

## PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THEIR SENSE OF PLACE

Many of the artists, including photographers, from the Mid-West have a strong sense of place which they convey in their work. Their art may show you something that is very typical or very special about a place. The artist might help you experience the place without ever going there. And, the artwork may help you understand how the artist feels about a place.

1. Choose one of Bill Jeffcoat's photographs of a place from the virtual exhibition *Thru my lens*, that interests you and think about how Jeffcoat expresses his sense of place. You may want to begin by "entering" the work: thinking about the five senses, describe where you are. (what do you hear, what do you smell, what is the temperature, etc.) What does Jeffcoat do to make you feel these things? What are the special details that he includes?
2. Next, think about the Jeffcoat's subject. What is the artist trying to tell you about the place he chose for his photograph? How does Jeffcoat feel about the place or the subject? How can you tell?
3. Is there a sense of history or a story related to the place that Jeffcoat chose?
4. What places are special to you? Draw a picture or take a photograph of one of those places. Try to include special details that help to show how you feel about the place.
5. Sometimes artists write about their work to help the viewer understand it better. Bill Jeffcoat wrote the labels that accompany his exhibition. Write a short paragraph about the place that you feature in question 4 to help the viewer understand your sense of place.