

“Sleeping Houses”

Artist Statement 2012

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The topics of safety, security, and personal control (whether it is of our personal environments, personal space or personal relationships) are issues that I have been interested in for most of my artistic life. In one form or another my subject matter has always dealt with these concepts – if not head on, then in an indirect manner. When I relocated to Belgium, specifically to Flanders from the United States, the ideas that fascinate me and inspire my work lead me to a new series entitled “Sleeping Houses”.

The Flemish region has a cultural habit of shuttering their houses every evening: whether it is warm, cold, light or dark doesn't seem to matter- what matters is closing out the outside world. Manicured gardens and well-tended houses are shut tight for the night with no signs of interior life, while standing in wait for someone to awaken them. This has the effect of making towns and villages feel empty, abandoned and surreal to the non-native visitor or resident.

My exploration of this surrealistic landscape is not only about feeling abandoned or lost in a ghost town environment but is my questioning of the cultural need to close off and fortify oneself from others; the house as a visual metaphor for the human psyche.