

What one artist just felt like doing one day

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ALISON ROSSITER AT THE STEPHEN BULGER GALLERY

Until May 23, 1026 Queen St. W., Toronto; 416-504-0575

This is an outrageously beautiful exhibition. It's called Lament, and it is about American photographer Alison Rossiter's poignant search for what she calls, in her artist's statement, "the disappearing materials of analog photography."

In that quest, she has collected sheets of expired photography paper from the last century, all of it replete with what the gallery describes as "the years of extemporaneous exposure, moisture, humidity and physical disruptions that have created latent imagery." This latent imagery is then coaxed back into existence at Rossiter's skilled and patient hands, becoming once more, eerily forceful and moving landscapes (sharp sepia horizons as in *Acme Kruxo, expiration circa 1940s, processed 2009*, and roiling, chemical "clouds" as in *Kodak Kodabromide F-4, expiration June 1957, processed 2007*). How touching are these photo-ghosts of the momentarily reclaimed past, and how sweetly acute is the urgency of their lost beauty.