Vicki McKenna

“Geographies of a Shifting World”

Sea Change Statement

The images in this project are meant as harbingers from the future. They present the intertwining of ocean and shore environments as sea level rises. The juxtaposition of time, before and after, is implicit. Each image is a montage with one photograph representing the current environment and with the other photographs representing a future possibility. My selection of locations to photograph is informed by maps of projected sea level rise of 6 feet, a possibility by 2100. The mapping is visualized online by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html). The composite image is not meant to be a scientific thesis, but a metaphor for a possible result of climate change. In some images it is easy to identify the elements of the individual photographs. In others, the blending of photographs creates an image that almost seems realistic. The ambiguity of scale and detail in the montage might create a sense of discontinuity or unease. In a sense this mimics the way that we experience the current changes in climate. They are measurable to greater and lesser degrees. We are unsettled because we find it difficult to separate weather from climate; daily variation from long-term change. These images are reminders of the ephemeral nature of the world around us.