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The bureau of operational landscapes

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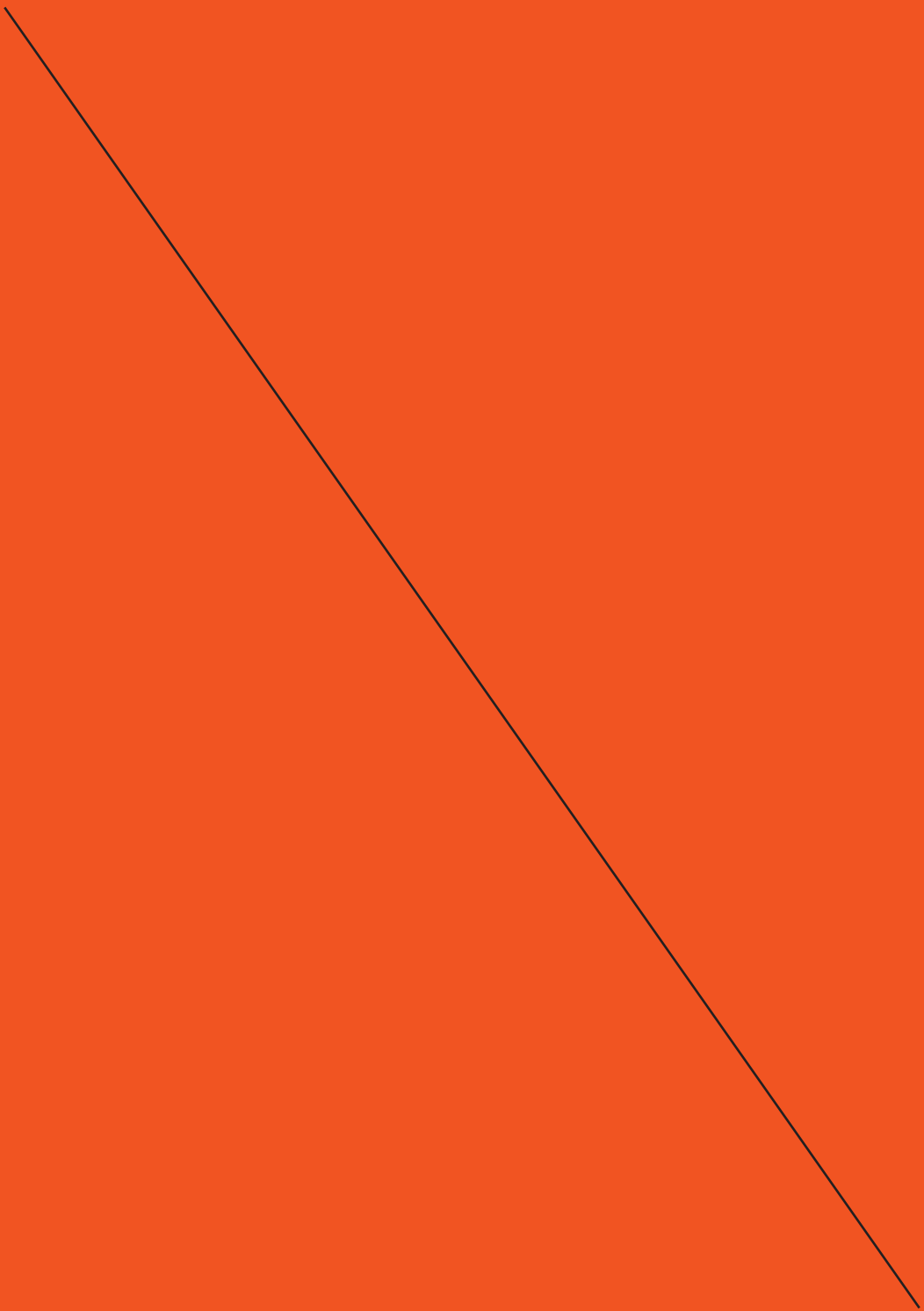

