

BEA NETTLES:

Return Trips

About the Artist

Bea Nettles graduated from the University of Florida, Gainesville, and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She taught photography and artists' books from 1970–2007 at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Tyler School of Art, and the University of Illinois where she is currently Professor Emerita.

Nettles has had over fifty one-person exhibitions including those at the International Center of Photography at the Eastman House, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, and Witkin Gallery in New York, NY. Nettles has received individual artist grants from Illinois and New York states in addition to two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in Photography. Her work is found in numerous collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC.

I have spent more than thirty years as an exhibiting artist, and explored various approaches to photography including mixed media, alternative processes, black and white, dye transfer printing, and artists' books. Throughout this time, the themes in my work have been consistently autobiographical and narrative.

My most recent body of work is *Return Trips*. Reflected in this work are travels to Italy, Spain, Morocco, Nova Scotia, and several states in the USA including North Carolina, Maine, New Mexico, Illinois, and Florida. I have been combining these images with portraits and glimpses of my daily routine in ways that deal with the layered and cyclical nature of time and the sense of place and memory that I experience strongly, perhaps more strongly as the years go by.

—Bea Nettles