

Mothball Fleet Revealed

Workspace Limited

2150 Folsom Street, San Francisco

Saturday, May 7th, 2011 at 7-9 p.m.

\$8 at the door

Journey Inside the Ghost Fleet of Suisun Bay

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 11, 2011—Rusting in a channel East of San Francisco is a group of 50 closely tethered naval and merchant ships known as the Mothball Fleet. For years the fleet has been out of the public's reach, under the watchful eyes of a 24-hour security patrol. Following a recent agreement with environmentalists, the government has endeavored to dispose of the most toxic ships. Little by little, its silhouette is shrinking; by 2017, the Suisun Bay ghost fleet will be no more.

Stephen Freskos, Jon Haeber, Scott Haefner, and Amy Heiden are artists who endeavor to photograph the off-limits portions of our built environment, but they never expected to be photographing the Mothball Fleet. For 18 months, they kept their photography of the site secret; now that many of the ships they photographed are gone, they've finally decided to unveil their images. "The time has finally come for us to proudly go public," said artist, Stephen Freskos, "Much effort, planning, coordination, and risk-taking was involved in making this happen, and—as can be expected—the trips were fraught with their share of mishaps and close calls."

On May 7th, 2011, from 7-9 p.m. you're invited to see the Mothball Fleet as it's never been seen before. In association with the nonprofit urban history organization, Place in History and the artists' hub, Workspace Limited, "Mothball Fleet Revealed" will show the photographers' best selection of images on multiple large-screen projections.

Among the images to be shown are moonlit keels showing each ship's namesake, and rooms filled with World War II-era artifacts. Find out why some of these ships were highly classified; view the racks that once held submarine torpedoes; walk below the massive 16-inch deck guns of the USS Iowa; and take a look at the top secret "stealth" ship, the IX-529 Sea Shadow. Not only will you hear about the history of these ships, but you'll so also discover how the photographers were able to explore the captain's quarters, radio rooms, and bridges of these ships for days at a time, living, breathing, sometimes sleeping in these floating time capsules.

Exclusive Photos and Narrative by:

[Stephen Freskos](#) is a San Francisco Bay area based photographer, adventurer, motorcycle builder, and graduate of the California Maritime Academy. Stephen has been infiltrating active, inactive, and abandoned Bay Area locations for the past 20 years.

[Jon Haeber](#) has been visiting restricted sites for over a decade. In 2009, his nighttime photos of Neverland Ranch were viewed by millions before the dismantlement of the theme park and the death of Michael Jackson. Haeber has appeared in The New Yorker online, CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC, Der Spiegel, the San Francisco Chronicle, National Geographic News, and the Travel Channel. His book, Grossinger's: City of Refuge and Illusion (Furnace Press, 2010, ISBN 978-0-9772742-8-4) tells the story of America's most iconic Catskills institution.

[Scott Haefner](#) is a professional photographer based in the San Francisco Bay area who frequently shoots in places that most people choose not to venture. Photographing abandoned buildings and other forgotten places, often under the cover of darkness, is what captivates him the most. His work has been featured in the San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, BBC News, Photo District News and Photo Techniques, as well as specials on the Discovery and History Channels.

[Amy Heiden](#), a San Francisco based photographer, uncovers the history of abandoned ships, asylums, factories and military bases by exploring and photographing their decay. Her photographs have been shown at 111 Minna and featured on the cover of Palooka.

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