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Installation view of *The Disappointed Tourist*, Ellen Harvey, Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum, 2024.
Photo credit: Constance Mensh.

The Disappointed Tourist

On view: January 16 - March 9, 2024

Opening reception and artist talk: Wednesday, January 31, 5-7 pm

The talk begins at 5:30 pm

The Disappointed Tourist is an ongoing project for which Ellen Harvey is making paintings of lost sites suggested by members of the public in response to the question: *Is there any place that you would like to visit or revisit that no longer exists?* The exhibition has been traveling and growing since 2019 with 300 sites painted so far. Each painting includes the name of the site and the date on which it ceased to exist. Over the summer of 2023 the Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum, in partnership with [Creative Glassboro](#), [Glassboro Public Library](#), [Glassboro Historical Society](#), and [Heritage Glass Museum](#), solicited submissions from the local community. Eleven suggested sites have been added to this new iteration of the installation including the Whitney Brother's Glass Factory, Vineland Speedway, Bay Point, Zee Orchards, Eighty Acres, Salem Oak, Palace of Depression, grandparent's backyard, Veterans Stadium, Blockbuster Video, and Philadelphia Art Club. These new works will debut in the exhibition at Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.

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The project was inspired by the urge to repair what has been lost due to the forces of war, time, ideology, gentrification, and natural disasters. We live in a world that often feels as though it is vanishing before our eyes. *The Disappointed Tourist* 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.

To learn more about the project, including reading the stories behind the submissions or to suggest a new site to be painted, visit: <https://www.disappointedtourist.org/>

Bio

Ellen Harvey is a British-born conceptual artist, living and working in Brooklyn, 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 a number of interconnected themes such as the social and ecological implications of the picturesque, the revolutionary potential of ornament, the detoxification of nostalgia and the role of art and the artist in our society.

Her current project *The Disappointed Tourist*, 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 (other than her recent retrospective) 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 (Warsaw, Poland), the Pennsylvania Academy (Philadelphia) and the Whitney Museum at Altria (New York).

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.

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

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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 (no degree). 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, Bass Museum of Art (Miami Beach), SMAK (Ghent, Belgium), Berkeley Museum of Art, Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences (West Virginia), Art Omi, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Princeton Art Museum, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Gwangju Art Museum (Korea), Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea (Spain), among others.

Harvey lives and works in Brooklyn and is represented by Locks Gallery (Philadelphia) and Meessen De Clercq (Brussels, Belgium).

Artwork Descriptions

Whitney Brother's Glass Factory, Glassboro, NJ, 1779-1920

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 a commercial storefront and apartment buildings.

Salem Oak, Salem Friends Burial Ground, Salem, NJ, c1450-2019

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.

Bay Point, Lawrence Township, Cumberland Co, NJ c1930-2017

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.

Zee Orchards, Glassboro, NJ 1943-2013

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.

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Eighty Acres neighborhood, Glassboro, NJ

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 called Village at Harmony Garden.

My Grandparent's Backyard

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.

Vineland Speedway, Vineland, NJ, 1955-1965

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.

Palace of Depression, Vineland, NJ, 1932-1969

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.

Blockbuster Video, 1985-2014

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, Philadelphia, PA, 1971 - 2003

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, Philadelphia, PA 1889/1890-1975/1976

The 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

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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.

Image Credits



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© Ellen Harvey, *Vineland Speedway*, 24 x 18", 2023, Monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panels. Photo credit: Etienne Frossard.



© Ellen Harvey, *Whitney Glass Works*, 24 x 18", 2023, Monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panels. Photo credit: Etienne Frossard.



© Ellen Harvey, *Eighty Acres Neighborhood*, 24 x 18", 2023. Monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panels. Photo credit: Etienne Frossard.

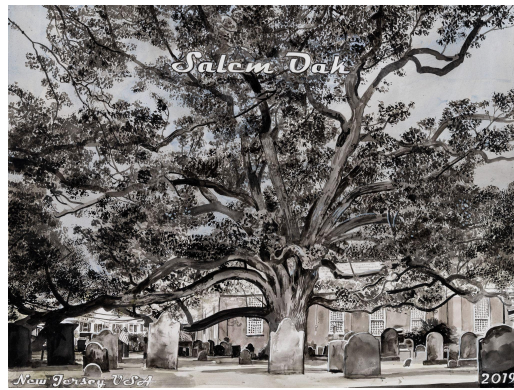


© Ellen Harvey, *Bay Point*, 24 x 18", 2023, Monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panels. Photo credit: Etienne Frossard.

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© Ellen Harvey, *Zee Peach Farm*, 24 x 18", 2023,
 Monochrome acrylic with oil glazes on wood panels.
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© Ellen Harvey, *Salem Oak*, 24 x 18", 2023,
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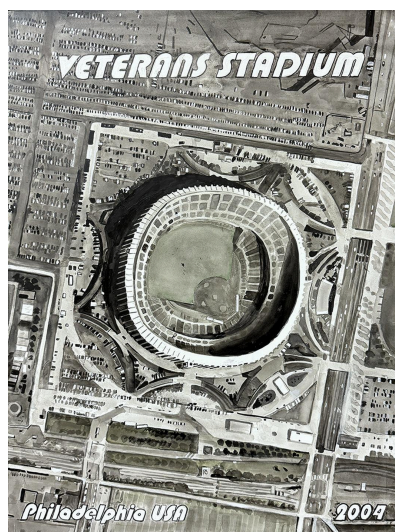
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© Ellen Harvey, *Philadelphia Art Club*, 24 x 18", 2023,
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© Ellen Harvey, *Blockbuster Video*, 24 x 18", 2023,
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© Ellen Harvey, *Veterans Stadium*, 24 x 18", 2024,
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