

Mimi Plumb: Landfall (Mimi Plumb #2), Robert Koch Gallery, April 20, 2019

This is the second show I've seen of her work. Many of the same photographs as the Rayko show of 2016, yet this show feels more satisfying and richer.

It is good for the soul to recognize my own bias before working on why this show was more rewarding. First, I have seen many of these images before, so they are familiar, always nice to have familiar things around me. Two, this was a larger show, not too large, but more. The Robert Koch Gallery is a more prestigious venue than the non-commercial gallery at Rayko. The Press Release / Web Site information explains more of Plumb's motivation and history of the photos. The production of art is always embedded in culture. The viewing of art is always embedded in one's mind which is embedded in the culture

Setting aside these biases, it was still a much rewarding show on the merits alone. The Rayko show was smaller and had many of the photos of people. It felt to me as though she was trying to have a portrait show. Since most of the people are facing away from the camera the overall feeling was one of disconnection.

In the Koch show many more of the images were clearly seen momentarily and photographed quickly. Not unlike street photography: walking about keeping eyes open for the visually fleeting but interesting. Viewing the Rayko show (by memory) in this style of photography makes the images more interpretive of a slice of life.

While every show is a learning experience, this was particularly instructive, not about the subject matter but about my biases and just how embedded into the culture is our viewing activity.

