



Looking West across East River from DUMBO Park



Abandoned Building on East River in Williamsburg, Brooklyn

(photographs, 4"x6")

Patrick Reed



View of Queens from Long Island City

(photograph, 4"x6")

Patrick Reed

Artist's Statement

My first trip back to New York after starting my Urban Studies degree was in the summer of 2005. I was excited to see the city through a new lens, both figuratively and literally. The following photographs represent a small sampling of how I viewed the city at that time. Since 2005 I have developed a deeper understanding of the urban environment, as well as those who inhabit it, adding an even greater depth to how I view my photography.

Bridges and urban mega projects now have names associated with them—not of the architects—but of the advocate trying to save her neighborhood from future projects, the power broker who loved the public but despised people, and the modern visionary trying to link cities to his region.

Through the use of graffiti many inner-city youth carve out spaces for themselves and gain respect in a system that has left them behind. Graffiti is linked to the hip-hop movement, which has influenced youth worldwide. It represents a claiming of space, a way to exert their “cultural capital” on a dominant system with uneven power relations.

Empty buildings now tell stories: of how generations of family members have been impacted as factory jobs moved out of the city and overseas, the reordering of gender relations in a service based economy, and the modern day implications of globalization on the family, both economically and socially.