

An Aqueous State



Janusz Wrobel

Exhibition Preface

Curiosity, the universal trait of the human mind, accelerated our cognitive abilities and the tools we used, placing us at the top of "our world." Often seeded, as history testifies, with a sense of invincibility, impairing common sense or judgment. Charting corruptive paths of endlessly undefined "progress." Believing in the separation of adopted myths from basic biological requirements. Dismissing ever-present ecological, resource, and energy limits.

Within these frames, we nurse our individual interests and relationships. My curiosity about what is unseen led to my study of world's molecular scales. And to use a recording medium, photography, to deploy in science applications, to visualize what really happens on the invisible scales. The practice of better identification what is yet to be understood.

From this building up strain emerged my tripolar view of reality. The self, with the attention enhanced by what I had already experienced and my interpretations of it as the outcome. Then, the autonomous, time established evolutionary biophysical processes and their relationships. And finally, their interaction outcome with current human practices.

That what outlines this project.



An Aqueous State

Exhibition Statement

Human maturity is a trait defined by stability of living environment and trusted relationships anchoring our daily lives. Yet, in our complex world, this pursuit can unwittingly harden into a cocoon or an echo chamber, dulling the perception of subtle truths.

Allow yourself to consider your body's cellular life, the smallest units in it, each empowered by energy gradients, constantly relying on energy flow and its transformation. Ten's trillions of them, even more microorganisms that our body wouldn't work without. All cooperating within the complex processes inside each of us. Yet, outside our consciousness. And so, the myriads of other processes in the outside world, with the wide range of scales and impacts. These are the long-held wisdoms, once simply called "the ways of nature."

Grounded in urban ecology, I felt the need for new frames of reference. To connect with what is called the Web of Life. What I encountered there had been formalized already as the science laws by the past few generations, enabling the rise of industrial societies.

What puzzled me might be the greatest paradox of modern civilization: its reluctance to apply finding of science and history perceiving what's around us. Blindness to the natural world's depth and its quieted wisdoms.

My work attempts to open a contemplative path for them.

Whatever happens within my watery brain depends on one thing: the bent, asymmetrical shape of three atoms together. Possibly the most abundant compound molecule in the universe. Its polarity makes my brain say it, empowers my body, and defines what I know about Life and how it works. So much depends on that little thing.

My cognition, however, is the most mysterious thing. Its capacities developed over countless generations, shaped to begin with by interactions with surrounding environments, and then accelerated within a social ecology of my predecessors. And yet now, I could go through a study of the physicochemical properties of water without seeing it shaping the world all around me. One of many abstractions until there is none in my home water tap.

The second paradox might be the human mind profound disconnect between evolutionary abstraction and lived reality.

So, I became a practicing collector of reflective thoughts of the wider world I inhabit now. Leaving behind shapes, forms, colours, along unhinged emotions. Finding solace by swimming with the full moon in evening waters, my thoughts flickering like fireflies.

I am, after all, water that came from the stars.



