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Exhibit takes a snapshot of New Jersey in the popular imagination

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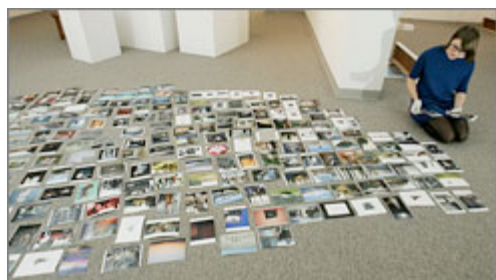
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By Mel Evans, AP Photo

Curator Laurel Ptak selects photographs for an exhibit at the Pierro Gallery in South Orange, N.J. More than a thousand "photographs of New Jersey" were collected online from artists around the world, most of whom have never set foot in the state.

By Brad Haynes, Associated Press Writer

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Traffic, jewelry, smokestacks, armpits, a slab of beef — this is New Jersey in the Internet's imagination.

A new exhibit features more than a thousand "photographs of New Jersey" collected online from artists around the world — most of whom have never set foot in the state. It opens this weekend at South Orange's Pierro Gallery, in a community center near Newark.

With personal snapshots, Google searches and pop culture references, these digital artists document the Garden State in their mind's eye.

"Welcome to New Jersey — Taxes, Tolls, Traffic," announces one cleverly retouched picture of a highway sign submitted by artist Karenann Sinocchi.

Plenty of the images deal in familiar first impressions of the state, from Jersey girls to iconic native sons.

In homage to Bruce Springsteen, Daniel Everett, a Chicago art student, submitted a photo of his CD player with the speaker wires taped down in the shape of the state. In a caption, he noted the speakers were playing "Born to Run" as he worked on the project.

Artist Dominic Episcopo carved a New Jersey-shaped steak.

Curator Laurel Ptak said the state's outline was a common theme, because most of the 189 artists in the show had seen New Jersey on a map but never in person.



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Ptak began th
New Jersey. \$
and circulated around the Web in several languages. Work so
Argentina, Lithuania and Turkey.

The exhibit includes at least one picture from every artist, whe
slideshows around the gallery. The show runs from Sunday to

Ptak, who normally curates a photography blog, said her task
search for the words 'New Jersey.'"

The results are as diverse as the state itself.

"You don't get one picture of New Jersey at all," Ptak said. "W
everyone has their own version of New Jersey."

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Mikellita wrote: 14h 58m ago

If you live nearby, definitely worth checking out. I went
approaches to the question there were. Yes, amidst th
scenes and landscapes and I agree there are many th
country. For that reason, I think there were a lot of "ar

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