Beach Cabanas After Sandy

David Donnelly, The College of New Rochelle
David F. Donnelly

*Beach Cabanas after Sandy*

Sandy exposes the private spaces of beach cabanas, Westchester County, NY
HURRICANE SANDY THROUGH THE LENS OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Halloween, and the change in seasons it represents, is usually a time of fantasies and tall tales, explaining away the howling winds, strange noises in the night and unexpected phenomena. This year, instead of our fantasizing of surreal, magical or horrifying events, we awoke to one.

Under the cover of darkness, our lives were upended and we awoke to find ourselves in a new reality. Many of us, cold or wet, were forced from our homes due to Sandy’s wrath.

The images in this show are of the aftermath, as Sandy slipped in under the cover of darkness.

The photographers’ images and stories add to our own experiences of loss, community and rebuilding.

The democracy of the photographs, by amateurs and professionals, whether recorded by pocket camera, smart phone, or professional gear, speaks to how we all have been challenged and changed by this storm.

We all take photographs, now mostly shared electronically. But to commit them to paper, sized, framed and presented to view and contemplate, as a collective body of work, is another way of bringing our community together again, and remembering the magic of the selflessness of so many who helped those in need.

Sharing our experiences of these events with each other will help the rebuilding efforts and reinforce our commitment to protect the environment, which shook us rigorously.

Those first strange days, then for some of us weeks, or for others, still rebuilding, months after, a new reality now exists. Surreal, magical, inspirational events have occurred to all of us.

Visual images and tales people will share. Sandy left it’s mark, now recorded in so many ways, by all of us. Be it in the written word, the language of captured light on a piece of paper, or the glow of the video screen.

Some images are documents, others new events to be viewed on their own. Pondered over visuals, some completed by their captions, others wordless. The artists, photographers, journalists, have all responded to this new reality, showing you a slice or more of time.

Chaos, debris, charity, fantasy fill the frames of these images with or without titles or descriptions. You bring life and meaning to them with your viewing. Breath in and find your place among these snippets of time and be prepared for Halloween next year. Hopefully it will be filled with fantasy, not reality.

Marc Weinstein

THE PECKHAM AND SHENKMAN GALLERIES
31 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains www.artsw.org/sandy

Exhibit curated by Marc Weinstein and Kathleen Reckling
Cover Page Photographs Clockwise From Top Left: Michael Baumann, Susan Farley, Patricia Pardini, Jaime Martorano, and Ray Tartaglione