ON THE ROAD

October 15 – November 14

Louis K. Meisel Gallery is pleased to announce *On the Road,* a group exhibition that visually explores American car culture and its impact on the nation's landscape. Bringing together paintings by both the originators of the movement, as well as the contemporary Photorealists, the exhibition focuses on a subject that has captured the imaginations of artists for generations.

Since the inception of Photorealism in the 1960s, automobiles have been among the movement's most prominent subjects. While some Photorealists captured the post World-War II boom, using vehicles as a prop in family photography or alongside storefronts, other artists, in search of a distilled vision of America, traveled across the country, photographing scenes they encountered along roadways. These compositions feature some of the most recognizable elements of the American landscape: classic roadside motels, gas stations, diners, and endless highways.

Works by Robert Gniewek, Rod Penner, and John Salt focus on the often-overlooked scenes of remote corners of America. Devoid of human figures, these compositions suggest a human

presence through the glow of a gas station, an abandoned automobile on the side of the road, or the desolate main street of a small town. Rather than dictating a definitive narrative, these scenes reveal fragments of untold stories, which are left open-ended for the viewer to complete.

Other Photorealists elevate the automobile from the compositional element to the principal subject. Fascinated with industrial design, Tom Blackwell and Peter Maier place elaborate engineering center stage. The streamlined silhouettes and glossy surfaces of their vehicles fill the entire pictorial space, transforming close-up views of intricate machinery into semi-abstract compositions.

On the Road invites viewers on a journey across America through the eyes of the Photorealist artists, whose individual styles come together to create a multifaceted portrait of the country. The exhibition is on view at Louis K. Meisel Gallery from October 15 through November 14, 2026. For further information, please contact gallery@meisels.com