Yaphank and Beyond

Photographs by Michael Domino

Artist Statement

Yaphank feels different from much of Long Island. Beyond the traffic and development that define so much of the region, there remains a quieter, more rural landscape—old farms, weathered trucks, agricultural machinery, roadside stands, modest buildings, and objects that seem to have survived from another time.

I came to Yaphank looking for that landscape.

What interested me were not grand landmarks, but the things encountered almost accidentally along the road: an old farm truck partly hidden beneath the trees, a tractor and its implements, a vintage pickup still carrying the character of another era, an unusual piece of rusted machinery, a roadside honor stand, a small wooden shed, horseshoes welded into a structure, and other remnants of working rural life.

These objects are not presented as nostalgia. They have been used, repaired, abandoned, repurposed, and left behind. Their worn surfaces—the rust, faded paint, weathered wood,
dents and imperfections—are part of their history.

In my photographs, I remove much of the contemporary landscape surrounding them and place the subjects within a simplified environment of dry grass and open sky. Roads, utility lines, trees, signs, buildings and other distractions disappear. What remains is the object itself.

Removed from its ordinary surroundings, a truck becomes almost sculptural. A piece of farm machinery becomes an artifact. A simple roadside structure can take on the presence of a monument.

Yaphank and Beyond is about discovering an older, quieter Long Island that still exists in fragments. It is a landscape of farms, machinery, roadside objects and working things—evidence of generations of people who built, repaired, planted, hauled and made do with what they had.

I am interested in those remnants precisely because they are ordinary.
They were never intended to become monuments.

The photographs simply give them the space to become one.

— 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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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church — 1853

Homan-Gerard House — c. 1820

Hawkins House — 1850

Historic Yaphank Hall

Pat & Don's Pumpkin Patch

Yaphank Garage — Shell Pumps

Yaphank Garage — Tow Truck

Shell Gas Pump

Historic Bus Stop

Green Camp Sobaco Cabin

Blue Camp Cabin

Robin's Roost

Weathered Red Farm Building

Roadside Firewood & Seedling Stand

Teardrop Camper

Yaphank Fire Department Memorial

Deer

Wagon Wheel

Red Hand Water Pump

Massive Grinding Stone

Antique Farm Wheel Mechanism

Oliver 77 and Harrow

Rust Tractor and Barn

Yellow Farm Tractor

Antique Farm Planter

Weathered Wooden Farm Implement

Jaws

1936 Town Grader

1929 Tow Hone

1945 Tow Broom

Military Dump Truck

Raymond Brothers Farm Truck

Vintage Farm Market Truck

Gold Chevrolet C10

Suffolk County Police Cruiser

Vintage Suffolk County Police Car

The Last Car

Still Running