

Edward Burtynsky - Clip 12

The Passage of Time

It's interesting that a lot of the places that I have photographed... and this in a way, I think, refers to some of the documentary interest and importance of some of the things that I photograph. Some of these largest mines that I photographed, and even quarries in the last twenty years have all closed down. And they're now all filling up with water. So these places are not there to be photographed anymore.

So these become records of that place. And... and I think that's one of the interesting things about photography, is that there is a documentary level to it, although I'm not putting myself out there as a traditional documentary photographer.

But there is a quality... any photograph of... of an interesting site has that ability to bring us back to that place and to what it once looked like.

The fact that, you know, a lot of... the places that I've photographed are no longer there, I think, adds an interesting element to the work as well.

