

ROOTS. GROUND. WATER. SEEDS.

21ST APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 2 - JUNE 1, 2024

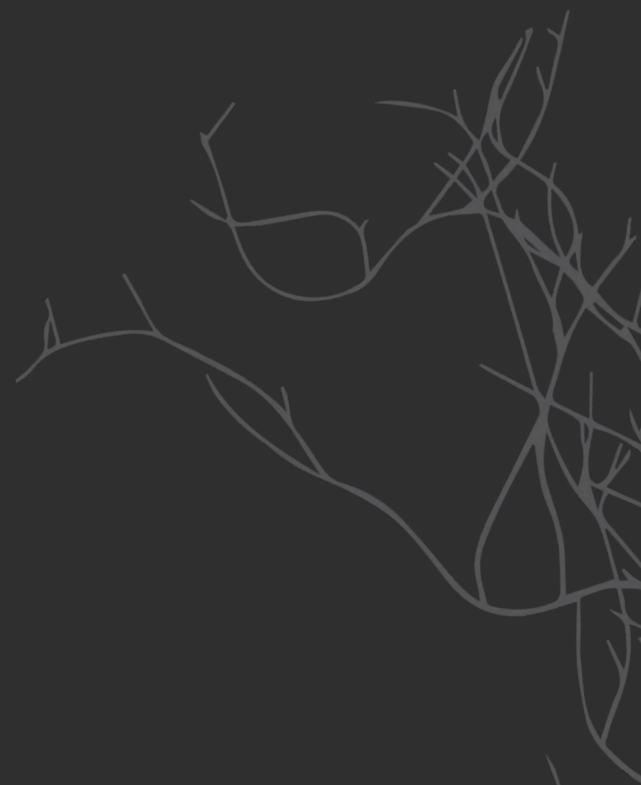
BICKERS FAMILY GALLERY

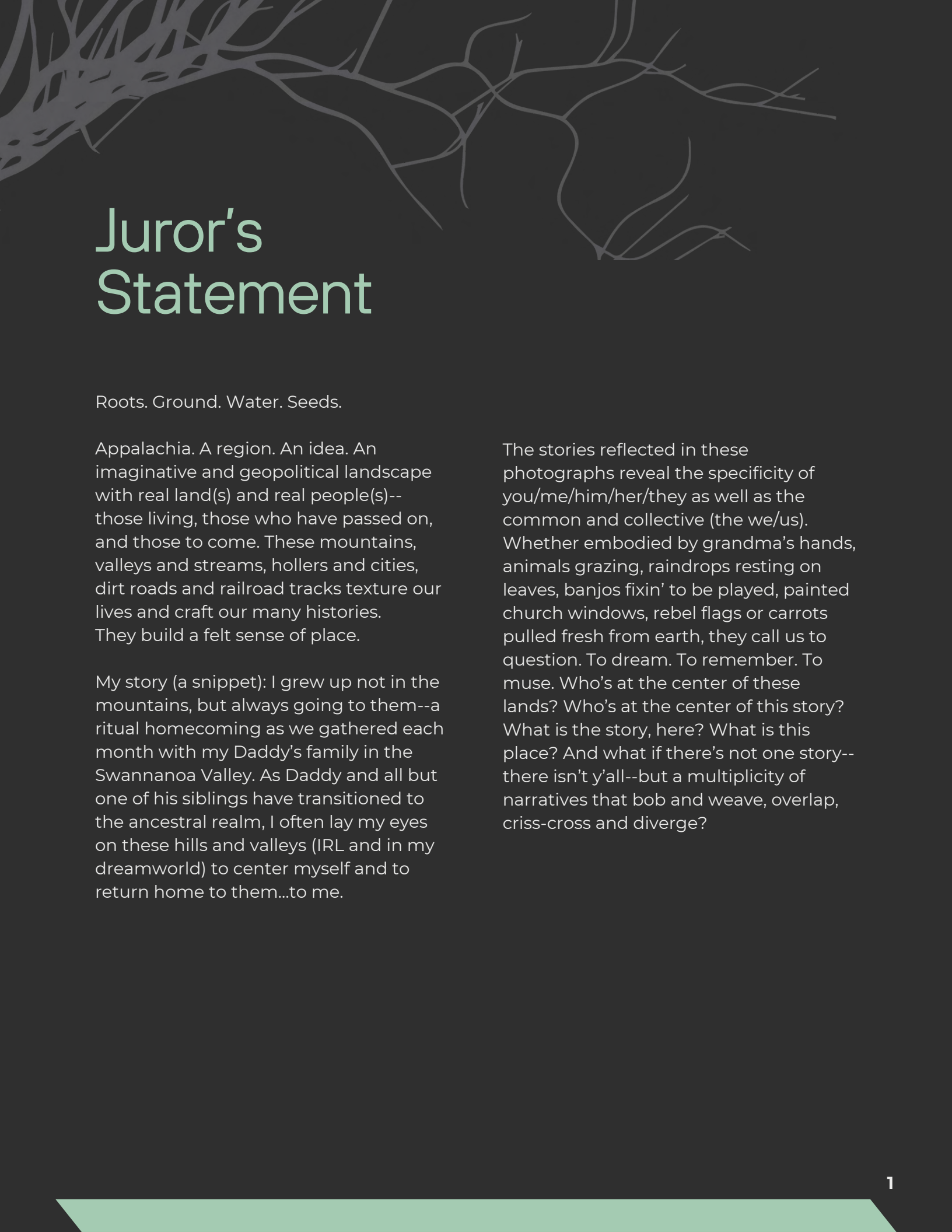


Robert Parker, *Future of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians*

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Juror's Statement

Roots. Ground. Water. Seeds.

Appalachia. A region. An idea. An imaginative and geopolitical landscape with real land(s) and real people(s)--those living, those who have passed on, and those to come. These mountains, valleys and streams, hollers and cities, dirt roads and railroad tracks texture our lives and craft our many histories. They build a felt sense of place.

My story (a snippet): I grew up not in the mountains, but always going to them--a ritual homecoming as we gathered each month with my Daddy's family in the Swannanoa Valley. As Daddy and all but one of his siblings have transitioned to the ancestral realm, I often lay my eyes on these hills and valleys (IRL and in my dreamworld) to center myself and to return home to them...to me.

The stories reflected in these photographs reveal the specificity of you/me/him/her/they as well as the common and collective (the we/us). Whether embodied by grandma's hands, animals grazing, raindrops resting on leaves, banjos fixin' to be played, painted church windows, rebel flags or carrots pulled fresh from earth, they call us to question. To dream. To remember. To muse. Who's at the center of these lands? Who's at the center of this story? What is the story, here? What is this place? And what if there's not one story--there isn't y'all--but a multiplicity of narratives that bob and weave, overlap, criss-cross and diverge?

Juror's Statement (cont.)



Ken Barrett *Ancient Roots*, 2016

