

# RAPT

This series of photographs focuses on trees that have been used as supports for a variety of chains, cables, or sections of fencing, used to restrict access to the landowner's property. Over time, as these trees continue to grow with these constricting bands of material, the dialectical tension between man and nature builds to a particularly emotional pitch. As the wires, cables and chains cut into the trunk of the trees (a process literally called 'stangulation'), the organic vegetal response seems to embody human, visceral feelings of pain, emotional constriction and dogged survival. *Rapt.*

The series of fifty-five photographs made in 2013 thru 2017, opens the landscape into a series of tightly focused moments of intense engagement between man and the natural environment. The sites I photographed spoke to me strongest in the days of transition from winter to spring when the scene was enveloped in flat, gray light and there was no foliage on the trees to distract from them.

Wes Bell



*Rapt - Yagerville Road, Napanoch, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Spruce Coulee Trail, Cypress Hills, AB, Canada*

2017

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - 7th Avenue N.E., Medicine Hat, AB, Canada*

2016

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Cedar Hill Road, High Falls, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Floyd Ackert Road, Esopus, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Union Center Road, Ulster Park, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Old Post Road, New Paltz, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Yagerville Road, Napanoch, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Rest Plaus Road, Stone Ridge, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Bellevue Road, Highland, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - North Elting Corners Road, Highland, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Soper Road, Ulster Park, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Carney Road, Rifton, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.9 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Towpath Road, Accord, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.9 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Alhusen Road, New Paltz, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.9 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Loughran Road, Esopus, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14. (27.9 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Salem Road, Kingston, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Ashokan Road, Lamontville, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Cedar Hill Road, High Falls, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Rest Plaus Road, Stone Ridge, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Towpath Road, Accord, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Alhusen Road, New Paltz, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - North Chodikey Lake Road, Highland, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)



*Rapt - Martin Sweedish Road, New Paltz, NY, USA*

2013

Gelatin Silver Print

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm. x 35.56 cm.)