In Full View



Janusz Wrobel

“We are a landscape of all we have seen.”

Isamu Noguchi, American artist.

About

Life is everything; I am because Life is.

Getting to know what Life is might be the best part of living it. Living it is to have a relationship with its possibilities. Living it well is learning how to coexist. Landscape is a space carved out of physical matter, populated by each of our individually ingrained perceptions of what it is. The potential of getting it right in the information age is better it ever was. Getting it wrong in the modern human world of sponsored deceptions is much easier. Life is everywhere. Or nowhere. An outcome of our collective choice.

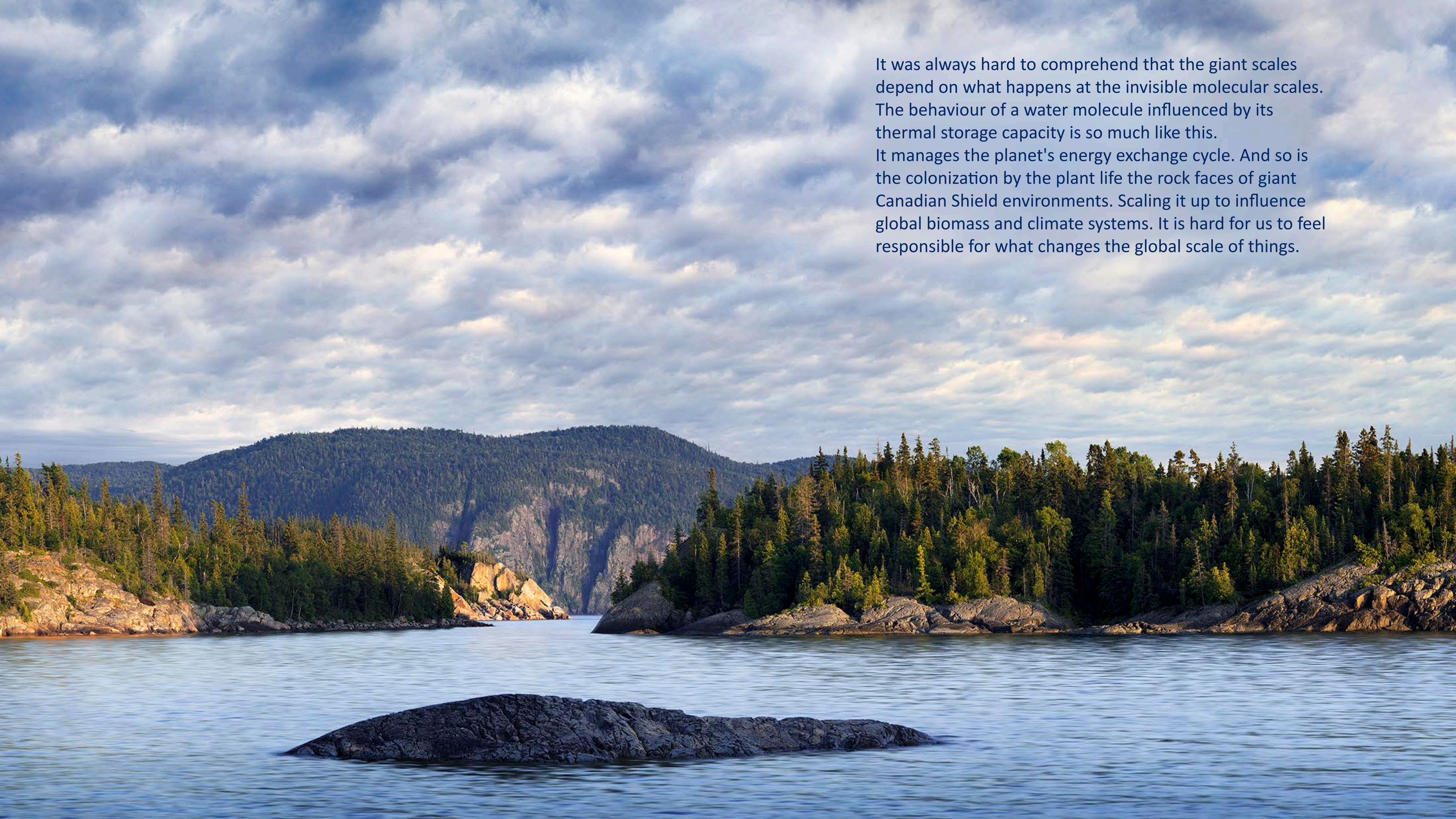
Watching again **Carl Sagan's 1985 judicious planet warming presentation,** I admired his tactful implication of human dogmatic or perceptual blindness. It is even more relevant now with the massive volume of science data available, which constitutes the cognitive barrier, and a convenient excuse for fuelling sponsored lifestyles. My education background in physical chemistry allowed me to form unbiased opinions. Pondering the daily volume of planet's energy exchange convinced me that the growing carbon dioxide atmospheric concentration is only a major culprit of planet warming. The others are the changes in our planet's hydrology caused by the progressing deforestation.The low efficiency of energy utilization that adds to massive heat accumulation in our oceans.

