

---



# TOUCHSTONEGALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preview: September 3 - 4, 11am– 6pm

September 5-28, 2014

## Out of Service By Pete McCutchen

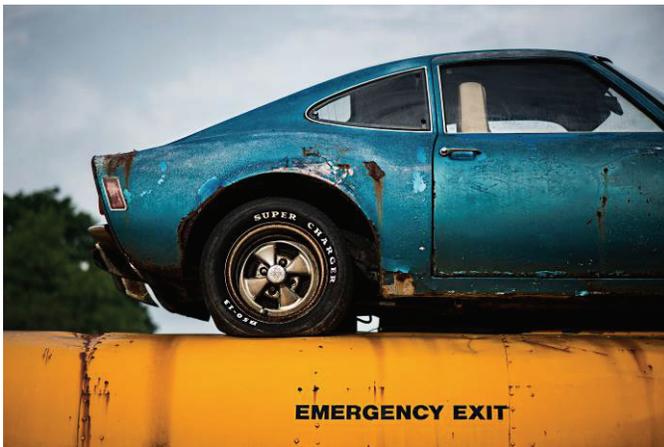
**Opening Reception:  
Friday, September 5, 6 - 8:30 pm**



Pete McCutchen likes to get lost. On purpose. Or at least as lost as you can be in the era of the GPS, when you can just click “Go Home.” He was wandering through country roads of North-Central Pennsylvania, turned a corner, and saw it: an Opel GT perched atop a disused school bus. When asked how he got it up there, the owner of the scrapyards replied: “with my fork lift.” Of course.

A landscape beckoned: rows of rusted vehicles, twisted wrecks. Dozens, hundreds, fading into the woods. They come already aged, wounded, twisted, crushed. Left exposed, they are further reduced, eaten away by wind, rain, snow, and sun. The ought to be ugly, but the decay can do the opposite, creating beautiful patterns in metal and glass.

“My approach,” says Pete McCutchen, “is observational. I don’t come to a place expecting to make a certain type of image. Expectations get in the way of seeing. My method is neither literalist nor representational. Instead I convey what I saw and felt. This might or might not be what somebody else would see if they just pointed and clicked. I might do this through traditional photographic technique: isolating a particular element of a larger scene, in my composition, using depth of field add emphasis, or it might involve something less traditional, enhancing the color, or any manner of trickery.”



As he began exploring rural junkyards, McCutchen first felt sadness at these abandoned vehicles. Like the Island of Misfit Toys, they were alone and unloved. But then he began to see dignity in them, a sense of a life well lived, now passing. He found grace and dignity within those junkyards, beauty in their decaying forms.

He saw a bus -- an old Area Transit Authority bus from central Pennsylvania. The door was jammed; inside was piled with trash and debris. The sign said “Out of Service.” Indeed.

*Images: Chevrolet # 3 and Emergency Exit by Pete McCutchen*

For more information contact Ksenia Grishkova, Director, 202.347.2787 or email [info@touchstonegallery.com](mailto:info@touchstonegallery.com)  
Touchstone Gallery is open Wednesday through Friday 11-6 and Saturday- Sunday from 12-5.

901 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20001 202 347 2787 fax 202 347 3339

[www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com) ● [info@touchstonegallery.com](mailto:info@touchstonegallery.com)

SINCE 1976