



and  
**Valiant ART**

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## ***Cut into the Landscape: Photography by Michael Binder and Matthew Dietrich***

March 10 through April 30 2018

opening reception Friday March 16th from 6-10 p.m.

6621 St. Claude Ave, Arabi LA • 504.298.8676

Michael Binder and Matthew Dietrich offer a complimentary view of the landscape of New Orleans. Binder develops a relationship with certain location. He brings a discerning eye and nostalgic emotions to a compelling series of works that capture the decaying relics of a vibrant yet blighted city. He visits and revisits to capture the change and gradual dissipation of forgotten landmarks. Dietrich presents the spectacle of life. Though a native, he looks upon the rituals and architecture as if witnessing them for the first time. The work is dynamic and fresh, but far from naive. The digital camera, for Dietrich, is not unlike the impressionist's palette, in that these fleeting images reveal social truths. Both artists challenge the viewer to see past the surface of these images, cutting below the skin to the flesh and bone. They seek the whispers and cries of the urban landscape.

8 x 10 inches framed photos \$125

11 x 14 inches framed photos \$160

The Valiant will have monthly or bi-monthly art shows featuring the best in local established and emerging artists. This is part of a continuing commitment to bring art of many mediums to Arabi and the New Orleans Area...

***Come and have a Valiant evening enjoying great art,  
a refreshing cocktail, and the best theatre in town.***

I spent the last 4 years collecting these images, beginning with the arson of the Lebeau House in late 2013. I fervidly sought out scenes within New Orleans that, to me, represented the Crescent City. Nearly half of the scenes are now gone, and I believe that to be no coincidence—because New Orleans is, in a variety of ways, a subtractive city. Due to its ever-changing landscape and environmental vulnerability, New Orleans can have an almost subjective definition. Its lack of permanence as we cut into the landscape and rearrange the city's shadows with a blade eliminates all sense of possession or immortality we may have believed it to have.

New Orleans to me, is in these images, these ghostly visions of the past. Standing or demolished, I have found the need to align myself to these places for whatever conscious or unconscious reason, and further, felt the need to document them as they slip away.

***~ Michael Binder 2018***

Okay, well I'd say I've been making art since I was a toddler and never stopped. Moved around a lot from Katrina/ flooding. Interested in stories and communication from meeting so many people at a young age. I've worked in illustration, film, music, and sculpture in the past and have a BFA from Loyola. Currently living and working as a photographer with political campaigns and live music scene in New Orleans, interested in doing more photojournalism, travel, and consulting. Also, just some context for the photos, they were taken 2015-2018 around New Orleans between visits to the Northeast and West coast which helped to make the city feel new to me seeing how other places were.

***~ Matthew Dietrich 2018***