



Photograph: Constance Mensh

# THE DISAPPOINTED TOURIST

## ELLEN HARVEY

JANUARY 16 - MARCH 9

Painting in a style reminiscent of vintage tourist postcards, *The Disappointed Tourist* is an ongoing project of 300 paintings of lost sites suggested by members of the public. It was inspired by the urge to repair what has been lost due to the forces of war, time, ideology, gentrification, and natural disasters. It attempts to honor the trauma underlying the nostalgia that results from our collective and individual losses, while celebrating the human attachment to places both real and aspirational. With our partner organizations we disseminated a call for suggestions throughout the Glassboro community and received over 40 submissions. Ellen selected several suggested sites which have been added to this new iteration of the installation including the **Whitney Brother's Glass Factory, Salem Oak, Bay Point, Zee Orchards, Vineland Speedway, Palace of Depression, Blockbuster Video, Eighty Acres, Philadelphia Art Club, Veterans Stadium** and **grandparent's backyard**.

Project partners:

ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
ART GALLERY & MUSEUM



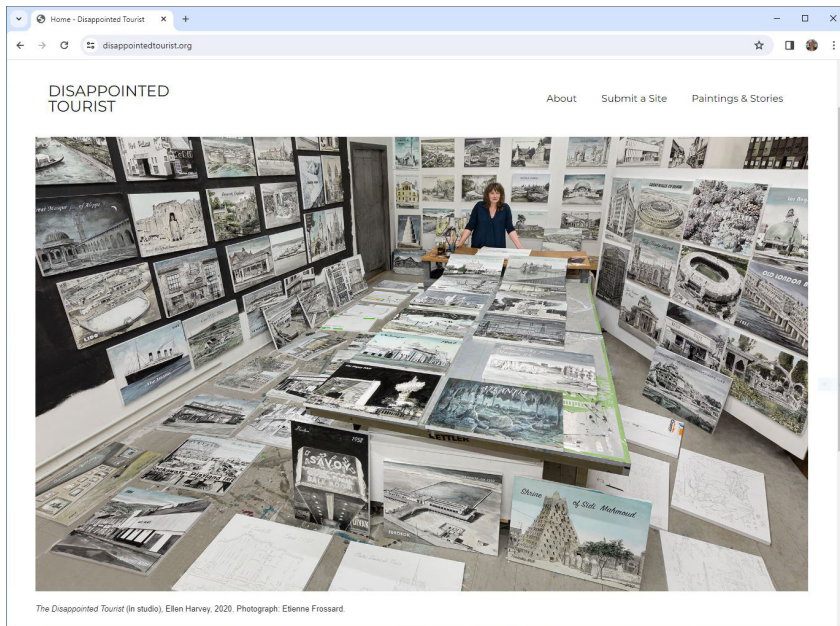
GLOUCESTER COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Glassboro  
Historical  
Society



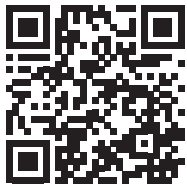
## ARTIST STATEMENT

All paintings are based on sites submitted by the public in response to the question “**Is there a place that you want to visit or revisit that no longer exists?**” The site need not be famous – just some place that is special to you and that no longer exists. It can be a site that disappeared before you were born or some place that you loved to visit or had always wanted to visit. It needn't be a building – it can be a natural site or even a tree. It can even be a place that never existed.



Photograph: Etienne Frossard

**“We live in a world that often feels as though it is vanishing before our eyes.** Places we love disappear. Places we have hoped to visit cease to exist. The forces of war, time, ideology, greed and natural disaster are constantly remaking places that we love but cannot control or save. The Disappointed Tourist is inspired by the urge to repair what has been broken. It makes symbolic restitution, literally remaking lost sites, at the same time that it acknowledges the inadequacy of such restitution. It is inspired both by old postcards and by the tradition of tourist painting – both the paintings produced for wealthy tourists to take home and the touring paintings that allowed pre-photographic viewers to experience far-off places. It attempts to honor the trauma underlying the nostalgia that results from our collective and individual losses, while celebrating the human attachment to places both real and aspirational. It tries to create a level playing field in which personal losses and larger cultural losses can meet and be recognized and create a new conversation about our love for our physical environment, harnessing nostalgia to create empathy rather than division.”



Scan the code to visit *The Disappointed Tourist* project website. There you can search the project using name, place or any other identifying information, or you can scroll through all 300 paintings. Click on the images for information about each site and quotes from participants.



