

Artist Statement

My research and creative practice is focused on the manifestation of landscape in relationship to personal space and the confluence of cultural histories that have existed in these spaces. I bind the history of a space and the visual experience of the present for either a validation or discretization of cultural beliefs. I make work about borders or areas of geography that are at once accepted and also contestable; the land is not aware of these concepts and requires culture to enforce and maintain the legacy. It is this empty legacy, the insertion of the overlaid system upon the natural world that I find metaphor for an autobiographic contextualization.

My visual practice and exploration is at once intuitive and personal while critical and academic. Within the study of spaces, transient spaces, I follow the transfer of information from generation to generation. What does it mean when a culture self edits, marginalizes or excludes information from moving forward in the body of knowledge or collective conciseness, how ideals (true and false) identify a culture.

My work is photographic. I make photographs because I need to arrest time, to reflect, to recollect and to see. Cameras are clocks the seeing but seeing within photographs comes only through contrast; contrast to what was before or after, or whatever separation of reality has been produced by the camera. My work is narrative because everything is linked. I do not create disjointed narratives but narrative that demand being aware of more than the frame of the image and the context of the image.

Bio-

I was born in Dalton, Georgia but have I've lived in eight states and nineteen different homes. This has deeply influenced my attraction to place and the significance of personal history that is directly connects cultural history and future global perceptions.

While a practicing photographer I don't completely identify with precisely what this means. I use the camera to deconstruct this immediate world, then I use the photographs to reconstruct the immersive micro and macro cosmologies. I believe and use the photographic image but I demand more from it and us.

I show regularly, around the globe but I prefer the experience of books, journals and all printed media. I earned my MFA in studio art from Hunter College in New York and my BFA from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Since 2008 I have been an assistant professor of photography at Parsons The New School for Design.

C.S. 2015