“Roots, Ground, Water, Seeds” is an effort to amplify visual artists whose photography considers our many and intertwining ancestral roots; our connection and relationship to the land, the ground we walk on, the lives these lands have supported and the way Appalachian earth demands and yearns for our conscious care. Here, you dip into the waterways and communities that sustain and repair us and witness the seeds that birth new life/futures, rejuvenate our soil and spirits, and spark necessary political change. Here in this place, you/we/I bear witness to a personal and collective archive. Come in. Listen. See.

— E. Gale Greenlee

Juror's Bio

E. Gale Greenlee, Ph.D



E. Gale Greenlee, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) is a writer-educator, an independent children's literature and Black Girlhood Studies scholar, and a recent teacher-scholar in residence at the bell hooks center at Berea College. Born in Greensboro, NC, she is the granddaughter of farmers from rural South Carolina and a descendent of five generations of Affrilachians who called Western North Carolina home. Broadly interested in pop culture, Black Appalachian literature, memory work and Black feminist legacy keeping, Gale is a longtime arts advocate whose childhood dream was to travel across the U.S. in an RV selling her art.

Her public humanities work focuses on curating literary and cultural programs for community spaces, and she is committed to creating ethical collaborations and weaving art in her world. From teaching courses such as "Women of Color: Art, Justice and Joy" at The Ohio State University, organizing artist talks, co-curating a permanent installation at the bell hooks center, to writing about Black craft as a Center for Craft Archival Research Fellow, Gale works to amplify the artistic traditions of historically marginalized communities.



About AMPC

Following last year's 20th Anniversary Celebration for the Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition (AMPC), the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, in partnership with University Recreation, is pleased to host this year's 21st Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition exhibition.