## NEW PAINTINGS



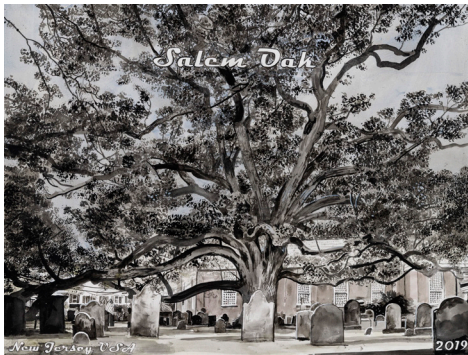
*Whitney Brothers Glass Factory, 2023*  
Submitted by Heritiage Glass Museum

The “Glass Works in the Woods”, founded in 1779, became Whitney in 1835, one of the largest and most successful glass factories in South Jersey. The glass industry declined, and the main factory closed in 1920. The site is now home to the Heritage Glass Museum and Angelo’s Diner and is slated for development by Nexus into commercial storefront and apartment buildings.



*Peach Farm, 2023*  
Submitted by Mary S.

Known for their JerZee peaches sold at the roadside market, Zee Orchards was started in 1943. With a reputation for modern and efficient peach processing, due to financial difficulties in 2000 Zee sold more than 200 acres to Rowan University and in 2013 the orchard shut down. It is now the site of Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill and Rowan University West Campus Turf Complex.



*Salem Oak, 2023*  
Submitted by Leo O. Photography

Named one of the 50 most historic trees in the US and declared the largest white oak in New Jersey, the estimated 600 year old Salem Oak fell in 2019. The last of the old growth forest, legend says in 1675 John Fenwick, of the first English settlement in South Jersey, signed a treaty with the Lenni Lenape, the local tribal nation, under its branches.



*Vineland Speedway, 2023*  
Submitted by Gary M.

The Vineland Speedway opened as a half-mile oval dirt track in 1955. By 1958 the track was paved and the Speedway had grown to include a 1.5 mile road course and a quarter-mile drag strip. Offering stock car, drag, and sports car races it was a popular area attraction. It was closed in 1965, the land to be used for Rowan College of South Jersey.



*Bay Point New Jersey, 2023*  
Submitted by Jerica H.

Bay Point was a small town on the Delaware Bay. The intensity of 21st century storms brought damage and flooding. The state implemented a buyout program, Blue Acres, to allow the land to return to its natural habitat bringing both climate resiliency and economic downturn to the area. In contrast, the state has repeatedly put money into rebuilding the Atlantic shoreline.



*Eighty Acres Neighborhood, 2023*  
Submitted by Glassboro Memory Mapping Project

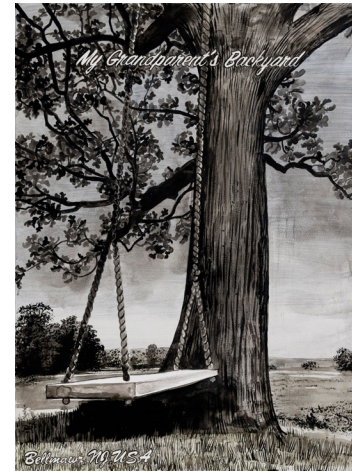
Eighty Acres, in the Elsmere neighborhood of Glassboro, was the site of an unsuccessful real estate development in the 1920s due to systemic racism preventing prospective Black homeowners from getting mortgages. In the early 1960’s the Ellis Manor public housing complex was built. Torn down in 2017, the area is now the site of a rent supported 55+ community.





*Palace of Depression, 2023*  
Submitted by Lori R.

The Palace of Depression was built during the Great Depression out of concrete and junk by George Daynor who noted, “the only real depression is a depression of individual ingenuity.” Daynor offered tours until falling ill in 1961. A target of vandalism and arson, the City of Vineland razed it in 1969. The Palace of Depression Restoration Association is currently rebuilding the Palace on the original site.



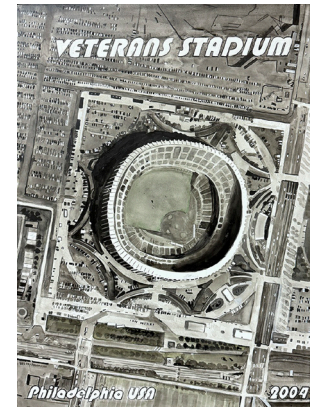
*My Grandparent's Backyard, 2023*  
Submitted by Laurie L.

While this site is located in Bellmawr, NJ, where the submitter has lots of great memories of a tree swing and vegetable garden, a grandparent's backyard can serve as a universal concept. A grandparent's place can conjure thoughts and feelings of love and family and the reminiscing of childhood.



*Blockbuster Video, 2023*  
Submitted by Brandon M.

