

SANDRA DYAS

## THE LOST NATION PHOTOGRAPHS

### *Editor's Note*

The photographs on the following pages are excerpted from the series *The Lost Nation Photographs* by Sandra Dyas, Iowa City–based visual artist and lecturer at Cornell College. She writes:

*Lost Nation is a small town in eastern Iowa close to where I grew up. Its name inspired this body of work. For me, “Lost Nation” is a universal feeling, a metaphor for the human condition. The black-and-white photographs—taken in various locations over a period of twenty years—are an exploration of place, loneliness, and the human spirit, evoking a message of both hope and hopelessness. Like photographer Robert Frank, who said he wanted to describe what it felt like to drive into “the sad American night,” I wanted to photograph people, places, and things that embodied the oddness and honesty of real life.*



“HOPE,” Hope, Maine



"Broken Horses," Jackson County Fair, Maquoketa, Iowa



“Emma with Sparklers,” Iowa City, Iowa



"China Shoes," near Andrew, Iowa