

Scott Hinton Biography/Artist Statement

“In the American West, the remnants of human activity are visible everywhere. Abandoned ghost towns, mines, and plowed earth testify to the ingenuity of humans to adapt and survive in marginal spaces. Yet, the line between nature and human influence is blurred. As we look back at the history of exploration-photography, we see that what was once new territory is now a blend of nature, capital, and social construction. My work explores the human-wildland interface, the zones where unoccupied land meets human development. Through my lens, I examine the concept of simulacra and how it is manifested in these landscapes.

The American West offers expansive and breathtaking views that can satisfy our biophilic need to reconnect with nature. However, the interface between humans and wilderness is also a site of considerable conflict. Development has altered once notable gateways and vistas, placing them adjacent to major extractive industries. While small islands of wilderness can preserve the semblance of the land before colonial conquest, managing them can be costly.”

Scott Hinton is a photographer and educator at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is the Coordinator of Digital Labs. His nomadic journeys document the complex geographies of the American West. His photography captures the grandeur of open spaces, mountains, and deserts, from the subtle hues of the morning sky to the dramatic rise of the Sierra crest. Through his work, Hinton engages in a dialogue about a landscape in flux, exploring the evolving relationship between humans and their environment.

Quote:

“It took me some time to slow down and appreciate the subtle landscape of Nevada. The mountains, variety of landforms and the solitude of the vast expanses has inspired my photography and drive to explore the backroads where humans and nature coexist.”
- Scott Hinton