In his ongoing, multi–chaptered series Black Maps, David Maisel’s aerial photographs of environmentally impacted sites explore the aesthetics and politics of radically human–altered environments, framing the issues of contemporary landscape with equal measures of documentation and metaphor. Curator Robert Sobieszek states, “Maisel has succeeded in mapping the fictive terrains of the unconscious, of nightmares and hallucinations. He has also used the camera’s objectifying optics to form cartographies of the irrational and the perverse, the preconscious and the primordial, the apocalyptic.”

A graduate of Princeton University, Maisel studied at the Graduate School of Design and Harvard University and has a MFA from the California College of the Arts. Maisel has exhibited widely in the U.S. and internationally and he has received numerous awards. His works can be found in collections such as the Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Fogg Art Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the Bates College Museum of Art, and the Center for Creative Photography, in Tucson, Arizona.

Points of View

From June 12 – October 17, 2015, the Bates College Museum of Art will present Points of View, an exhibition of contemporary photography featuring new and recent works by Jay Gould, of Baltimore, Maryland, Gary Green, of Waterville, Maine, David Maisel, of Marin, California and Shoshannah White, of Portland, Maine. Viewing elements of the Maine landscape from different levels of scale – from great distance to close-up, each artist explores a different aspect of the boundaries and interrelationships between human activity and the natural world.
1. What do you think the artist was trying to show us with these photographs?

2. What do you see in the photograph that makes you say that?

3. How do you think these photographs were made?

4. What else can we find in the photograph?