

DANNY SINGER: ARTIST STATEMENT

Artist statement, 2014

In 2005, I participated in an exhibition at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon. The show was called "Marking Time," a military phrase that refers to the action of soldiers moving their legs without stepping forward. It represents motion without progress, motion without getting anywhere. Indeed in the six years preceding that show it seemed to me that the towns I was photographing, while not quite stopped, were not moving forward either.

For the past three or four years though, while photographing some of the same places, I was struck by a subtle but definite change in the forward motion of many of the towns. While the "Main Street" has remained vacant and distressed, a thing of the past, the towns themselves seem have to woken to the burgeoning rural economies fueled by resource development. However, these shiny eighteen-wheelers and newly re-opened motels and restaurants don't have the same sense of permanence or community about them. And while the infrastructure is being replaced to serve the current army of workers marching through, one can only hope (as in the past) some will get tired of marching, and put down roots.