

R.M. Vaughan: The Exhibitionist

Truly gorgeous photographs of libertines and naked vampires

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Olena Sullivan at Bezpala Brown Gallery

Until May 31, 17 Church St., Toronto; www.bezpalabrown.com

Photographer Olena Sullivan's exploration of the Exclusion Zone that surrounds Chernobyl is exactly as horrific as you'd expect. Ruins and ruination abound. What you won't be prepared for are the mutated colours she discovers, the bilious greens, bleached azures, rotted-tomato reds and urine yellows – the colours of sickness, decay, bloating and abuse.

Sullivan photographs the no-go area as if she were photographing a beautiful new life form. The works are not melancholy, they're tantalizingly strange, seductive as a shipwreck. By making us want to visit the Exclusion Zone's awful rubble, Sullivan turns the voyeuristic tropes of disaster photography upside down; exchanging pity for wonder and easy agreement for discomfiting allure.