If art could be "the highest form of hope," it might also be the easiest way of escape. And everything in between, I thought, visiting the surviving local art galleries. With A. Danto's "end of art" monkey wrench thrown on gallery floors, they are stuck in the act of self-denial. In a society fractured by competing narratives of belonging, the surplus of personal storytelling has lost its cultural traction. Getting saturated with individual narratives, the gallery audience's patience wears thin, or has vanished. It will take quite a change, and different programing concepts, to become urgently needed platforms of idea exchange. The galleries' future might depend on it.

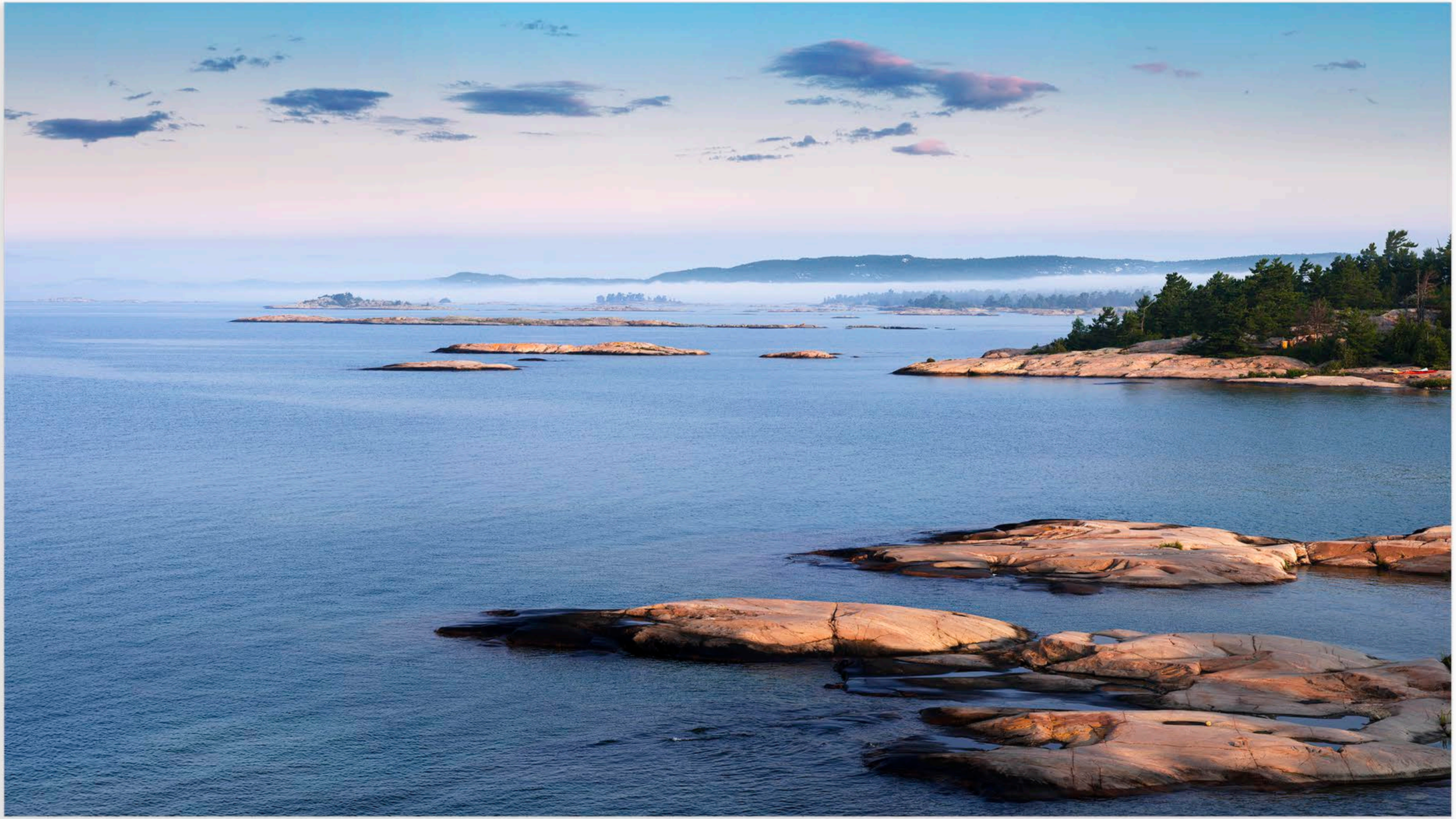
Since Carl Segan speech, various transformations have taken place. The collapse of authoritarian Rusia, and generations shaped by peaceful prosperity, have blinded many in the" Western World." It was all based on demographic profiles, and the availability of world cheap labour and natural resources. This situation is history, and now we are facing the multi-faucets legacies of it. The impossible to overcome is our planet's Human Carrying Capacity and Humanity’s Ecological Footprint. Yet in public discourse, these two paramount factors are still missing. To form unbiased opinions, I often chose a period of separation being immersed within the Canadian land masses. Astonished by all human civilizations' refusal to define the criteria of "progress."



