

## MICHAEL JONATHON PITTMAN – ARTIST STATEMENT

Hilda Doolittle famously wrote, “We are all haunted houses.” We are defined by the specters of our experiences and memories; they accumulate as we operate and interact with the external world. When we encounter the unknown, we search through the learned language of our past to classify and understand the new experience. Sometimes, this process results in a broken analogy: an instability of meaning. The uncanny resides in this realm of slightly misaligned comparison. There is a disquieting strangeness that pervades the “not-quite-familiar”. It is not the strange or supernatural that strikes an uncanny cord within our psyche, but the almost-ordinary.

My current work inhabits the “un-homely” (unheimlich) and deals with narrative, place and memory. The overlap of story and history and real and imagined experiences can create notions of familiarity that are often inaccurate; the truth of the past is often unfixed and inhabited by ghosts. Many of my images are evocative of hidden histories, specific places and memories that are squeezed and reformed through a lens of narrative tropes. I view them as fictionalized truths that become parables, and take on new meaning through the act of “telling.”