Wanderer

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These photos are the result of having pursued an MFA during the COVID pandemic. I chose a mode of photography that would keep me away from people and I focused on what I could capture “on the road.” These 30 photos explore visual tropes related to movement, thresholds, barriers, and symbolic encounters. They capture moments of joy and contemplation. Each photo works individually, but I have edited and arranged them in the gallery to create something between a narrative and a non-narrative that approximates the experience of what traveling to capture them was like, both on foot and in motion, in rural and in urban settings.

Wandering is a method of discovery with paths leading in multiple directions, and the wanderer chooses a path based not on a systematic strategy but by looking for and seeing potential. Some wandering found me walking through urban spaces, at other times I was photographing from my car. Wandering, as seen in this project, resulted in bulk recording, or casting a wide net, and then assembling a sequence of images that are a collage of meaning and experience. These photographs show the excitement of discovery and chance encounters, the comfort of revisiting familiar territory, and the pleasure of recognizing treasures underfoot. These photos reveal how repeated viewing can uncover layers of meaning and hidden gems.

Location index, counterclockwise from show title.

(1) East Canyon Wash, Dry Valley, Utah, 2020

(2) Garland, Utah, 2022
(3) Skull Valley, Utah, 2022
(4) Logan, Utah, 2022
(5) Logan, Utah, 2022
(6) Peter’s Wash, Dry Valley, Utah, 2020
(7) Wagon Hound Canyon, White River, Uinta Basin, Utah, 2022
(8) Pocatello, Idaho, 2020
(9) Kennedy Station, Uinta Basin, Utah, 2020
(10) Bank window, Garland, Utah, 2022
(11) Sam Feller Rd., Cache Valley, Utah, 2020
(12) Casa Colorado, Dry Valley, Utah, 2020
(13) Ucolo, Utah, 2020

(14) Deweyville, Utah, 2022
(15) Near the junction of Klethla Valley and Long House Valley, Navajo Nation, Arizona, 2021
(16) Transcontinental Rail Road Grade National Backcountry Byway near Lucin, Great Salt Lake Desert, Utah 2021

(17) Southbound on Highway 191 between Woodside and Desert, Utah 2022
(18) An unkindness of ravens, White Mountain looking southwest to Wilkins Peak, Wyoming 2021
(19) Butch Cassidy Museum, Montpelier, Idaho 2020
(20) UT191 and UT 211 near George Rock, Dry Valley, Utah, 2020
(21) Echo Canyon Rd., near Bear Hollow, Utah, 2022
(22) Sheep Creek Gap, Utah, 2022
(23) West 100 South and South 100 West, Brigham City, Utah, 2020
(24) Muddy Creek crossing, North Caineville Reef and Little Wild Horse Mesa, Utah, 2020
(25) Marie’s Place, Photograph Gap, Utah, 2020
(26) Bulldog Knolls, Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area, Utah, 2021
(27) Looking northwest from Escalante Ranch Road towards the Green River, Utah, 2021
(28) Collinston, Utah, 2022
(29) Casa Colorado, Dry Valley, Utah, 2022
(30) Northbound on Highway 89 near Willard, Utah, 2021