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## The Roads Ahead, Scary & Serene

By ERIC GELBER  
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Photographer David Maisel also deals with the ways in which humans have transformed the natural world. His current exhibition at the Von Lintel Gallery includes images from the "Terminal Mirage" and "Oblivion" series, including disorienting aerial views of the [Great Salt Lake](#) and [Los Angeles](#).

By printing the images in negative in the "Oblivion" series, the viewer almost becomes an alien gazing down on the city of Los Angeles. These photographs suggest that we are only capable of seeing fragments of the world, no matter how high above the earth we go. It is hard to imagine the individual lives of the people living in these abstracted environments. By showing us the literal shape of society, Mr. Maisel holds a mirror up to the collective rather than the individual. His photographs capture a moment in historical time, the byproducts of many generations. Gauguin asked these same questions in the title of his spectacular 1897–98 Tahitian painting: "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?"

Maisel until December 23 (555 W. 25th St., between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, 212-242-0599).