Suburban Landscapes: 
The Architecture of Nowhere

Linda Kuehne

December 5, 2013 – January 4, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, December 5, 6-9pm

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Suburban Landscapes: The Architecture of Nowhere. This exhibition will be on view from December 5, 2013 – January 4, 2014. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, December 5th from 6-9pm.

“Suburbia fails us...it’s an idea of a place rather than a place. The way you can tell is because so many places in this country seem like no place in particular.” – James Howard Kunstler

There has always been a sense of romanticism about the American landscape with its vast, wide-open spaces, meandering dreamy rivers and ever-expanding cities and suburbs. Linda Kuehne’s exhibition Suburban Landscapes: The Architecture of Nowhere depicts the American Dream gone wrong and asks, does our concept of progress still apply, or have we as a nation fallen behind—our infrastructures crumbling, our institutions bankrupt? We are at a pivotal moment when thousands of neighborhoods across the country will need to adapt in order to accommodate current realities. Will we leave these suburban buildings to rot, thus affecting everything that exists around them? Or will we evolve, rethinking use, to create new, vital environments?

Linda Kuehne says: “Suburbia – this is where many of us grew up. Much of it occupies what was until recently rural land, destroying the distinction between city life and country life. We could be living anywhere; our sense of place has been destroyed. What are the implications of this? Suburban developments give rise to the idea that neither the city nor the country is really a suitable place to live. They become suffocatingly unbearable to live with or in.”

Kuehne re-interprets the landscape through a contemporary lens, exploring the sublime as it does, or doesn’t exist today. She photographs mundane objects juxtaposed against the landscape, combining the literal with the suggestive and abstract. Her work frequently contains geometric shapes, stark forms, swaths of color (usually a blue sky-- along with a flat picture plane) that divorce the images from the illusory depth perspective one usually associates with photography, rendering her ideas and concerns in an almost painterly, metaphoric way.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228, in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wed. – Sun., 11am to 6pm. The gallery will be closed December 23 – January 1 for the holidays. For directions please visit www.airgallery.org. For additional information please contact the Interim Director, JoAnne McFarland, at 212-255-6651 or info@airgallery.org.

Image: Linda Kuehne, Suburban Landscape: Available, Tucson, Arizona, 34" x 24", Pigment Print, 2013, 1 of 5