

Carola Clift

*Glimpses, 2006-2010*

*Glimpses* is a series of photographs about the nature of sudden insights. These often come in ways that bypass the logical, contemplative mind; they pierce through the surface of one's usual mode of existence, and find a deeper truth. This project was conceived for the emergence of these kinds of insight in a visual way. The images are taken from a moving car, on interstate highways across the United States. I use speed to invoke an intuitive collaboration between emotion, intellect, and action. Doing so depends on recognizing, in a split second, a resonance between the total of what I see, and an inner truth. The visual elements in the viewfinder change so rapidly, there's little chance to think or compose. My task is to remain as open and attentive as possible, and poised to act when a resonant chord is struck. This idea of resonance can be compared to the way a tuning fork is used to tune a piano. When a key is played on a piano and its sound corresponds exactly to that of the tuning fork, they resonate at the same frequency. The images result from this correspondence between what is inside of me and what is outside.

Two other themes, specific to this photographic project, *Glimpses*, are inflection and limits. In mathematics, an inflection point refers to the place where a curve changes direction. Like the point in time where the future turns into the past; breathing in becomes breathing out; coming becomes going. These photographs show both coming and going in one frame, which means that there must be a decisive point, also embedded in the image, where one shifts into the other. A related mathematical concept is limits, which can never be defined precisely with a number; they can only be continuously approached, to infinity, with more and more numbers after the decimal point. In human terms, this can be similar to an intuition that one pursues, despite not knowing exactly how to say what it is.