

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Museums • Review

In the galleries: The Washington colorists and the CIA

By Mark Jenkins

November 20, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. EST



“Fog Along Skyline Drive” by Alan Sislen. (© Alan M. Sislen/Multiple Exposures Gallery)

MEG @ Mosaic

There’s a certain tension between the photographs in “MEG @ Mosaic” and the show’s location. An overview of work by 11 members of Alexandria’s Multiple Exposures Gallery, the exhibition includes more than a few views of battered structures and no-hope towns. Yet the pictures hang

at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, a satellite gallery in Fairfax County's so fresh, so clean Mosaic District.

Not all of the entries focus on places that are weathered and seemingly forgotten. Soonin Ham offers overlapped contrapuntal images that conjure a fading past, while Alan Sisen and Van Pulley contemplate vast landscapes veiled by, respectively, mist or sunlight. Also, the architectural studies include both Fran Livaditis's upbeat and akimbo close-ups of bright-hued building details and Fred Zafran's "Small Town Empty" streetscapes, which inventory 19th-century edifices that are simultaneously modest and grand.



"Small Town Empty" by Fred Zafran. (© Fred Zafran/Multiple Exposures Gallery)

Empty small towns manifest much less dignity in Timothy Hyde's photos, made in evocatively derelict Ohio locations. The centerpiece is just as dilapidated, but the landscape more sweeping, in Matt Leedham's picture of a low-slung Irish ruin. Sandy LeBrun-Evans took her camera inside a tattered room for a double exposure that combines the ghostliness of Ham's style with the poignancy of Hyde's. Shoppers may prefer pristine surroundings, but cracked walls and broken windows tell more compelling stories.

MEG @ Mosaic Through Nov. 29 at [Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic](#), 2905 District Ave., Suite 105, Fairfax.