Inspired by the Banff Centre's Mountain Photo Competition (<https://www.banffcentre.ca/mountain-photo-essay-competition>), this year's AMPC features three series finalists alongside 23 single-image finalists. Highlighting the AMPC's vision to support the expansion of Appalachian narratives, artists submitted work aligned with this year's theme of "Roots, Ground, Water, Seeds" chosen by juror Dr. E. Gale Greenlee.

The Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Mast General Store. Additional support comes from Virtual Blue Ridge, Appalachian Voices, Bistro Roca, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Footsloggers Outfitters, Peabody's, Stickboy Bread.

Invitation to Create

For this year's exhibition, Dr. E. Gale Greenlee, chose "Roots, Ground, Water, Seeds" as the theme for submissions. She encouraged artwork that relates to:

- + connection with the land
- + familial ancestral roots
- + groundedness
- + life-giving ways of being
- + activism as seeds of change

Choose one of these topics and write/draw about how you connect to it. Use the artmaking materials available to you to create a piece that represents how this theme shows up in your own life.

Series Finalists



Frederica Georgia

Bio

Born in upstate NY, Freddie became a 'mountain gal' when she attended App State in the 70's. With her first photo course she was hooked on taking the beauty of the mountains and translating it to film. With a BS in Photojournalism from Syracuse University in 1980, Freddie became a Southern Living staff photographer, shooting travel stories. She went on to travel worldwide shooting stock and editorial photos from California, then blissfully

returned to the NC mountains in '91 to begin a freelance career of editorial, portraiture, and fine art. For 10 years she owned an art gallery with her ex-husband. In 2008 Freddie moved to Ashe County where she's focused on mountain farm life and in particular a body of work capturing animal and vegetable subjects called Animal Garden Shop.



Frederica Georgia

Series Statement

I met Ann Rose in '08 when I photographed her for a story on organic growers. Her wit and farm chick grit captured my heart. 15 years later I knew she embodied the theme "Roots, Ground, Water, Seeds". Ann's been off-the-grid for 17 years as a single farmer on top of 28 steep acres called Rose Mountain Farm. Now 56, she chose this lifestyle after 20 years as a nurse and single mother raising 3 girls.

Ann has survived two close calls with death but preserves, making her living at veggie markets, teaching old time food prep classes, CSA, and grant writing. She is a progressive activist in Lansing, NC and running for county commissioner. Next summer Ann plans to kayak the New River to Kanawha, OH then Mississippi to the Gulf to raise awareness over our critical water shortages, including her own.



Frederica Georgia

Ann Rose at the Lansing Farmer's Market, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

Self-described as a free-range, barefoot, pony riding, tomgirl, Ann has been a local presence for 27 years in the tiny town of Lansing in Ashe County, NC. She helped obtain grant money for a park in Lansing where the farmers market is now held and is starting a food co-op in the spring of 2024. Ann's commitment, grit and determination to living a healthy and simple, but rich, mountain lifestyle is beyond admirable and has rubbed off on many.



Frederica Georgia

Ann with field-helper friends working the soil for a garlic crop, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

Plans for 2024 include building primitive shelters for traveling campers to experience life on Rose Mountain Farm.



Frederica Georgia

A fistful of turmeric root, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

Ann has four greenhouse tunnels and, even in such enclosed spaces, predators (especially groundhogs) are a nuisance. Her market specialty crops include tomatoes, potatoes, greens, sunflowers, herbs and ginger.



Frederica Georgia

Ann's root cellar is her lifeblood, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

She cans veggies week after week during growing season so her shelves will be stocked for winter. From her hand on the shelf on down to her feet, Ann dug by hand in the hard, rocky earth to create her root cellar.



Frederica Georgia

Naps are sweet, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

Naps are sweet in Ann's cozy 400-square-foot home, especially with a 20-year-old little pal named Katie. When I approached Ann about this project, she had been sleeping in a tent to guard her animals from coyote attacks at night. She has since acquired 2 Great Pyrenees puppies who will take over guarding the flock. Surely Ann is the only person in the county who would volunteer at a fancy political fundraiser pouring wine for the wealthy, then go home to sleep in a tent so the predators won't kill her goats.



Frederica Georgia

Ann with her herd of sheep, goats, a horse and a donkey, 2023

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

They are pasture-fed and self-sufficient on her 28 acres through the growing season. During the winter months, Ann will get big, round bales loaded on her truck, then break them open and drive ahead to unroll and off-load them. She has thought up many clever ways of handling farm chores solo. Often in the summer, she'll have interns helping with her crops but more often than not, she works alone.



