

Urban Landscapes

I wanted to make a photographic landscape study on the local area. I decided against traditional shots of the River Arun or South Downs because I felt drawn to photographing sites that aren't normally considered beautiful – to prove that beauty can be found in unexpected places. I chose to study local scrap yards and disused depots. There is a tragic beauty to them. Though scrapped and neglected, the rusting and twisted forms of these unwanted machines cast amazing and intriguing shapes. To enhance this theme I decided to develop the images onto metal plates using a silver nitrate solution. I then deliberately corroded the images and damaged the plates so they reflected the subject matter printed on them. To complete the installation I arranged the collection mounted as a decaying metal cube, hopefully resembling some once useful machine that is now scrapped yet retains a unique form of beauty.

James Mellor.