

Subject: First-of-its kind public art exhibit to open in Elysian Park, featuring local artist's photography series inspired by Angels Point

LOS ANGELES, CA — Angels Point stands tall in the heart of the City of Angels, boasting an unmatched vantage point of the city's unmitigated sprawl from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Perhaps this is why city founders imagined it home to their guardian angels in naming this cliff's edge in Elysian Park, founded in 1886 as the first park in the city. Now, a new photographic installation inspired by Angels Point will be erected and available for members of the public to view, opening on May 7, 2023.

This first-of-its-kind public art exhibit will feature ten photographs from "Angel's Point," a new project by local artist and photographer Adam Ianniello. The outdoor art installation is set to open May 7, 2023 and run through June 7, 2023 in Marian Harlow Grove in Elysian Park. This installation is curated by Ianniello along with support from the Friends of Elysian Park, formerly the Citizens Committee for Elysian Park (CCSEP). Photographic prints have been made with UV ink on aluminum sheet metal, and will be mounted on wooden frames, telephone poles, and street signs in the park. The prints will be left to the whims of the elements for the duration of the exhibit.

This central hillside, like much of Los Angeles, has undergone multiple births, deaths, and rebirths. To establish Elysian Park's current use as an urban park and host to Dodgers Stadium, rural Mexican-Americans were forcibly evicted from their homes in Chavez Ravine. Earlier usages included a rock quarry, a Jewish cemetery, and exhibition grounds for would-be developers to select their preferred species of palm tree for subdivisions stretching across the basin. The Tongva connection to this peak is not fully understood, however their reverence for the adjacent Los Angeles River has suggested this site may have been an altar of sorts for the indigenous communities that called present day LA home, before Spanish Missionaries captured and enslaved them in San Gabriel and San Fernando in the late 1700s. "Angels Point" is a meandering photographic meditation that traces the relics of these foregone people in a place that refuses to yield its vantage over the ever-changing cityscape.

Ianniello began documenting the comings and goings at Angels Point in 2017, utilizing a large format film camera, akin to the tools and techniques deployed by early land surveyors of the late 19th Century and New Deal photographers at the height of the Great Depression, tracing the history of place and people through time. The resulting body of photographs is therefore seemingly out of sync with time itself. While the scenes captured by Ianniello's photographic eye are thoroughly modern, their method invokes a timelessness, and conjures a reflection on cyclical nature of things, especially potent in a city ever intent on reinventing itself.

Ianniello's meditative black and white photographs are hardly quiet — instead they scream. A crow caws. Decades of carvings in a rock face serve as a guest book for visitors against the groan of the 5 Freeway. Young voices laugh while creaking tree branches support them reaching an even higher vantage. A discarded wig and other miscellaneous human detritus declare Angels Point as far less empty than the dusty trails would suggest.

Photographer Adam Ianniello states:

“When I began exploring Angels Point and teaching myself how to use my view camera, I didn’t quite know what I was looking for, or what to expect. I had found a practice and a place of inspiration that tied me closer to Los Angeles City, and in particular to the mysteries of its past. The scenes and subjects I captured would not be possible without the place of Angels Point, forever linking my work to these public trails. While exhibiting my photographs in galleries and in a published book have been great achievements, this new public art installation, which invites viewers to wander off the beaten paths, returns my artwork to the place of its inspiration, and serves as a token of my respect and appreciation of this sacred land in the heart of Los Angeles.”

Adam Ianniello (b. 1987) is an American landscape photographer currently based in Los Angeles, CA. His photographs have been featured in various publications, such as American Chordata, C4 Journal, Def Grief, and Vogue, as well as widely exhibited, most recently in Mark Steinmetz and Irina Rozovsky’s group show, “When in Athens”. In 2020, he co-founded the imprint Smog Press. Ianniello was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and studied art history and photography at Baruch College and the School of Visual Arts. He currently lives on another famous LA hilltop, Mount Washington, with his wife and dog. Previous media coverage for Ianniello’s “Angel’s Point” has included a review in the [Washington Post](#), a feature in [The Guardian](#) and a local write up in [EastsiderLA](#).

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