

Scale

Human, Natural, Universal

Sand dunes. Mountains. Oceans. Forests. We lose ourselves in their immensity and enjoy their magnitude and vastness. These photos—taken over several years—share a similar composition. They each attempt to capture the immenseness of a natural environment. One of the best ways to grasp the scale of a vast natural environment is to include human figures. They offer an immediately recognizable size which offers the viewer a sense of the immensity of the scene.

Adding human figures also reminds us that we are insignificant by comparison. Some people may find this concept painful or depressing, but for some reason it reassures me. My problems. My accomplishments—or lack thereof—not much on a planetary or universal scale. I can relax and live in awe of this place and time.

Bio

Catherine A. McCormick

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McCormick is an award-winning photographer, clay artist, scholar, and educator. She earned her degrees from Penn State Harrisburg and taught photography and other communications courses there until her retirement in 2021.

She lived in Pittsburgh for ten years, and York County for six years, but the Harrisburg area has been home for most of her life. Prior to her teaching career, she worked as a freelance communications professional, as director of communications for JPL Productions, and as an education coordinator for Carnegie Science Center. She co-founded Third Street Pottery in Harrisburg and Penn Street Pottery in Pittsburgh.

Exhibit Details/Purchases

The images in this display were created on 17 x 22” rough fine art paper on a Canon Image Prograph Pro 1000 large format printer. I felt the large size was important to the scale of the work.