

## "FRAGILE LAND REVISITED" EXHIBIT AT DELGADO GALLERY SEPT. 3 – OCT. 1



Delgado Community College invites the public to *Fragile Land Revisited*, photographic works by Michel Varisco that will be exhibited in the Isaac Delgado Fine Art Gallery on the third floor of Building One/Isaac Delgado Hall on Delgado's City Park Campus (615 City Park Avenue in New Orleans, La) Sept. 3 – Oct. 1, 2009. There will be an opening reception, free and open to the public, on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009, 6 – 8 p.m. in the gallery.

The Isaac Delgado Fine Art Gallery is open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday. For more information, call (504) 671-6377.

### **About *Fragile Land Revisited***

*Fragile Land Revisited* is a study of landscapes photographed from 2006 through 2009. "Derived from New Orleans' City Park and the surrounding wetlands, the images of tree stumps, missing limbs and scattered birds mirrored the collective experience of New Orleans post-Katrina," said Varisco. "This series ended up expressing grief and hope for the region and was a gentle reminder of the collaborative system we are all a part of."

Photographed originally on medium format black and white film and printed as silver gelatin prints, eventually the series was incorporated into an outdoor public arts piece (commissioned by the Joan Mitchell Foundation and the Arts Council of New Orleans). Large translucent mesh banners were installed into a partially ruined Works Progress site in New Orleans' City Park called "Popp's Fountain." Since the creation of the installation, the ruined site has been almost completely restored by the parks management, FEMA and volunteers.

The tall, arched window of the Isaac Delgado Gallery inspired a new piece in the series entitled "The American Passenger Pigeon." As described in the book by Alan Weisman entitled *The World Without Us*, the American Passenger Pigeon, found originally only in North America, was once so plentiful a species that its flocks were 300 miles long and numbered in the billions. A bystander could watch for hours as they passed overhead. Somehow, humans managed to kill them all off within 100 years. Farming methods which limited their food supplies and hunting of the birds for easy meals reduced their numbers to nothing. When we realized what we had done, it was too late to change the course of our actions. The last one died in 1914. However, hunters began a conservation movement, ironically titled "Ducks Unlimited," to help ensure that no game species would follow the American Passenger Pigeons' fate – a complicated and not so easily realized goal."

"Even in its beat up glory, I watch nature heal itself and witness it heal humans, despite our relentless assault on its and our own survival," said Varisco.

### **About Michel Varisco**

A New Orleans native, Michel Varisco has an MFA from Tulane University. Her work explores the link between natural and manmade environments and the elegant and complex weavings of the two. She has exhibited in Louisiana, Tennessee, New York, Mississippi, Washington, Czechoslovakia, Germany and France. She has received grants from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the SURDNA Foundation, The Cultural Economy Foundation and The Active Element Foundation. Varisco's work has been published in *Adbusters*, *USA Today*, *Common Ground Archeology*, *Cultural Vistas*, *New Orleans Review* and *Habitations*, among others, and is included in the collections of Kimberly Clarke Corporation, Historic Restorations Inc, Loyola University, Southeastern University, Gulf Coast Bank and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. She teaches at NOCCA|Riverfront and is represented in Nashville by Richter Photography Gallery and in New Orleans by Heriard-Cimino Gallery.