David O'Daniel

Bio

I am originally from Memphis, Tennessee though I have lived coast to coast in the United States. I have had a long career as a Registered Nurse, but have always held time for studying various arts. I moved to Northeast Tennessee in 2006 and attempted to have a farm while continuing my health care career. It was here that I became interested in

photography, inspired by nature and wildlife around me. I started studying independently until I had the opportunity to study photography at East Tennessee State University. I am currently continuing my studies independently and with a mentor.



David O'Daniel

Series Statement

These photos are from a work in progress. While at ETSU I made a series called "Redefining Landscapes" which was an exploration of human impact on landscapes in Unicoi County, Tennessee. I wanted to expand on that idea, so I started this project to explore this region of Appalachia and expand to Western North Carolina, Southwest, Virginia, and Southeast Kentucky. Rather than just

looking at human impact on the landscape, I intend to include landscapes and historical and current reflections of life in this region. I started this project in the summer of 2023 and intend to work on it long term. These photos are early efforts in the project. A motivating factor is the current influx of people from other regions of the country and subsequent changes. I hope to preserve some history.



David O'Daniel

Intense. Highway 107, Washington County, Tennessee, 2023

Silver halide print



David O'Daniel

House of Prayer. Old State Road 34, Limestone, Tennessee, 2023
Silver halide print



David O'Daniel

A Rail Runs Through It. Highway 197, Mitchell County, North Carolina, 2023
Silver halide print



David O'Daniel

Devil's Looking Glass. Highway 81, Unicoi County, Tennessee, 2023
Silver halide print



David O'Daniel

Old Industrial Site, Elizabethton, Tennessee, 2023

Silver halide print



David O'Daniel

Affection. Limestone Cove, Unicoi County, Tennessee, 2023

Silver halide print



Kelsey Riso

Bio

I am a Fine Art Photography student at Appalachian State University. I inherited my love for photography from my mother who always had a camera in my face since I was born. Since being in school for photography, I have learned the difference between looking and seeing and I hope that my work allows viewers to do the same.



Kelsey Riso

Series Statement

Through this series of images I am hoping to show the different ways in which people move on and leave things behind, and although the thing itself has stayed put, life has continued to happen around it and to it.



Kelsey Riso

Wear 1, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Kelsey Riso

Wear 2, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Kelsey Riso

Wear 3, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Kelsey Riso

Wear 4, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Kelsey Riso

Wear 5, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Kelsey Riso

Wear 6, 2023

Archival inkjet print

Single-Image Finalists



Matt Ballain

Waterside Chat, 2021

Archival inkjet print



Ken Barrett

Ancient Roots, 2016

Archival inkjet print

kenbarrettphotos.com



Evan Bates

sunday's afternoon, 2023

Archival inkjet print

evanbatesphoto.com

Instagram: @catkiller___



Christopher Burton
Yellow Tomatoes, 2021
Archival inkjet print

cavallettomagazine.com



Heather Cormons

Sisters With Dolly Aspirations, 2022
Archival inkjet print

<https://www.heathercormons.com/>



Jax Gaglianese-Woody

Not A Sea Anemone, 2023

Archival inkjet print

Instagram: [jax_g_woody](#); iNaturalist: [jaxsonii](#)



Carrie Hanrahan

Female Farmer in Polk County, NC, 2022

Archival inkjet print

<https://www.carriehanrahanphotography.com/>

Instagram- @carriehanrahanphotography



Caleb Hayes

Childhood Relic, 2021

Archival inkjet print

<https://calebhayesphoto.com/>

Instagram: [_calebhayes](#)



Tucker Hibbitts

Blue Ridge Beauty, 2023

Archival inkjet print

Instagram: [soulshinestudio62](#)



Ben Hill

Honey Cures Everything, 2022

Dye-sublimation print on aluminum

Instagram @benhill8966



Cary Hitchcock

Old Church, 2023

Archival inkjet print

Instagram @cary.hitchcock



Cinda Holscombach-Ebner

Slugs in Love, 2023

Archival inkjet print

<https://www.cindaleigh.com/>

Instagram: @cindaleighart



Lauren Kern

Full send on a gray day, 2023

Archival inkjet print

[Hollowayalchemy.Etsy.com](https://www.hollowayalchemy.com)