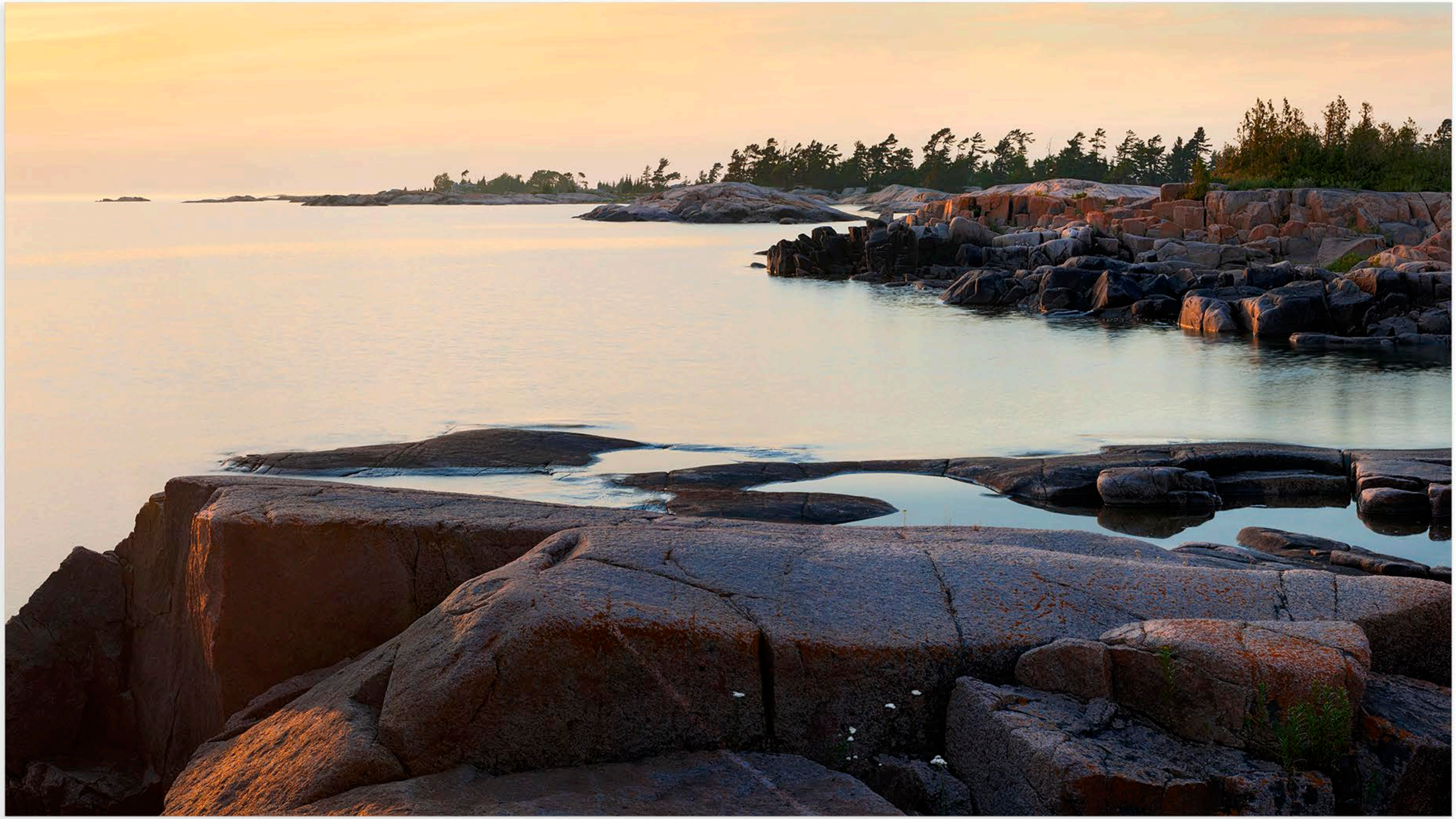
Cold Front (9)



It was always hard to comprehend that the giant scales depend on what happens at the invisible molecular scales. The behaviour of a water molecule influenced by its thermal storage capacity is so much like this.
It manages the planet's energy exchange cycle. And so is the colonization by the plant life the rock faces of giant Canadian Shield environments. Scaling it up to influence global biomass and climate systems. It is hard for us to feel responsible for what changes the global scale of things.



View from Solomon Island (9)



