

An Aqueous State



Janusz Wrobel



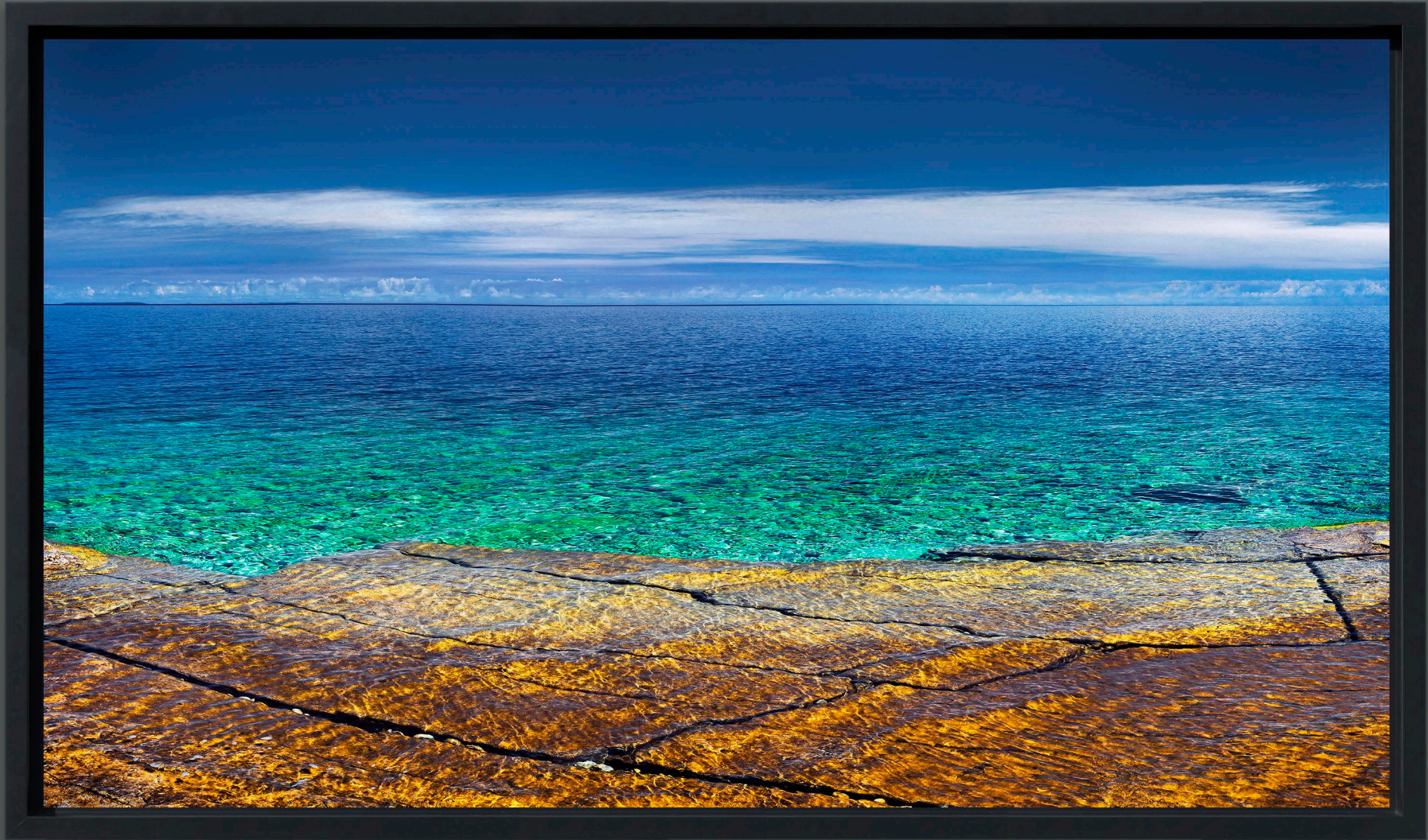
Exhibition Preface

From my earliest memories, I became aware not only of myself, but of the expanding web of relationships around me—and the imperfect ways we try to make sense of it. Over time, I recognized a gap in my understanding: I had been trained to see the world at a molecular scale, yet felt less equipped to grasp its broader biological and historical dimensions.