Reef



Cold Front



From Here and Now #2



Western Shore



Grassy Reef #3



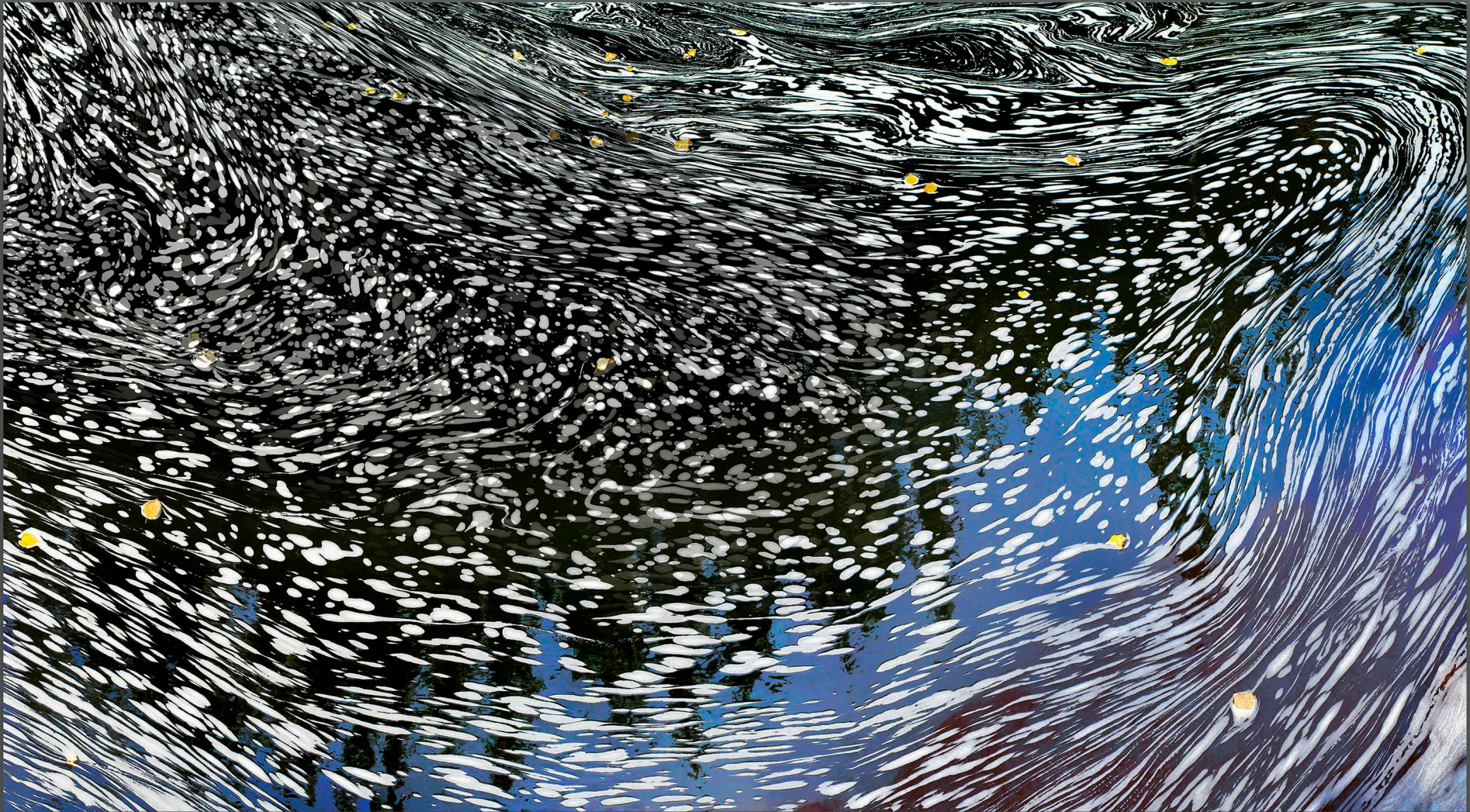
Morning Fog



Frosty Dawn



Ebb and Flow





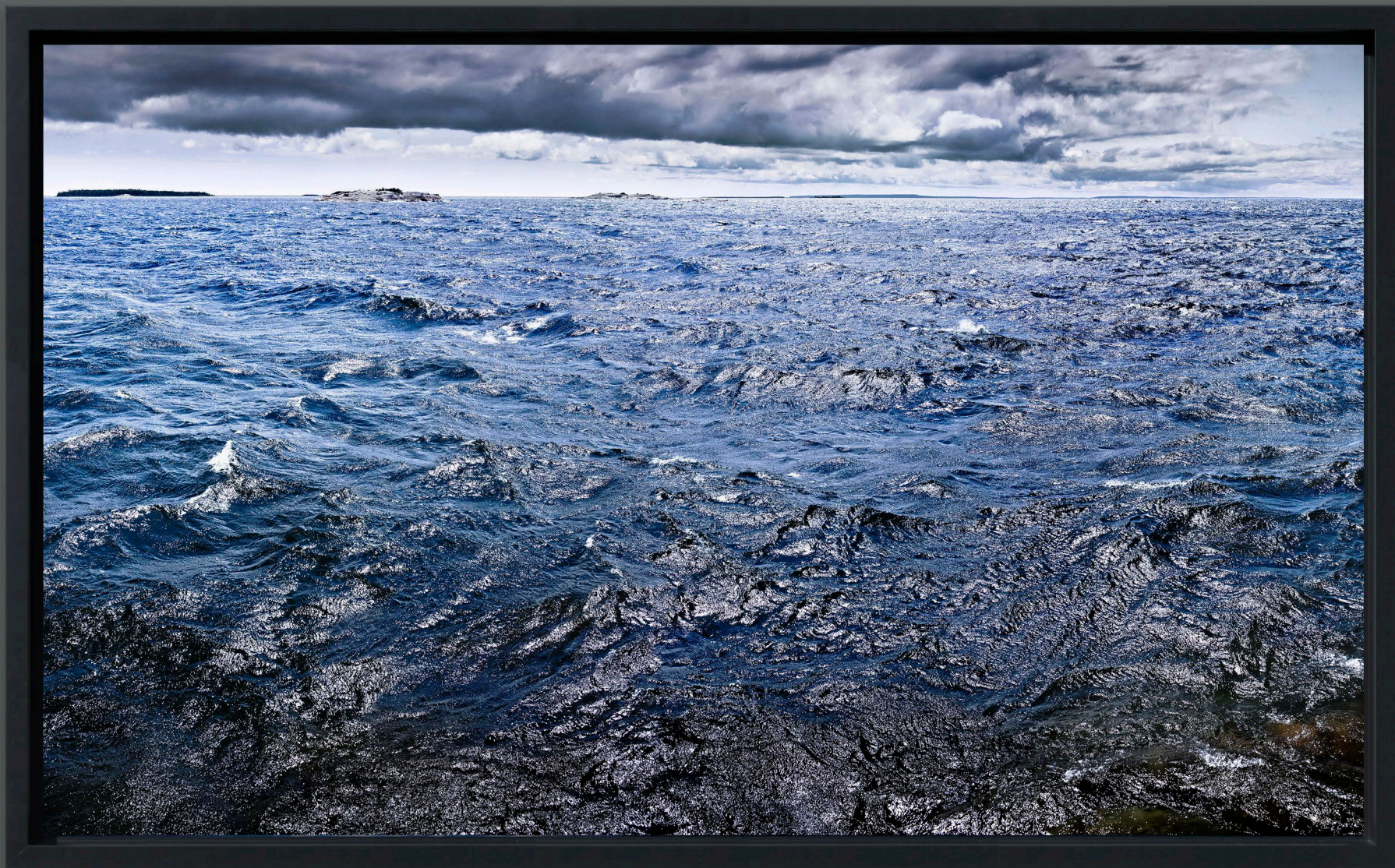
Misty Morning Bog



Sweet Water Sea



Turbulence #2



Turbulence



Superior Flow (Mural)



Continuum

Footnote

What I portray in my work reflects my current understanding—an outcome what I learned, encountered, thought over, and reasoned with. Fully aware of being at odds with practiced in our fast-moving, often evidence-less social narratives. However, mounting evidence and the associated costs of maintaining the quality standards of our biological lives far outweigh the current influence of selected interest groups in our social structures. That might be the awaited opportunity for arts and cultural institutions to return to social relevance and a more receptive audience.

I stopped submitting my work to galleries' programing decade ego envisioning the inevitable collapse of visual arts ecosystem. However, I have an interest in collaborating with curators and other artists regarding public presentations focused on relevant issues while fully regarding our collective interests.

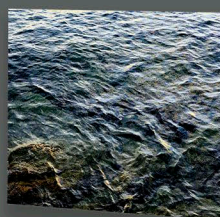
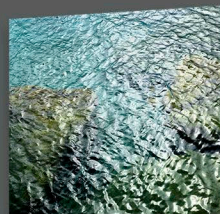
The proliferation of large, high-quality screens brought new opportunities for presentations in a range of spaces, from small screen(s) only, curated mixes with artwork ranging as temporary murals to works framed to a museum's standards. And a possibility of accommodating presentations outside programing timeframes, or outright in spaces of broader public visibility. To be nimbler in times of fast changing reality.

Supplementary Notes

- The selection of images and their sizes can be 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 photographs, in short L. Editions, and resolutions supporting wide range size options.
- The following two images illustrate variants with a screen and a mural size.



Western Shore



Cold Front

"Precious" installation 84"x104"

*Polished Jade Evening Amber
Morning Gold Topaz Blue*



Spring Maples - Mural



Screen presentation