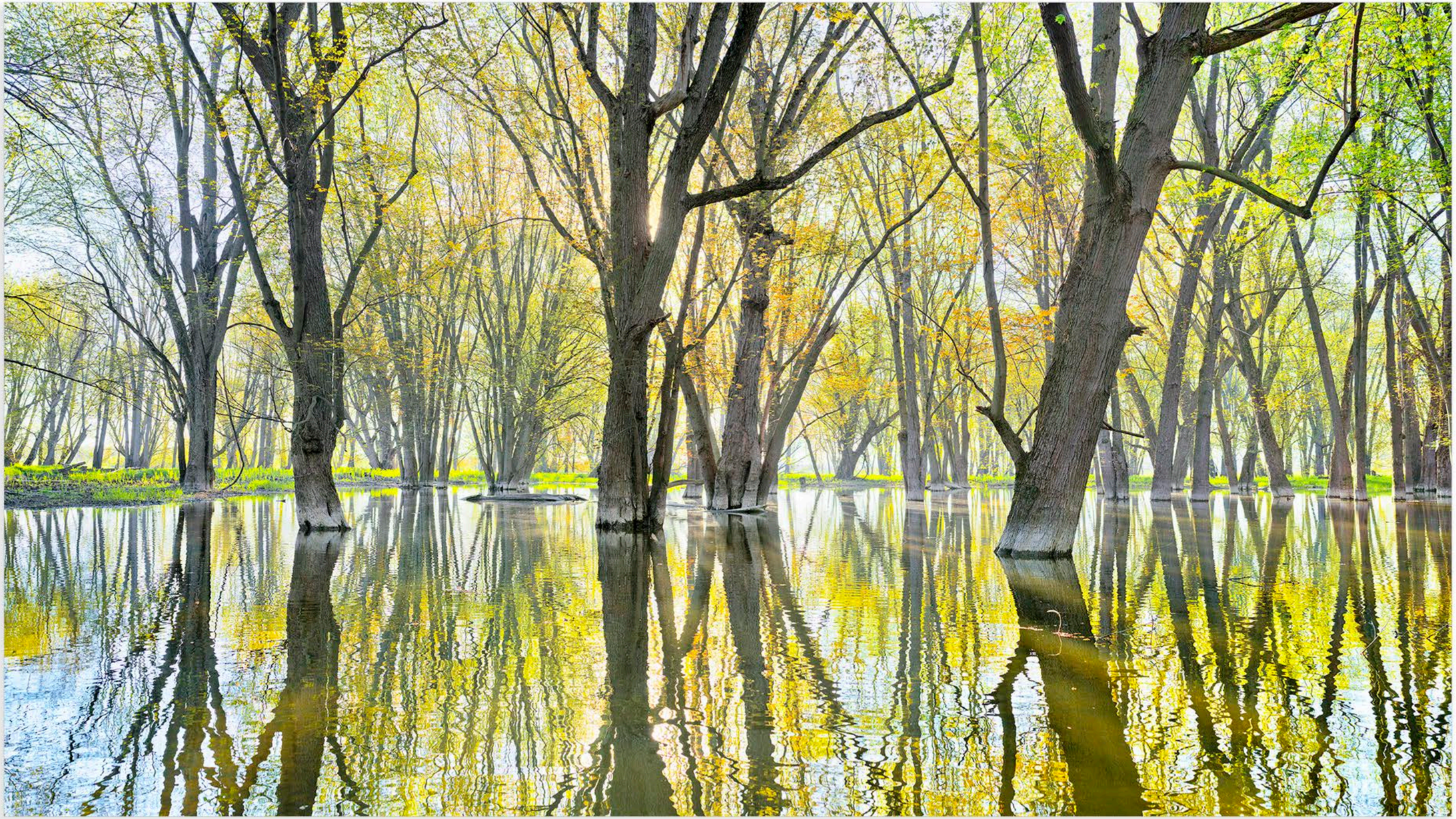
Luminous Shoreline (9)





Just as difficult is predicting the planetary carbon cycle. Carbon molecules, the essential scaffolding of every living organism on our planet, are scarce. They are only 1% of planet's mass. Managing the carbon cycle then is the living world's second prime objective.

Again, the shallow layer biological life on the Shield is more transparent, but also more vulnerable to pest invasion, fast spreading fires, and the excessive logging practices. The Canadian Shield is also a giant store biomass in its vast wetlands, and potentially a carbon ticking bomb for entire planet with the risk of its massive release.



