

About Reflections: The Pre-Millennium Landscapes

I was standing in my driveway doing yard work, when a neighbor living across the street, drove home and stopped by to talk. He informed me that part of a major street was closed off for an auto show of antique cars.

A simple bit of information, not a new kind of event, but I was possessed with the need to go and take photographs. My desire could not have been any greater if I had been commanded to do so by a burning bush.

This was a return to a theme I had explored 20 years earlier. Like many such early works, it was short lived, as it lacked direction or sense of purpose. The concept was retained and lay dormant, waiting for a different sensibility on my part to explore this theme again.

Images were collected during 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The first images were collected using a film camera. I began photographing with a digital camera in 2005. I decided to terminate the series in 2006. I had other images that were now of higher priority, other themes and other technical ideas that required exploration.

The title for the series and the individual images come from a connection to an economic viewpoint on the development of our society through the 20th century. Specifically the phrase “the Henry Ford economy”.

This relates to the creation of a middle class through the development of mass production techniques that made many goods plentiful and affordable. It was said that Henry Ford believed he had to pay his workers well enough so they could afford a lifestyle that would allow them to buy one of the cars they helped build.

The Reflections, of course, come from our own century. They are often obscure and subtle, sometimes a bit clearer, but always distorted; much like our view and understanding of what it would have been like to live in the “Henry Ford economy”.