Cave Art Continuum
Surfaces and Symbols from Under a Moon Era Launch Pad

Cave Art Continuum is about discovery, time, space and connection. It asks the viewer to contextualize the surfaces and symbols found in prehistoric caves with those I accidentally discovered in a cave-like-flame trench under a restricted 1960's era launchpad at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Walking amid the flame trench's narrow recesses of sculpted steel, concrete and ceramic brick, I felt compelled to capture its fleeting history much in the way archeologists uncover prehistoric human-made remnants and cave art to understand the arc of humanity's evolution.

The scorched surfaces of the flame trench were created by the deflected forces of sun-like heat, fire and water over a half century of rocket launches. I felt the surfaces represented evidence from a moment in time when humans and their tools had evolved to first transport themselves out of the cave from this earthly gateway, to the unknowns of space and time.

There was also the evidence of imperfect spray painted • + O 0 ∩ ▱ that made me think of prehistoric symbols. Although launchpad technicians had painted in ocher, black and white to designate fractured surfaces, they were remarkably similar to the geometric markings and color schemes used by humans more than 40,000 years ago at World Heritage sites like Lascaux, Chauvet and the Blombos Caves.

Over four years and several launches, I photographed these metamorphosed layers, geometric markings and textured surfaces on color negative film. Like the ambiguity of darkened caves and of space itself, I framed the surfaces devoid of scale to intensify the metaphysical …

My flame trench journey came to an end when NASA leased this historic launch pad to SpaceX. By modernizing this launch-scape, any evidence of the trench's history of the first human journeys into space has disappeared.

Display: mural size images printed on archival inkjet papers ranging from 24 x 30 to 60 x 96 inches. Silver gelatin and dye transfer prints are possible.