From this building up strain emerged my tripolar view of reality: the self, the external world, and the shared interpretations that shape society. These interpretations now widely diverge from lived experience, creating a growing sense of social incoherence.

Visual art has become my way of working through this dissonance—a means of questioning what is seen, assumed, and inherited. Culture, accelerated through our ability to record and communicate, stands as both a record of achievement and failure, shaping how we understand the past and chart our future.

Within this process, we continually negotiate between cooperation and competition, meaning and perception. Yet the pace of change now demands far more cohesive ways of understanding. My own thinking continues to evolve alongside this urgency, guided in part by the documentary quality of my chosen medium.



From Here and Now #2

Exhibition Statement

As we mature, we often crave a balance in our lives: a desire for stability of living environments and trusted relationships that anchor our daily existence. Yet, this pursuit can unwittingly harden into a cocoon, or an echo chamber, dulling our ability to perceive the subtle truths right before us.

In striking contrast, consider cellular life within my own body. For a cell, true stillness, or energy equilibrium, means terminal failure. Life, in its essence, must be empowered by energy gradients, constantly relying on flow and transformation. Every living cell depends on a managed energy imbalance that meticulously controls energy flows across its living environment. These observations, long held as wisdom, were once simply called the ways of nature. Only a few generations ago were they formalized as the laws of physics, thereby enabling the rise of industrial societies. Yet, we often fail to recognize how deeply these foundational principles govern all biological systems we inhabit and depend upon.

Grounded in our urban world, I felt a profound need for new frames of reference—to reconnect with forgotten wisdom and to step away from ingrained perceptions. My journey led me to seek orientation within what is often called the Web of Life.

While the biological world can overwhelm with its apparent complexity, its functional principles are strikingly simple. Unlike societal complexities that often seek to extract internal values, the biological world employs these principles to protect itself against the volatility of physical conditions. This fundamental interplay is what I began to see and portray in my photographic work. My captured images became a stage for deeper reflections, leading me to more far-reaching conclusions about my relationship with the natural world.

Consider water, for instance. While human societies harness the boundless energy capacity of water for power generation, nature uses it to dissipate solar energy and the heat we generate, regulating Earth's conditions with trees acting as primary conduits in enhancing the water cycle. Furthermore, nature intrinsically reuses all materials it generates, a stark contrast to societies that often excel at generating outputs that hamper nature's delicate processes. So, I became a practicing collector of reflective evidence in the world I inhabit.

We are, after all, water that came from the stars.