When Blockbuster started in 1985, the only way to watch movies at home was to purchase or rent a VHS tape (later, DVD disc). Blockbuster made its name by having a wide selection and numerous copies of big hits. However they failed to shift their business as technology changed and in 2013 announced they would be ending operations.



*Veterans Stadium, 2024*  
Submitted by Jimmy S.

Veterans Stadium in South Philadelphia served as the home of the Phillies and the Eagles from 1971 to 2003. The Philadelphia fans contributed a unique energy in fierce support of the home teams. While “The Vet” was admired when it first opened, the stadium had deteriorated and was torn down in 2004. The site is now a parking lot for Citizens Bank Park and Lincoln Financial Field.



*Philadelphia Art Club, 2023*  
Submitted anonymously

Philadelphia Art Club was founded in 1887 to advance the fine arts. Their new building featured galleries, a library, a cafe and private club spaces. The Art Club dissolved in 1940 leaving the building vacant. It was torn down in 1975-1976. It is now the site of a parking garage and sports club for the adjacent Bellevue Hotel as well as a “gentlemen’s” club.

**The dates seen on the paintings indicate date of destruction.**

All painting images © Ellen Harvey, Photo credit: Etienne Frossard. Each painting is 24 x 18 inches, monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panel.

## KEY TO NEW PAINTINGS

### RIGHT WALL

*Whitney Brother's Glass Factory* - column 3, row 2

*Salem Oak* - column 1, row 5

*Bay Point New Jersey* - column 2, row 3

*Peach Farm* - column 3, row 4

*Vineland Speedway* - column 5, row 1

*Palace of Depression* - column 2, row 5

*My Grandparent's Backyard* - column 6, row 1

*Blockbuster Video* - column 9, row 1

*Veterans Stadium* - column 6, row 2

*Philadelphia Art Club* - column 12, row 3

### BACK WALL

*Eighty Acres Neighborhood* - column 14, row 3

*columns count from left to right*

## ARTIST BIO

**Ellen Harvey** is a British-born conceptual artist whose work ranges from guerrilla street interventions to immersive institutional installations to large-scale public artworks. Her work is painting-based but utilizes a wide variety of media and participatory strategies to explore our relationship to the world around us.

Her current project *The Disappointed Tourist*, for which she has been painting lost sites suggested by members of the public, has formed the centerpiece of a traveling retrospective that has been exhibited at the Butler Gallery (Ireland), Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art (Poland), Museum der Moderne Salzburg (Austria) and Turner Contemporary (UK). The exhibition at Turner Contemporary was selected by Frieze as one of the five best institutional shows in the UK in 2021.

She has exhibited extensively in the U.S. and internationally, including in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. Solo museum exhibitions have included the Barnes Foundation (Philadelphia), the Groeninge Museum (Belgium), the Corcoran Gallery of Art (Washington DC), the Bass Museum (Miami Beach), the Center for Contemporary Art (Poland), the Pennsylvania Academy (Philadelphia) and the Whitney Museum at Altria (New York), among others.

She has completed large-scale public artworks for the Miami Beach Convention Center, Metro-North's Yankee Stadium station, New York's Queen's Plaza subway station, Chicago's Francisco station, Boston's South Station, the San Francisco Airport, the Philadelphia International Airport, the Andover Internal Revenue Service Offices and the Flemish National Architect, among others.

She is the author of the recently reissued *New York Beautification Project* and her work has been the subject of four monographs to date.

She is a graduate of the Whitney Independent Study Program, Yale Law School and Harvard College and attended the Berlin Hochschule der Kunste in Germany. She is the recipient of numerous awards including most recently a Smithsonian Artists Research Fellowship, the Wivina Demeester Prize for Commissioned Public Art and a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. Her work is represented in numerous museum collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Ellen lives and works in Brooklyn and is represented by Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels.

# ROWAN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum serves as a vibrant cultural destination for South Jersey, the Rowan community, and surrounding region. We are committed to cultivating an inclusive, accessible, and just environment that encourages dialogue and collaboration between exhibiting artists, students, faculty, and the general public through the presentation of interdisciplinary art exhibitions, artist talks and other public programming. Our mission is to present diverse forms of contemporary art by professional artists with content that is thought provoking, relevant, and timely. With our exhibitions and programming, we seek to engender curiosity and a passion for contemporary art, enrich the quality of life for area residents, and create a welcoming and inclusive cultural destination at Rowan University.

301 High Street Gallery  
301 High Street West  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Information  
[rowan.edu/artgallery](http://rowan.edu/artgallery)  
[artgallery@rowan.edu](mailto:artgallery@rowan.edu)

Gallery Hours  
Mon-Fri, 10:00 - 5:00 PM  
Sat, 11:00 - 5:00 PM

**OPEN TO ALL**  
**FREE ADMISSION**



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