Spring Luminosity (9)





Morning Shoreline Study (6)

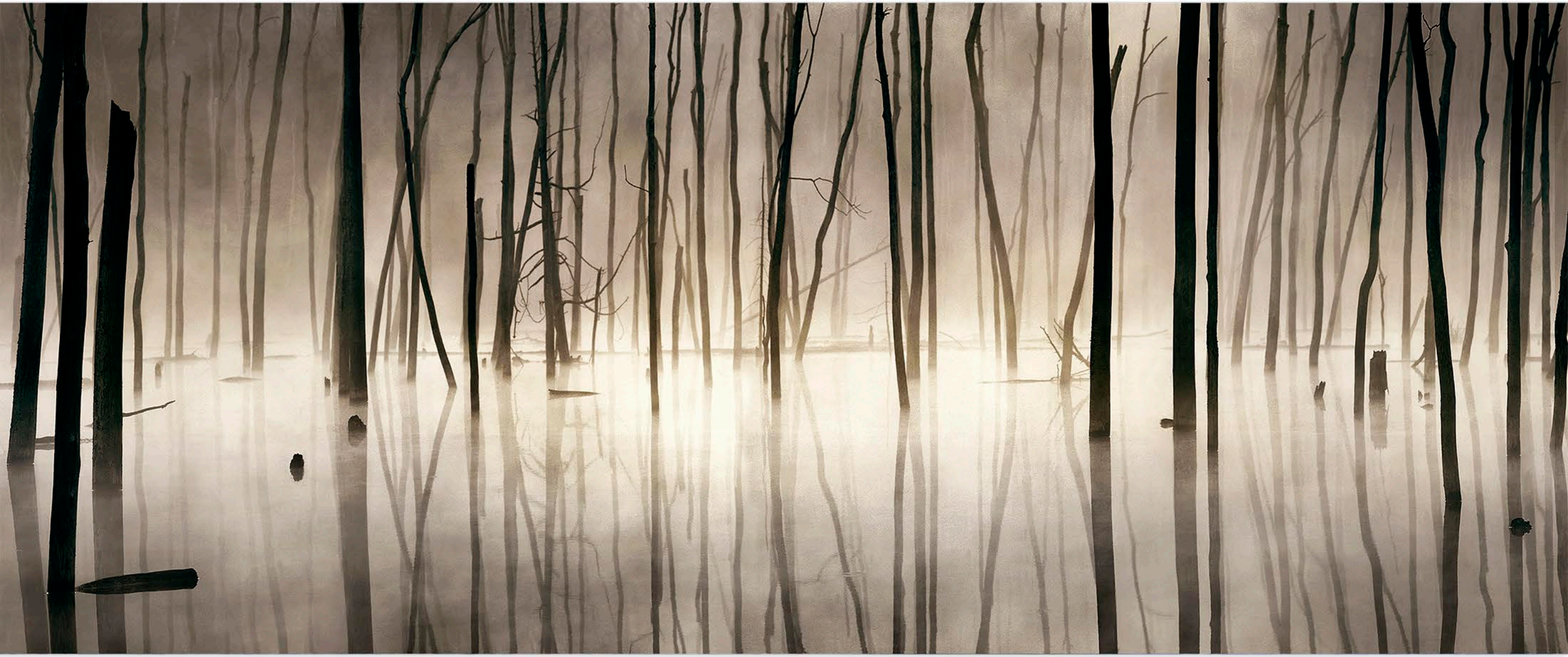


Boodvein River (9)



The challenge I saw was to recreate in a single image how the human mind overcomes the limits of own perception, confronting wide-open space. Or the limitations of our eyes. The narrow scope of sharp vision, that force human brains to scan what is in front of us, piecing together only the essential elements. The technique I developed was to compensate for this shortcoming of perceiving at the scene, as well as and the limits of the lens or camera's resolution.

