

DIGITAL **AGNES**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University
agnes.queensu.ca

Exploring the Ordinary

Agnes Learns

2024

SPEAKERS

Jessica Endress

KEYWORDS

Agnes Learns, Grade 9-12, School Resource, Youth Education, Photography, Contemporary Art, Kingston Artist

TRANSCRIPT

Jessica Endress: Emelie Chhangur, Agnes's Director and Curator, notes that, "Colloquially, "hidden in plain sight" means something right before you that you don't see, because it is too obvious or too common to pay attention to. Or you've seen it a thousand times."

Jay Bridge's photograph *Buddy Burger* is one of a series that re-frames Kingston and brings local spots to the forefront. What does this photograph make you think of?

Bridges is inspired by a photography movement known as New Topographics. The term, coined in 1975 by William Jenkins, originally described a group of American photographers, primarily shooting in black and white, who captured urban landscapes plainly and honestly without exaggeration or flair.

For Bridges, lighting is key to the truthful representation of Kingston's architecture. His photographs are not quick snaps taken in passing but rather can take months to compose. He'll repeatedly return to a site to determine the perfect conditions for capturing the ambience of the building.

In *Buddy Burger*, Bridges lets the radiating signs speak for themselves, capturing the ordinary beauty in the way the light reflects on the snow-covered parking lot.

For me, the glowing orange and brown A&W sign evokes nostalgic memories of childhood and family road trips.

Is there an 'ordinary' place that is extraordinary to you? What landmarks transport you to the past?