



Leah Dyjak

Artist Statement

These works are centered on the failures of trusted and know strata. These images feature an installation of deconstructed photographs that speak to the ways in which familiar landscapes have been mangled and erased by the force of water. The point of focus: the mutability of boundary, frame and instability of surface. Asphalt and dividing lines are ubiquitous in function. These lines are meant to guide and create order. Weather forces them to become futile in function and ultimately broken. This once steadfast surface becomes supple and mutable under the force of wind and water.

These works literally fractures traditions. The edges of the photographs mimic the fracturing of the lands edge. The concrete and asphalt appear soft, fallible, and defeated by the rains, winds and tides. Immovable objects that are tethered by gravity to the earth are flung above our heads. The barriers that divide us are felled in a single instant.

The works experientially resemble losing control of trusted and known spaces. The edges and surface of the photograph are distorted through cutting, scanning and reconstructing. The extension of lines with tape and paint confuse the familiar perception of formerly understood textures: photograph or photographed, comes into question. The difference between photograph and gesture of the hand in these works is unclear. Tape is used as an extension of the formidable double yellow line. White tape is used to stitch broken fragments back together, aware of its inevitable failure in holding the material together.

Artist Bio

Leah Dyjak is an interdisciplinary, lens-based artist splitting her time between New York and Massachusetts. She received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. Her site-specific work combines performance, labor, film, and photography to explore how generations of human use affect the ecologies of place. Her images and installations often push the edges of the photographic frame. Her work plays with our perceptions of perceived boundaries and charts matter in flux. Leah is an Assistant Professor of Video and Photography at Winthrop University and summer faculty at the Anderson Ranch. Her work has been shown at Flex Space, Pump Project, and Blue Star Contemporary in Texas and throughout the Northeast. She is represented by the Schoolhouse Gallery in Provincetown Massachusetts.

[Visit Dyjak's website for more information.](#)

Image Detail: Leah Dyjak, *Basalt*, 2017, Photograph 40" x 50".