



We Go From Where We Know

October 13, 2013-February 23, 2014
Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI

The work: “Nash Corn Crib” by J. Shimon & J. Lindemann, both art professors at Lawrence University.

A 1949 Nash Ambassador, with some 1,000 corn cobs spilling out the driver’s door. The cobs and the remaining paint on the car are of the same grey. The artists explain:

In our exhibition, We Go From Where We Know, at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, we museumize the mood and imagery pervading our native Wisconsin. We contemplated the overlooked and often eccentric ethos of “America’s Dairyland.”

Seeing our home state characterized as a Gothic netherworld in Michael Lesy’s seminal book Wisconsin Death Trip (1973) (through juxtaposing archival photographs by Charles Van Schaik (1890-1910, Black River Falls, WI) with 19th-century stories published in the Badger State Banner newspaper); as a picturesque vacationland on picture postcards, and populated by hard-working gemütlichkeit cheeseheads, galvanized our ideas.

A collaboration with the Kohler Arts Center’s Connecting Communities program, the installation is the culmination of THE WISCONSIN PROJECT.

Life-size full-length studio portrait photographs of Wisconsin natives and tourists and a Wisconsin-made 1949 Nash Ambassador automobile filled with cast concrete corn cobs, “Nash Corn Crib”, are at the core.

Glass encrusted concrete teardrops, a participatory wall of “found” vintage Wisconsin postcards, cases of our “made” contemporary cyanotype and palladium postcards, and watercolor paintings depicting a rural Wisconsin utopian idyll express the Wisconsin we have come to know.

The work memorialized a childhood memory of a Nash repurposed as a corn crib while contemplating the contemporary role of corn as food and fuel in the US. Matt Chung made this video documenting the journey: <http://wisconsinproject.blogspot.com/2013/09/1949-nash-ambassador.html>