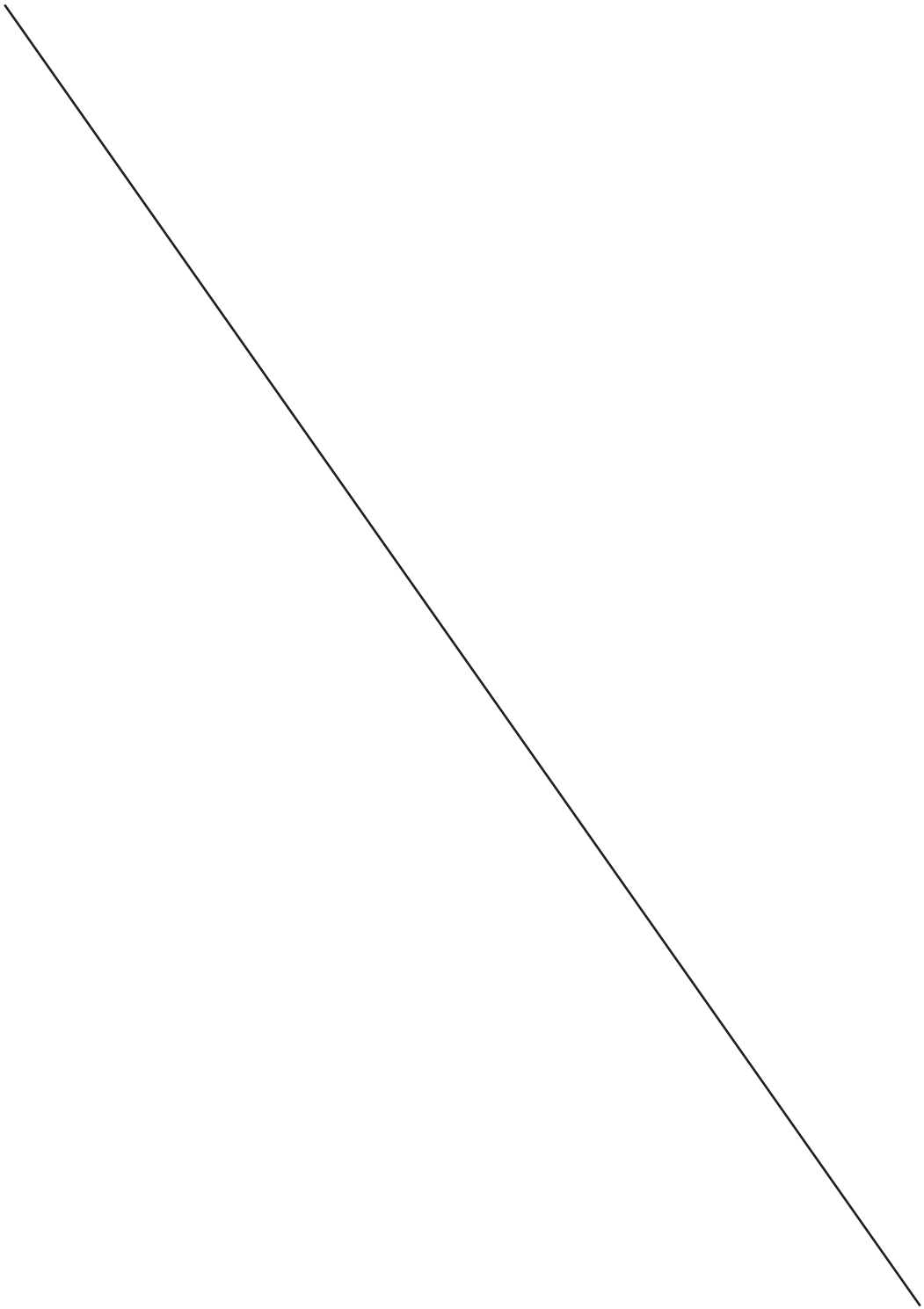

SUMMARY

The *Bureau of Operational Landscapes* examines the relationship between landscape photography and logistical landscapes, with the Port of Rotterdam as a specific case study. I posit that the conventions of landscape photography are challenged by the complex spatial configurations of contemporary logistical sites, and propose a new methodology for interpreting and engaging with these particular landscapes.

I introduce the concept of "bureaucratic vision" – through textual and photographic means – to describe how logistical landscapes, like the Port of Rotterdam, produces a non-negotiable and predetermined image that resists contestation. Therefore, I initiate the *Bureau of Operational Landscapes* as a conceptual and practical framework that reimagines landscape photography as a more-than-representational act that solicits public engagement with logistical sites. The dissertation employs practice-led and practice-based methodologies, while textually, I combine scholarly analysis with narrative storytelling drawing from a mixture of art history, cultural landscape studies, and artistic practice to develop an interdisciplinary – even nondisciplinary – approach to landscape photography. I utilize both landscape photography and site-specific encounters to expand public perception and scrutiny of the port to encourage direct interaction with the logistical landscape.

The aim is to create an "extra" role for landscape photography, one that focuses on the production and performance over the finality of the image itself. This way, the logistical landscape may be made more legible to the public, encouraging a relationship beyond the official narrative that governs these vital yet often overlooked spaces. Ultimately, the dissertation offers insight into the complex relationship between logistics, landscape, and visual representation.