

Jason Reblando

New Deal Utopias



The McLean County Arts Center presented *New Deal Utopias*, a photography exhibition by Jason Reblando, from April 25 - May 31, 2014. A Reception and Art Talk for the exhibition was on Tuesday, April 29 from 5 to 7 pm in the Armstrong Gallery and was free and open to the public.

New Deal Utopias is a photography exhibition of three planned communities built by the U.S. government during the Great Depression. Artist Jason Reblando traveled to Greenbelt, Maryland, Greenhills, Ohio, and Greendale, Wisconsin to photograph the small towns designed and built in the late 1930s to be social and economic models for the future. The large scale color photographs of the homes, parks, community building interiors, and distant figures in the landscapes are strikingly composed with bold, straight and curving lines, and dense planes of color. With few people in the photographs, questions of the planned communities' success and lasting relevance loom. Reblando states, "The photographs emphasize that the Greenbelt towns are an overlooked, but crucial part of the American Landscape. *New Deal Utopias* is a portrait of three communities seventy-five years after their founding, as we continue to grapple with the shifting roles of government and place in contemporary American life". The photographs are not of relics, but evidence of our timeless aspirations for the ideal.

Jason Reblando is an Instructional Assistant Professor at Illinois State University School of Art. He received his MFA in Photography from Columbia College Chicago, and a BA in Sociology from Boston College. His photographs are part of the collections in the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Midwest Photographers Project of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The exhibition is generously sponsored by Judie Bey & Gary Hoover and Sandra & Paul Harmon.