Ocala on the Plain

Photographs from Central Florida

by Michael Domino

A PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES

Artist Statement

I drove through Ocala and the surrounding farm country stopping for things that caught my eye: a pink roadside store, an old mower, a red bridge, a drive-in screen. I photographed them where I found them. Back in the studio, I took them out of their surroundings and placed them in a landscape I call the Plain, where dry grass runs to a low horizon under a gray sky.

The pink store still says “Open,” and there’s a pickup out front, but the road is gone. The red bridge still offers a crossing, though the same field stretches out on either side. I like the moment when you recognize something and then realize it’s doing something you can’t quite explain.

I kept the details that made me stop in the first place: the teeth on the mower blade, the green clock on the stone building, the little curtains in the silver trailer. They give the pictures a foothold in the real world. The space around them lets me imagine what else they might be.

Artist Bio

Michael Domino is a photographer, writer, and independent filmmaker who divides his time between Long Island, New York, and Central Florida. He photographs the things he comes across on back roads, working waterfronts, farms, and industrial sites, from old outboard motors to retired railroad equipment.

In his series on the Plain, he begins with his own photographs and digitally places his subjects in an open landscape of dry grass and gray sky. His exhibition Route 27 at Hampton Bays Public Library grew out of stops along Long Island’s South Shore. For Ocala on the Plain, he brought that same eye to the farm country and roadside architecture of Central Florida.



Colorful Horse Sculptures Across a Misty Plain



Desolate Silver Trailer in a Gray Field



Eight Weathered Houses Under Storm Clouds



Empty Drive-In Screen in a Golden Field



Horses Facing Over a Rounded Bush



Isolated Clock Building on the Domino Plain



Isolated Two-Tone Storefront in Open Field



Lone Stone Lighthouse in Golden Fields



Lonely Pink Roadside Store



Lonely Well and Distant Yellow Horse



Painted Racehorse on Open Plain



Prickly Pear Tree on the Domino Plain



Red Bridge on the Desolate Plain



Rust Dinosaur Sculpture in a Misty Field



Rustbound Bulldozer with Perched Hawk



Rusted Mower on the Endless Plain



Rustic Tractor and Distant Barn Plain



Rusty Corvair in a Golden Field



Rusty Prairie Barn Under Stormy Skies



Rusty Vintage Corvair on the Grassland



Vintage Drive-In Concession Stand



Vintage Ocala Drive-In Ticket Canopy



Weathered Bank Facade with Antique Green Clock



Weathered Barn Under Gray Skies



Weathered Black Corvette in a Golden Field



Weathered Blue Chevrolet Nova in Field



Weathered Bronze Bison on Open Plains



Weathered Corvette Graveyard in Golden Grass



Weathered Drive-In Theatre Façade



Weathered El Camino in Golden Grass



Weathered Flamingo Under Stormy Skies



Weathered Stingray in a Dry Field



Weathered Ticket Booths on the Prairie



Weathered Tractor and Watchful Hawk



Weathered Vintage Car in an Empty Field



Weathered Vintage GMC in Golden Grass



Weathered Wheel and Hollow Stone on the Plains



Weathered Yellow Horse in a Gray Field