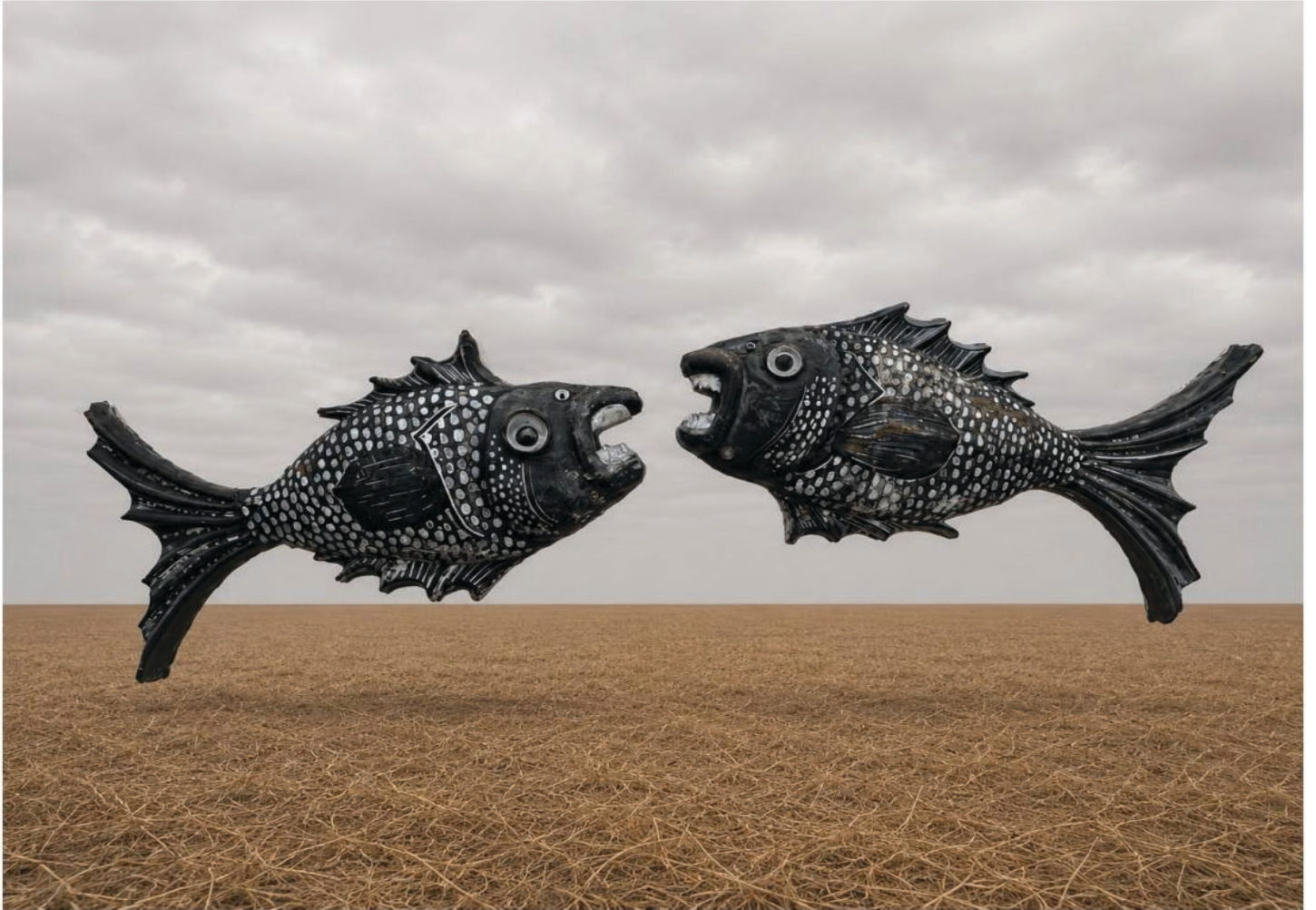
Metallic Fish and Bones



Flying Fish



School of Metal Fish



Fighting Fish



Jaws



Rocket