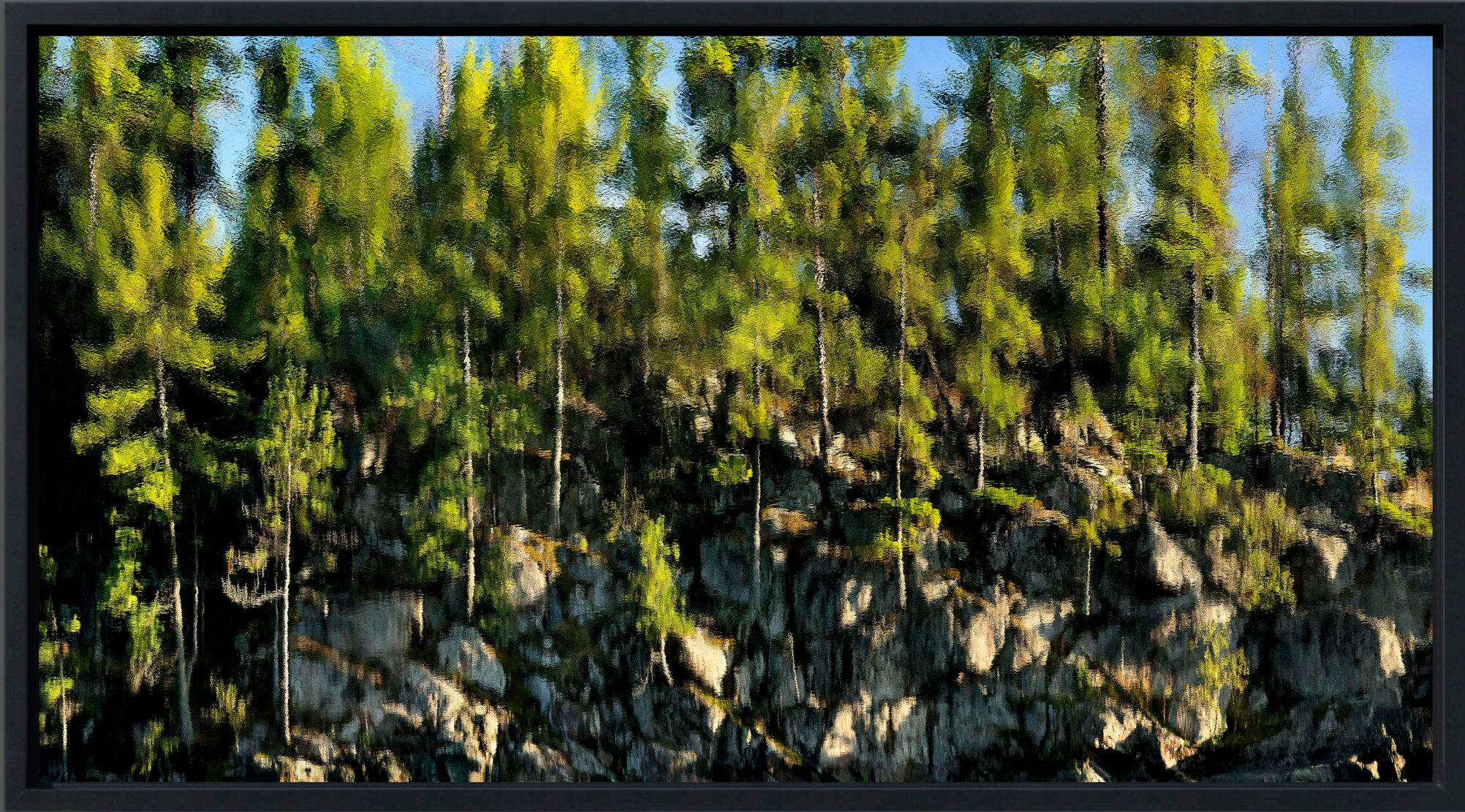
And I now find solace swimming in the dark waters along the full moon, with my thoughts flickering like fireflies.



