



About "Oil and Water, December 6:58 pm"

"Oil and Water" shows a frozen pile of black and white sludge. (See [lecture: 9:30](#)). Not unlike a crime scene, it was hard to stomach. This bright peak cut a path of crystalized frost into the night sky above the parking lot it occupied– splitting the composition crosswise. The massive slope of the day's leftovers towered over cars like Yosemite's Half Dome over its valleys. Photographer William Henry Jackson's 19th century spirit was afoot. I set my tripod on the frozen asphalt and waited for someone or *something* to confess to this transgression against humanity. No one came forward. Sadly, I knew I was the judge, the victim, and the culprit. Human nature is staged against human hubris in "Oil and Water". The two don't mix. One is lifegiving; the other not. No two substances have a greater grip on our planet. One we desire, one we need. This image unfolds a disquieting scene of mixed sludge, which conflates compounds we need with those we don't. We kill for both. If water is justice, fossil fuel is a crime. Less natural is the new normal.

Selected Exhibition History

"Oil and Water" was exhibited at Ra del Rey (Madrid, Spain), Photo Kyiv Photo Festival (Kyiv, Ukraine), Come In Gallery (Kharkiv, Ukraine), Phoenix Gallery in New York City, and Photo Spiva (Missouri), and the Royal Scottish Academy (Edinburgh, Scotland) where it was acquired and bequeathed to the Lothiana Foundation.