VALLEY PICTURES

IN OCEANA COUNTY MICHIGAN IS A TWO STORY ABANDONED HOUSE THAT SITS IN AN OPEN FIELD.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ONLY ABOUT A HOUSE. I WANT TO SET SOMETHING DOWN BESIDE IT.
THERE ARE NO OTHER BUILDINGS AROUND AND IT IS MISSING ITS FRONT AND BACK DOOR, BUT
I WANT TO FIND SOMETHING WITH THE SAME SORT OF BULK, SOMETHING THAT LEAVES A MARK.
THE STAIRS, WHICH WOULD HAVE LEAD TO A SECOND STORY ARE ALSO GONE. THE MARKS LEFT BY
THE GLACIER EXISTS AS PART OF HARDING ICE FIELD, WHICH IS PART OF KENAI PENINSULA,
THE STAIRWAY ARE NATURALLY JAGGED, INDICATING THE SHAPE OF THE STAIRS, BUT ALSO
ALASKA. IN 1968 TEN PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN THE FIRST RECORDED CROSSING OF THE FIELD.
THEY APPEAR HURRYING AWAY FROM THE STRUCTURE AND INTO THE EARTH. I WAS SHAKEN
THEY WERE MOUNTAINEERS. THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTED, "THEY WILL BE DESCENDING
UP WHEN I SAW THROUGH THE HOUSE. FEELING EXPOSED, I TOOK A GULP OF AIR AND HELD IT
THE EXIT GLACIER." VALLEY GLACIERS, LIKE "EXIT" ARE ALWAYS EITHER DEPARTING OR ARRIVING
AS IF TO CONTAIN WHAT THE HOUSE NO LONGER COULD. THIS RESULTED IN A SENSE OF FULLNESS
IN THE VALLEY IN WHICH THEY RESIDE. I FIND THIS GENTLE PREDICTABILITY TO BE RESASSURING.
IN MY BODY THAT COUNTER-BALANCED WHAT I WAS SEEING, PROVIDING ME STEADYING COMFORT
LIKE AN EXPECTED LOVER QUIETLY COMING TO BED.THE MATTRESS, LIKE THE VALLEY, SAGS UNDER
DESPITE THE PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT OF MY LUNGS STRETCHED TO BEYOND NORMAL CAPACITY.
OUR COLLECTIVE WEIGHT. THE SOFT TECTONIC PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF THE BLANKETS CREATE
FINGER TIPS BEGINNING TO TINGLE, I HELD MY BREATH UNTIL I FORGOT EXACTLY WHAT A HOUSE WAS.
NEW MOUNTAIN RANGES FORMED ABOVE OUR BODIES AS WE SHIFT UNDERNEATH OUR INDIVIDUAL
BUT I CANNOT GO ON HOLDING MY BREATH FOREVER. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
COMINGS AND GOINGS. EXITS AND ARRIVALS LOOK THE SAME SOMETIMES. THE GLACIER RECEIVES
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
HUNDREDS OF TOURISTS EVERY YEAR AT ITS EDGE.THEY MOSTLY DRIVE THERE AND TAKE PICTURES.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
THIS IS HOW I EXPERIENCE IT—THROUGH THEIR PICTURES. THE GLACIER LOOKS SMALLER THERE.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
THE ICE LOOKS DIRTY IN 2009. TOO BLUE IN 2007. I AM TRYING TO IGNORE THIS PARTICULAR EXIT.