Instagram: Hollowayalchemy



Ann Kunz

The Quilter's Hands, 2022

Archival inkjet print

akunz.myportfolio.com

Instagram: @annmorgan_kunz



Mark Mahoney

Appalachian Farm – Gray, Tennessee, 2021

Archival inkjet print



Tyler McRae

Unconditional Love, 2023

Archival inkjet print

<https://tylermcrae.net/>

Instagram: @tyleramcrae



Sophie Mead

On Old Watauga River Road, 2023

Archival inkjet print

<https://sophiemead54.wixsite.com/sophiemeadmedia>

Instagram: @sopherjoe



Robert Parker

Future of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Becky Price

Appalachian Roots, 2023

Archival inkjet print

Instagram & Facebook: @On_The_Mountain_Photography



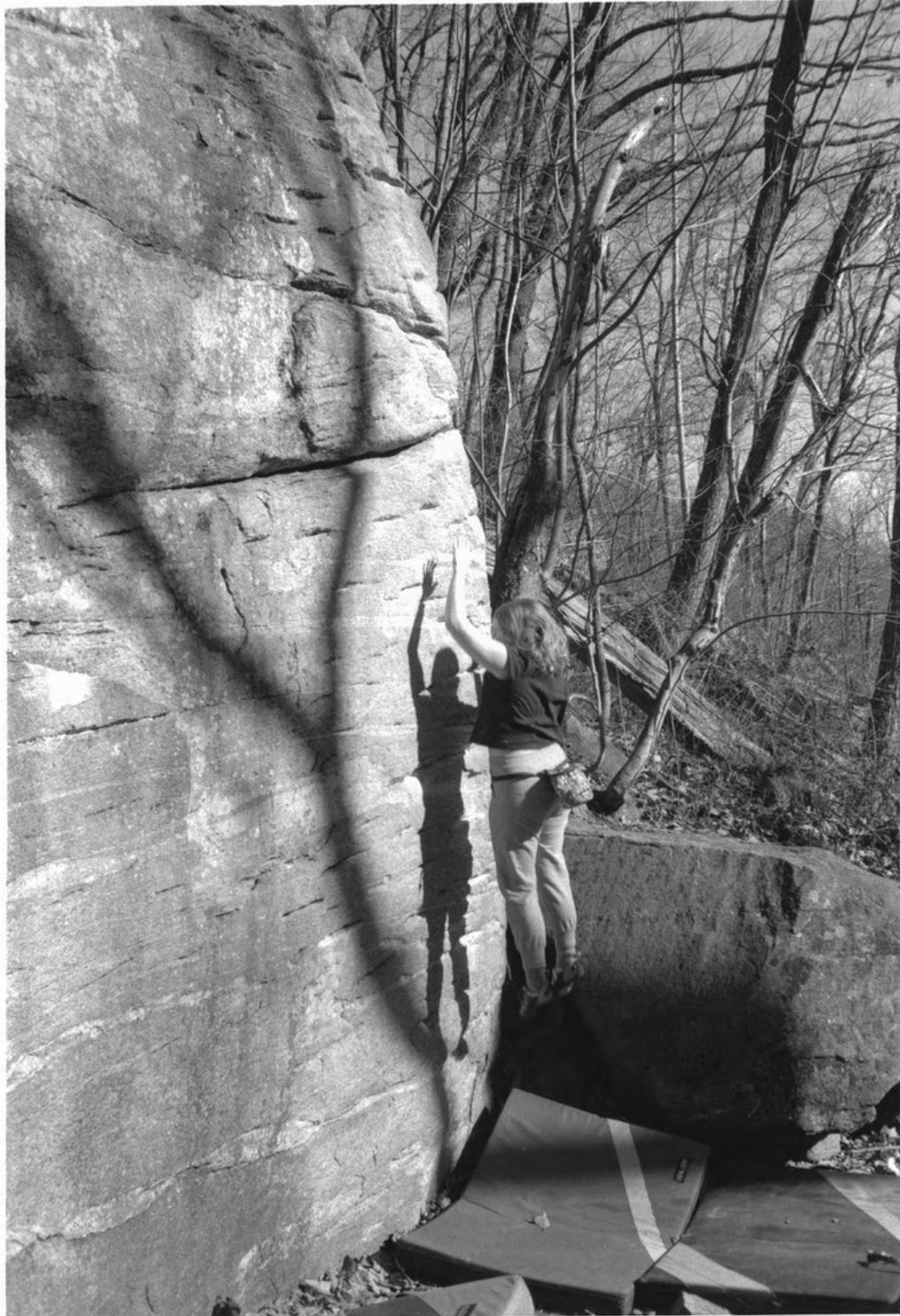
Katie Richard

Oil & water, 2023

