



Noyes
Museum of Art
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



Education Guide

April 3 – June 27, 2021

Easton Nights **by Peter Ydeen**

Free Public

Opening Reception:

Second Friday, April 9, 2021

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Peter Ydeen is a photographer focusing on Urban Landscape photography while living in Easton Pennsylvania and spending time traveling abroad.

He graduated with a BA in

Painting and Sculpture from Virginia Tech, where he studied under Ray Kass and Steve Bickey. Peter Ydeen completed his MFA in Painting and Sculpture from Brooklyn College where he was a recipient of fellowship and studied under the direction of Robert Henry, Phillip Pearlstien, Lee Bontecou and Alan D'Arcangelo. Ydeen was a recipient of a fellowship from the Sculpture Center in New York City, a scholarship from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Urban Landscape Photography celebrates the complexity and beauty of the mundane world. As the work progresses it has been taking on a more romantic quality, which uses the typical and ordinary as an impetus, but then adapting more ethereal qualities. His work looks for inspiration in the poetics of George Tice, the playful lyricism of Paul Klee, the eccentric energy of Charles Burchfield, all trying to set themselves within the romantic setting of an E.T.A. Hoffman tale.

Easton Nights

Easton Nights is a story which grew from the unique and uncommon valley in which the city lies; and is told with the images of unpeopled landscapes taken at night. Here, in the small hours, the world we see as mundane, cascades into dream. Like a surreal scene from a Guillermo del Toro film, trash bins and Toyotas, stop signs and doorways; all become animated. They lean; they stretch, and emanate, all with umbrageous hues, which seem to exhale from the nights own personal color wheel. Scattered signs give the words, marking our place in time, while the



Peter Ydeen, *Crapped Out Again*, archival print on Canson Bartya paper, \$300

geometries show our relentless effort to arrange our world in a box. These are our stages, with the houses our beehives, the machines our toys, and the doors our portals. Complete they are a mimesis of our daily life, as can only shown in the mystical emptiness of night. Then with the dawn comes the beginning, where we all wake, then act; all while these magical and romantic worlds return to sleep.

History and Easton Nights

Easton Nights' romantic and mystical narrative overlays a unique area in Northeast Pennsylvania; the Lehigh Valley. Just over an hour from New York City and Philadelphia, the Valley has staunchly held on to its own distinctive character and has played an important part in the history of our country. From the early public readings of the Declaration of Independence on the square in Easton to the present day it has been intricately entwined in many of our countries most important episodes. It has been essential to the Country's growth and economic development owing to its location at the hub of the Delaware Canal and by having half of the largest concentration of anthracite coal in the Americas. The canals were replaced by the railroads and the Valley continued to serve as an important center for transportation, energy and industry. Giants like Bethlehem Steel and Mack Trucks were headquartered here as well as Crayola, Dixie and others. As of the publishing of his book, the Valley still is the fastest growing area in Pennsylvania and includes plants, offices and warehousing for the likes of Coca-Cola, Amazon, FedEx and many others. This interesting mix has helped create a vibrant world, which serves as the backdrop of this story.

What is unusual about Easton and the Lehigh Valley, and especially relevant to "Easton Nights," is its' growth is perhaps best described as a "small town sprawl." The urban area of almost one million people, has persistently defied a real center or "downtown", and instead developed into many nodes of energy. Even in small cities like Allentown, what happens on the periphery seems to outweigh what happens in the center. There is not a Main Street in the Lehigh Valley, but fifty main streets, with each containing a special saga, and each its own idiosyncratic personality. Through this stubbornness and amorphous history the area has developed into a sea of Americana, which in turn has given endless fodder to its urban landscape. Independent and unique, this is the underpinning of Easton Nights.

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Instagram: @peterydeen

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The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University:

www.noyesmuseum.org 609.626.3420

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