

HABIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

+ HABITAT

NEW WORK BY **DEB HALL** | MAY 12–22, 2011



Opening Reception: Thursday, May 12 from 7–9 p.m.

Featuring live music by: Nancy Walker

*A 2010 Saratoga County Program for the Arts (SPAF) recipient of the individual artist grant, awarded through NYSCA
www.nancywalker.net*

Gallery Discussion: *Environmental Impact*

Friday, May 20, 2011, 4–5 p.m.

*Complimentary limited-edition print
to the first eight attendees to gallery discussion.*

Tom Myott Gallery is pleased to announce **Habit + Habitat**, a solo exhibition of work by Deb Hall, comprising both digital prints and original mixed media works. This is the first showing of this new series. During an extended three month trip in the fall Deb returned, after thirty years, to the Columbia River Basin – her homeland as well as a major natural resource. Hiking, camping, and documenting throughout the Columbia River Basin, this exploration began on the Columbia River at the Bonneville Dam and ended at the Columbia IceFields in British Columbia. An archive of over nine thousand photographs, taken during this period, is being used to create a large body of work. Possession, consumption and the impact of our habits on our natural resources and wildlife are the focus of this series.

The open road has long been synonymous with freedom. We lose a piece of freedom when our ability as individuals to experience our natural world is diminished by; a desire to experience nature first hand, private ownership, cost and restricted access. The digital technologies we find ourselves engrossed in distance us from nature and our vital resources. Ultimately, our habits shape our habitat.

The Columbia River Basin serves as an apt metaphor for issues that will hold deeper challenges for humanity as we consume ever more water, energy, space and food. Humans require the development of new systems to generate power (windmills, dams, nuclear and corresponding grids), land for agriculture, habitation, transportation, and nuclear waste disposal sites. Against this surging tide, wildlife competes for space, carving out ever-smaller habitats and migration routes. The natural world is permanently altered, access is limited.

This ongoing body of work focuses on the universality of environmental issues and their impact on photography. How does the use of digital photography affect our perception of our habitat and how do changes in our habitat affect photography? The odd relationship of these two distinct worlds inhabits the work. A webcam on a bald eagle's nest provides us with a convenient view of nature from the comfort of our office. *continued*

TOM MYOTT GALLERY 71 Lawrence Street (in The Shirt Factory) Glens Falls, New York 12801
www.tmyottart.com | 518.798.8431 | Open: Friday and Saturday 12–5 p.m. *and by appointment.*

"Planet Earth" provides with an uninhibited view of wildlife from our sofa. Living in a state of climate change denial we sit down behind our technologies and bury our faces in screens and distance ourselves from nature. Is our experience with nature more virtual or actual?

Human development only ratchets one way and our environment is essential to our survival. As Henry David Thoreau observed, "We have constructed a fate, an Atropos, that never turns aside." For me as an artist, this startling personal experience has inspired a fascinating study in photographic theory, digital technology, environment and history, and questions our both our consumption and use of precious resources.

A feature length article about Deb's experiences will be released this summer in The Oregonian.



Deb Hall received her BFA in Photographic Illustration from *Rochester Institute of Technology* and an MFA in Digital Visual Art from *Vermont College*. She also studied at both the *Art Center College of Design* and *Kent State University* in communication design and typography. Currently she is an Associate Professor of Art and teaches communication design, interactive design and photographic theory at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Deb's work had been exhibited locally, regionally and nationally in juried exhibitions in galleries and museums and is included in the permanent collection of the Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon and in many private collections throughout the United States.

Nancy Walker, will be performing live. Nancy is an accomplished singer and songwriter with a message that is compelling and inviting. She possesses a strong, distinctive alto voice that peals "like a bell" (Dirty Linen) through any musical arrangement; a voice that has been described by music Hound folk - The Essential Album Guide, in its 1998 issue as "memorable". As a former member of the Chicago-based trio "Sons of the Never Wrong", Nancy has shared stages with the likes of John Gorka and Livingston Taylor; and appeared on the big folk festival main stages: Kerrville in San Antonio, and the North American Folk Alliance in Toronto. The Group's CD ("Consequence of Speech"), garnered both sales prominence and critical acclaim worldwide (at one time topping at #6 on BBC's British Folk Charts in 1997). This led to a relationship with Waterbug Records for Nancy, and in turn to associations with other cutting-edge Folk performers, such as Sloan Wainwright and Michael Jerling.

For digital files of this release and photos for publication please visit:
www.skidmore.edu/~dhall/press

For additional information please contact:

Deb Hall

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
518-580-5048
dhall@skidmore.edu

378 Colebrook Road
Gansevoort, New York 12831
518-507-6322
mtngrltyp@gmail.com
www.debhallportfolio.com

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This show was made possible, in part, by a grant from Skidmore College.
Ten percent of all sales will benefit the National Resources Defense Council.
(NRDC is the nation's most effective environmental action organization. We use law, science and the support of 1.3 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things.)