Archival inkjet print

<https://www.katierichardphotography.com/>

IG: @katie_mtn_mermaid, @katierichardphotography



Robert SeEVERS

Love at First Flight, 2023

Silver gelatin print

Instagram: @robertseEVERS2000



Mitzi Simmons

As Above, So Below: A New Year Dawns, 2023

Archival inkjet print



Michael Snyder

Maxine Young Near the Train Tracks, 2022

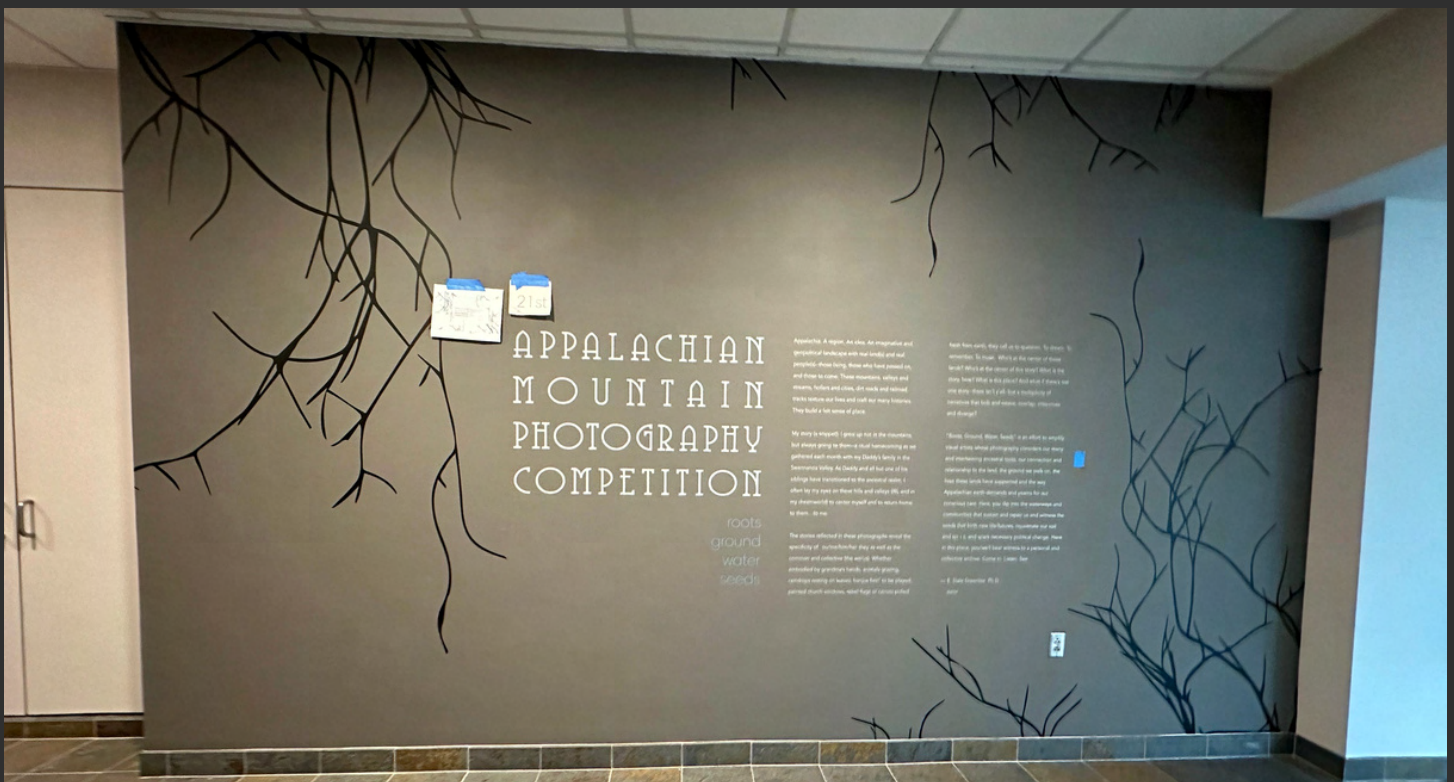
Archival inkjet print

<https://www.michaelosnyder.com/thequeensofqueencity>

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/queens-queen-city>

Instagram: michaelosnyder

Behind the Scenes





THANK
YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

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STATE UNIVERSITY

TCVA.ORG