

LARS R. SAMUELSSON

4663 Europa Trail N, Hugo MN 55038 - (651) 334-7704 - lrsamuelsson@icloud.com - larsrsamuelsson.com

Minnesota Structures or Why Several Photographs are Better than One

Minnesota Structures consists of photographs of buildings found in small towns throughout northwestern Minnesota. By using photography to document the buildings of this region, I wanted to explore the form and color of an architecture that is typical for the area.

As a photographer, I am intrigued by how we have shaped our surroundings, and the way we put our stamp on the landscape. These buildings do not distinguish themselves by having elaborate ornaments. Most of them are unremarkable, but they have a simple elegance that intrigues me.

The camera is better equipped to document the detail and surface of objects than any medium. That said, a photograph can only show us what something looks like at a given point in time, but it is up to the viewer to interpret what an image might mean.

I am interested in what happens to photographs when multiple images are presented in a grid formation. Presenting the work in this manner gives the viewer a different visual experience than a single photograph ever could. Moreover, several photographs help us classify, categorize and contemplate differences and similarities. Some buildings are bold, whereas others are more subdued, it is almost like they each have their own distinct personalities.

This project has been a fascinating look into the cultural landscape of northwestern Minnesota. By organizing the photographs in a grid formation, it has become quite obvious to me that these structures are more interesting than the simple exterior they occupy.

