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Parallaxis

Carl Ray Wilson
Utah State University

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5-1-2012

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Carl Ray Wilson
(*parallaxis*) — MFA Thesis Exhibition
Artist Statement
April 2012

Parallaxis first began with an observation in my hometown. At nighttime, like a moth attracted to a flame, I would notice empty buildings that were closed or never opened for various reasons and relate them to my own inner vacancy. Seeing the lights on in these empty places motivated my curiosity and kept me studiously coming back.

I continued my exploration of empty buildings in Utah. Taking note of how capturing reflections transformed my images from documentary photography to internal forms of expression. It was at this time that reflections became the driving force within my image making. I became enthralled with the idea of reflection because it gave a new element to my photographs -- through the use of threshold, objects exist simultaneously, and the inside and outside world combine into one of their own reality. Lines blurred, and objects typically identifiable turn into a simulation of imagination, a (*parallaxis*).

“At our best and most fortunate we make pictures because of what stands before our camera, to honor what is greater and more interesting than we are. We never accomplish this perfectly, though in return we are given something perfect -- a sense of inclusion. Our subject thus redefines us, and is part of the biography by which we want to be known.”

—Photographer
Robert Adams