



Scapeland XLIX, 2014, detail, photograph, 16 x 48 in.

STEVE BAKER

The *Scapeland* series depicts aspects of the natural and cultural landscape of the area in which I live in the east of England. It is a largely rural area with an unusually rich medieval heritage and, unfortunately, an abundance of roadkill on its quiet country lanes. The photographic juxtapositions within each piece in the series are constructed on the basis of some sort of visual “fit.” Sometimes there is a rhythmic continuity across the pairings; sometimes a kind of beauty. Some of the pieces happen to record the look of particular animals’

unnecessarily lost lives, and they do so with an awareness of other artists’ handling of similar subjects, but the series is concerned neither with narrative nor with commentary. Jean-François Lyotard used the term *dépaysement* to characterize the inescapable otherness that he saw as “a precondition for landscape.” The aim of the *Scapeland* series is to present something characteristic of this particular landscape simply by registering the material continuity of feathers, flint, earth, guts, leaves and stone.



Scapeland VII, 2013, photograph, 16 x 48 in.
Scapeland XIX, 2014, photograph, 16 x 48 in.

Scapeland XXIV, 2015, photograph, 16 x 48 in.
Scapeland XII, 2014, photograph, 16 x 48 in.