

TO BE & BECOME

CORN WAGON THUNDER

COMMUNITY GALLERY

JANUARY 21, 2022 - JUNE 4, 2022



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Artist Statement

**“I use
language to
dance with
the visual”**

My photographic self-portraiture is borne of a fascination with the Existential questions ‘Who am I?’ and ‘Why am I?’. I am interested in dissecting the mode and manner of my own being. With a nod to the absurd, I use symbolism to visualize the riddle of life. Yet, with tenderness toward the mysterious edges of self-discovery, I use language to dance with the visual, to provide wayfinding but also to reinforce mystery. I focus the camera on myself as a method of examining my personal mythology and to consider how one constructs and transforms meaning in relation to existence.

This body of work, **To Be and Become (Lost in the Becoming)**, chronicles my journey into midlife. Becoming the thing I didn’t want to be – yet became, was becoming. This project began as the ten-year anniversary of my mother’s death approached. I was thirty-five years old when she succumbed to cancer. As my adult life unfolds in her absence, I long intensely for her guidance and support. This work is an effort to summon her wisdom and guidance from beyond the grave and acknowledges the mysterious presence of absence.

Corn Wagon Thunder

Resources

Corn Wagon Thunder

Corn Wagon Thunder
Website

vimeo

Vimeo

Pasatiempo

Reclamation through the
still image: Foto Forum
Santa Fe's second annual
Members Juried Group
Exhibition



All night long you must sing to me, 2020

Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity

Rag Photographique 310gsm

Her heart will always remain in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains

Boone 150, the Town of Boone's Sesquicentennial celebration, kicked off in January 2022 and continues throughout the year with a series of events and commemorations, including parades, historic walking tours, musical performances, and exhibitions. The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts is proud to honor this important community milestone by showcasing and celebrating artists with deep roots in Boone and across the High Country. The current exhibition features the work of Corn Wagon Thunder, a photographer and collage artist who studied at Penland School of Craft and was included in *Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia* at the Asheville Art Museum, North Carolina. Corn Wagon Thunder created this body of work while working and living in Boone. Although she is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, she says part of her heart will always remain in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains.

Educational Activity

Corn Wagon Thunder uses symbolism to tell stories and pose questions in her photographs. What symbols do you see in her work? What symbols would you use to represent yourself and to ask the questions you have about the world? Using these guiding questions and whatever media you like (photography, drawing, collage, etc.), create an artwork that represents how you see yourself and who you are becoming.

'Who am I?'
'Why am I?'





In fidelity, I walk with impunity, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm

Installation Images



Works in the Exhibition



I am pleased with my existence, 2020
(Ich bin mit meinem Dasein zufrieden.)
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



The Confidence Game, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



The Miracle of the Dowries, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Wishes Come to Fruition, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Romance of the Pear, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



*Her Relationship to Language
was a Detour, 2020*
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



The Milk of Loving Identity, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



All night long you must sing to me, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



*Mortal flower that perishes like
all that is pure, 2020*
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Mother of God, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



As Befits the Nature of Light, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Salt & Light, 2020
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Say I were to hold you in my hand, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



In fidelity, I walk with impunity, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Silent Concretion of Memory, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



The Mysterious Presence of Absence, 2020
Archival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



*Mortal flower that perishes like
all that is pure, 2020*
Achival ink jet print on Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



*You must wear your rue with a
difference, 2020*
Achival ink jet print on
Canson Infinity



Crypsis, 2020
Achival ink jet print on
Canson Infinity
Rag Photographique 310gsm



Exhale, 2020

Achival ink jet prins on Canson Infinity

Rag Photographique 310gsm

1 – 10/10

Gallery Walkthrough Video



To Be And Become: Corn Wagon Thunder



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 !

