

MWM

Exhibition Guide



Space 2 Place: A Philosopher's Journey Across America

September 8 – November 20, 2020

This exhibition is installed in **Silver Center for the Arts, Lobby Gallery**. It can be visited in person only by Plymouth State University students, faculty & staff with a valid PSU ID. The exhibition is available [online](#) and will continue to be accessible past the closing date of the physical exhibition.

What Is It About?

Space 2 Place showcases Dr. Maria Sanders' Fall 2019 sabbatical from Plymouth State University, during which time she and her 13-year-old son traveled for five months to 49 states exploring the various ways people intentionally create important places and innovatively repurpose existing structures. Dr. Sanders' sabbatical was designed to document examples of people converting spaces to meaningful places in the United States while reflecting in writing the impact such places have on forming individual and cultural identities, fostering resilience and purposeful connections, and encouraging living full and flourishing lives.

Space 2 Place features Dr. Sanders' photography and philosophy, while also highlighting samples of the other works resulting from her sabbatical project.

What Is the Basic Goal of the Experience?

The goal of the experience is to see Maria's journey through her photographs, writings, and selected quotes. The viewer can understand how people have transformed various spaces into meaningful places for all different reasons. Maria's work showcases beautiful insights into repurposed, creative, protected, and natural places across the United States.

Categories of Works

- [Repurposed Places](#)
- [Creative Places](#)
- [Protected Places](#)
- [Natural Places](#)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Physical components

- What did Sanders photograph? Are there recurring themes or subject matter?
- What do you notice about the sizes of the photos?
- What types of [repurposed places](#) are familiar to you?
- How are the plants and animals photographed in other states similar to or different from those in your area?

Artist's intentions: What do you think the artist is aiming to convey?

- Why might Sanders have chosen smaller or larger sizes for particular images?
- How do the captions placed with the photos contribute to the experience?
- What might Sanders be trying to tell us through her writing about *Predator* and *Liger Pride*, *Forever Free* and *Resilience*, and *Winter Wonder* and *Nostalgia*?

Viewer's interpretations

- Read Sanders' writing about *Manitou Tall Ship*. Can you think of a place that is designed to have multiple uses? What is that place and what are its uses?
- Maria included [these quotes](#) from philosophers in her exhibition. Choose a quote. How does the quote connect to the exhibition's experience? What does it mean to your life?
- After viewing Maria's works, are you feeling inspired to travel anywhere in particular? What would you hope to get out of your trip?

ADDED RESOURCES

Maria Sanders' Blog

["Exploring US" blog](#)

Lesson plans

[Photography & Music](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Research and Presentation on Animals](#)

Links to more information about topics

[Cat Experts: Ligers and Other Designer Hybrids Pointless and Unethical \(article\)](#)

Ligers are quite literally out of the ordinary, and they have an interesting backstory worth reading more about.

[Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary \(video\)](#)

Return to Freedom, like Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary that Sanders visited, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of wild horses and protecting their freedom in America. Watch this video to learn more about Return to Freedom and the horses they serve.

[History of Bison Management in Yellowstone \(article\)](#)

American Bison were hunted nearly to extinction. Read this article to find out how the population is regenerating.

[15 Wonderfully Repurposed Places \(website\)](#)

Sanders discovered and documented repurposed places in the U.S., which she shared with us. Visit this website to see more repurposed places from around the world. There's even one from right here in NH!

[History of the Interstate Highway System \(website\)](#)

Through the Pines and *On the Road* depict similarities and differences between roads in varying places across America. Explore this website to learn more about the interstate highway system that crisscrosses the country.

[Why is the Sky Blue? \(article\)](#)

Plenty of Sanders' photographs include a great big, bright blue sky. Surely, you've always known that a clear daytime sky will always be blue. But do you know why? This article is great for people of all ages who want to know.

[Curiosities: What determines the colors of the sky at sunrise and sunset? \(article\)](#)

Similar to the blue sky, sunrises and sunsets are photographed frequently because they can be so beautiful to the eye. Why? Read this article to find out.