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As I researched the history of trash in New York City, I came across archival material from DOCUMERICA, a project funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the 1970s to "photographically document subjects of environmental concern". The photographs that I found in this collection inspired me to find those places and photograph them as they exist currently. In many cases, those areas have become parks as the city has sought to restore the land.

Documenting this project using the medium of photography was important to me. Taking these photographs is a perversion of the role of photography. Photography is seen as a form of evidence. But we see trash every single day, so what evidence do we need of it? My hope is that these photographs can be looked at in 50 years in a new context. I see this project as a time capsule of our current pollution conditions because, in 50 years, I am optimistic that the situation will have changed.

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