My photographs, then, allow viewers the “encompassed views,” broad view scenes with fine details at large scales, exposing better the intricacies of working relationships in the natural



Misty Beaver Pond (15)

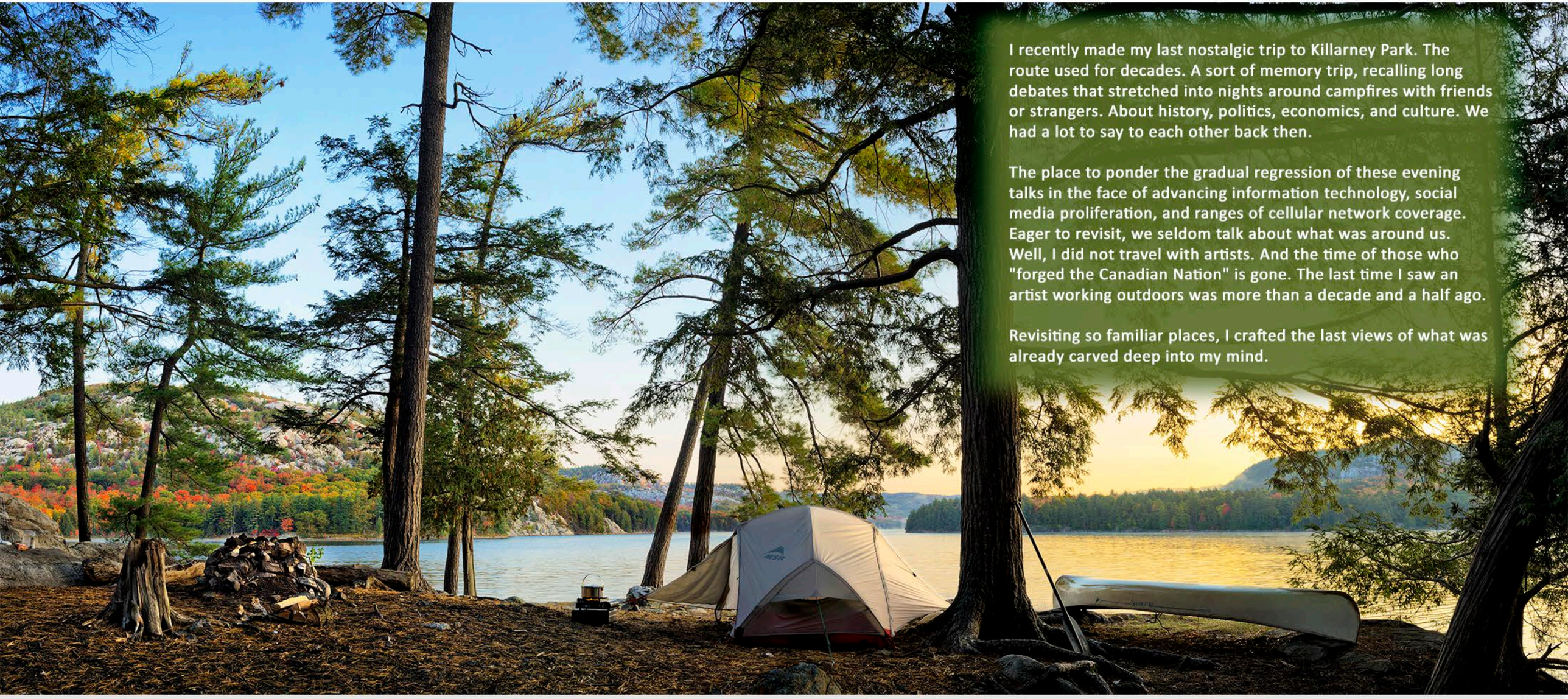


Shores of Bruce Peninsula (9)









Camp at Lake Killarney (6)



OSA Lake Camp of Memories (6)


The cottage country is silent now. The once bustling waterways,
without a ripple. No children's laughter on summer weekends.
No birds wake-up calling; untouched acorns on the grounds.
Old firepits filled with grasses.
Overhead, jet trails point faraway destinations.



Evening Campfire with Friend (3)


I welcome the chance for a good restful night's sleep.
Not so many soothing thoughts back home at night with
the endless trumpeted noise of growth on a shrinking planet.
All Projects