

Henry Lewis,

Double Tag

(digital photograph, 2022 from the series *Breathing*)

Little puffs of condensing air make up this piece. The subject matter is my exhalations, observed and captured at night when they are laden with vapor and can appear visibly to photography when lit. I have collected these views, objectivizing them before they disappear and are forgotten. I have been observing the cycle of breathing which is of course as repetitive as it is ephemeral. It occurs for every human being around 14 times per minute; incessant, ad infinitum or at least, until one's end. The act of breathing is so banal that the contradiction of their necessity has moved me to cherish each manifestation like an epiphany. Preferring not to merely document the phenomenon, I have chosen to 'capture' a trace of these brief episodes in the form of innumerable square format photographs which are then edited and redeployed into the piece like a puzzle. The squares thus assembled, take on a new life, extending beyond their original purpose which is basically to keep one physically alive. Thus, these breath images are no longer part of their original context and they are repurposed to play a multiple and perpetual role. One continues to exist as background and the ensemble becomes a source of contemplation. Something insignificant and ephemeral has become immaterial. Through the assemblage of these images the subject can exist separately and have its own existence long after the original exhalations have dissipated into the atmosphere. Their origin has become but a memory. Do we remember what we were feeling at the time or is our memory clouded with the history of what went on since?