

cynthia byrnes
contemporary art

Alex MacLean
Artist Statement

For me, the art of aerial photography is the experience of piloting myself through three-dimensional space, while capturing perspectives that bring together light, atmosphere, and patterns to make meaningful, two-dimensional compositions. The views from my plane offer infinite perspectives on the landscape, which itself provides unlimited subject matter. Across these variations are recurrent themes that reveal transitions and contrasting conditions within landscapes, such as pathways, borders, edges, and overlays. The information embedded in these motifs, which serve as organizing principles to my work, piece together the history of our natural and built environments. The resulting photographs are a means of storytelling, providing an illustrative representation of process, culture, and the effects of time.

Although my flight path is premeditated, unanticipated variables that arise while I shoot largely inform my work. The perspective from above is unworldly from our normal point of view, offering patterns and spatial relationships that cannot be preconceived. Part of the experience, and what makes my work interesting, is the moment of discovery and recognizing the unexpected picture. I rarely modify or crop my images in the studio; the finished photograph captures the moment as I saw it from the plane. My images express my thoughts and feelings about what is happening in the environment, and I intend for them to evoke curiosity and emotion in the viewer.