Grassy Reef #3



Grassy Shallows



French River Shore



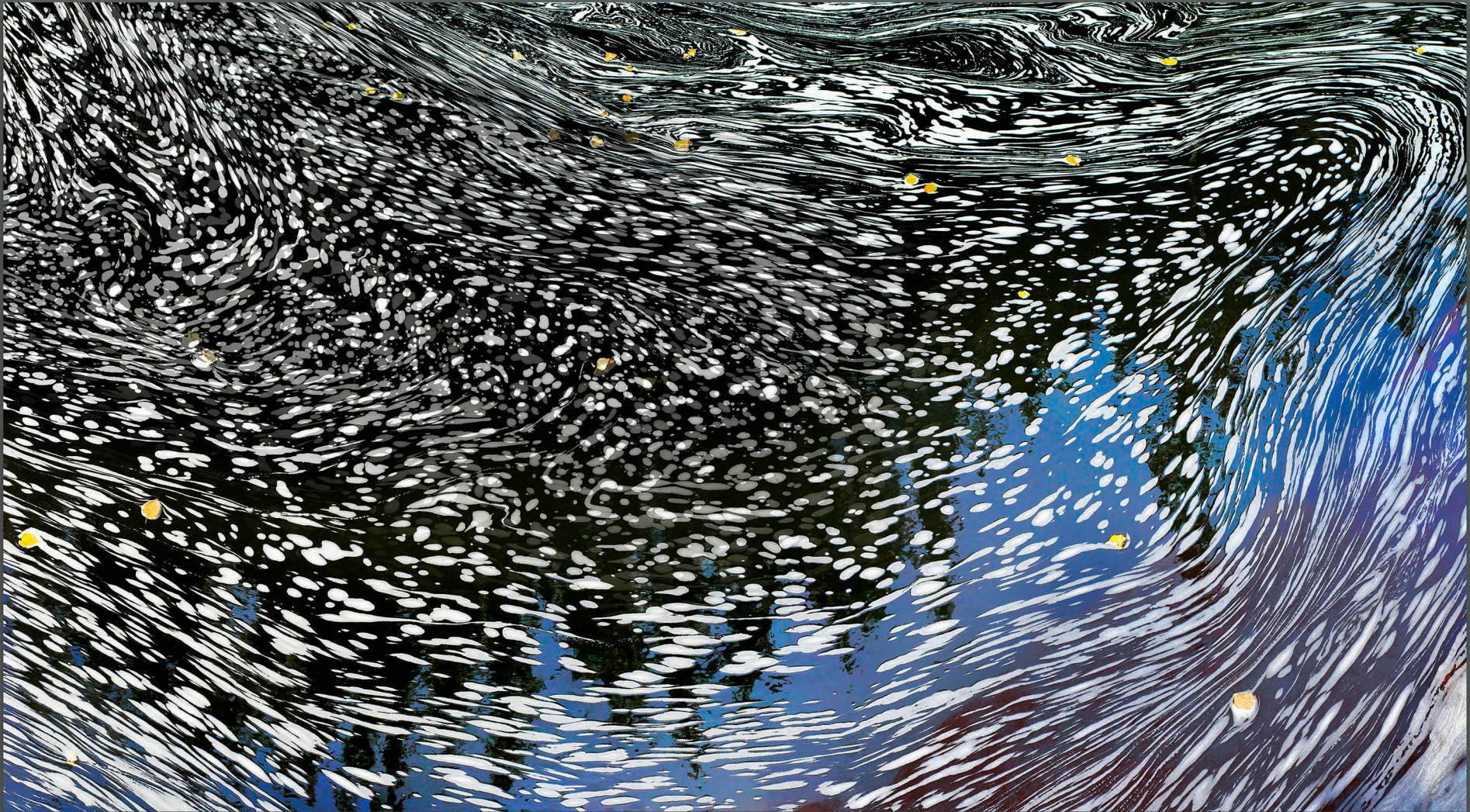
Misty Morning Bog



Frosty Dawn



Ebb and Flow





Boil



Sweet Water Sea



Superior Flow (Mural)



Continuum

Footnote

What I portray in my work inevitably reflects my changed understanding—an outcome of what I encountered, thought over, and reasoned with. Yet, I am aware that I am at odds with what is broadly practiced in our fast-moving, often evidence-less social narratives. To lend credibility to my findings, a full disclosure of my own worldview summary may be required.

I see the approach of many tipping points for the established framework of our social coexistence. A fiscally dominant environment now supersedes everything else in our democratic societies. Its top-heavy entitlement system is being progressively compromised by changing demographics and burdened with previously unimaginable debt obligations. This environment of shortening credit cycles is further strained by a shrinking pool of natural resources—the very guarantor of those mounting debts—and exacerbated by fast-changing environmental conditions. The “growth” used to measure our civilization's success may be just a costly illusion. As our political systems, driven by short-term election cycles and populist demands, are crippling strategic planning and vital structural reforms.

Meanwhile, what truly sustains our biological lives inhabits only the backstage.

Supplementary Notes

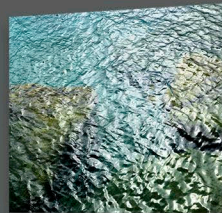
- The selection of images used can be dynamically changed depending on space, association with other artists' work, or curatorial creative input.
- It represents a much broader range of relevant images, illustrated by the “Support Materials & Videos” for multiscreen presentations.
- It might serve as a dynamic base accommodating a multi-screen narrative of expanding visual material.
- All images are photographs, short, limited editions, and resolutions for a wider range of sizes.
- The following three images illustrate variants with a screen and a mural.



Spring Maples (Mural)



Western Shore



Cold Front

"Precious" installation

Polished Jade Evening Amber

Morning Gold Topaz Blue

