THE ART OF DESTRUCTION:
Superstorm Sandy, 2012
on Long Island
These photographs were collected by Hofstra University’s Department of Special Collections after Superstorm Sandy, 2012. Chosen from the over 300 photographs that were donated to our department, this exhibition was first shown during the Sustainability Conference the following spring.

The title, “The Art of Destruction” was chosen because it describes the complicated feelings of the viewer. The photographs not only depict the destruction that occurred but also the amazing force of nature and the ability of each photographer to capture something beautiful in the aftermath.

Cover photograph: Sand berms were created on Long Beach to deter flooding. This photo, taken on the morning of the storm shows how the berms were already being destroyed. Photograph by Amy D. Karofsky.
THE POWER OF WATER

Waves start to break over the walkways and docks.

Photograph by Harrison Knowles, October 29, 2012
Flooding on California Avenue’s west end on the morning of the storm, Long Beach

Photograph by Amy D. Karofsky
People removed belongings from flooded homes in any way that they could.

October 29, 2012

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
A tree stands alone in the middle of a flooded neighborhood on the day of the storm.

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
This Long Beach street scene became a typical sight after the storm. Sand poured onto roadways and into yards and basements. Water-soaked belongings were left on the curb.

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
Cars were pushed around like toys as the ocean water surged into the streets of Long Beach.

Motors were burned out and many vehicles caught fire.

Photograph by Amy D. Karofsky
The storm created rivulets and rivers up and down Jones Beach; the theater was flooded and parts of the boardwalk were ruined.

Photograph by Tina Morris
Docks were torn apart and boats were submerged all around Long Island.

Photograph by Thomas Saltzman
Pilings show where the dunes used to be on Long Beach.

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
Heavy machinery brought in to clear the sand from the streets of Long Beach, November 2012

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
Downed power lines create an artistic vanishing point.

Photograph by Ryan Brook
The sun breaks through the clouds and downed power lines.

Photograph by Ryan Brook
Trees topple in unison, Allerton Drive, East Northport.

Photograph by Emily McNamara
Intersection of Broad and Exeter, Williston Park

Photograph by Michael O’Connor
Downed tree in Roslyn Heights

Photograph by Brett Bochner
Mist on Mill Pond
shrouds downed trees

Photograph by Robert L. Harrison
Hundreds of thousands of people along the east coast lost power for days and weeks after the storm.

Eating by lanterns, flashlight and candles was a common scene in most households.

Photograph by Lisa Landau
An old tree ripped through the upper floor of a house in Huntington.

Photograph by Amy D. Karofsky
WHAT’S LEFT BEHIND

Only the chimney and front steps remain of a house in Babylon.

Photograph by Robert L. Harrison
The Long Beach boardwalk looks like a roller coaster after the storm.

Photograph by Deborah Lom
A car ruined by the storm and inundated with sand and debris

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
Sand reclaimed from streets and yards is piled high waiting to be cleaned and put back on the beach at Long Beach, November 2012.

Photograph by Harrison Knowles
After the storm, tree limbs were cut and whole trees were brought down and piled by the side of the path at Mill Pond.

Photograph by Robert L. Harrison
Old tree stumps looking like mushrooms or leaves lying in the undergrowth of Mill Pond

Photograph by Robert L. Harrison
Adding insult to injury, snow fall covers property damage and causes power outages all over again on November 7th.

Photograph by Robert L. Harrison
Impressions left on the sands of Jones Beach, November 2012

Photograph by Tina Morris
A jewel lost three years before the storm was flushed out of its hiding place to be left amongst the debris. The homeowner lost many belongings in the flood, but was gifted with this one small item.

Photograph by Amy Kahn
The debris and sand paint a textured picture of “what’s left behind” after the water recedes. Photograph by Jennifer Peters.
If you would like to contribute photographs to the Superstorm Sandy Collection at Hofstra University Library’s Department of Special Collections, please send your digital photographs to: LIS1@hofstra.edu

Please include your name and the date the photograph was taken.