

A LONG AND SLOW SURRENDER

WENDY YOUNG

JULY 5, 2024 - DECEMBER 7, 2024

BICKER'S GALLERY



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Curatorial Statement

Wendy Young never met a stranger; not only can she talk to anyone anywhere about anything, most of the people she meets open up to her as soon as she introduces herself, inviting her into their homes, studios, storefronts, and shops, sharing their life stories on video, inviting her to take their pictures – welcoming her into their worlds. The worlds Wendy is welcomed into often clash with one another, sometimes, unfortunately, violently, and yet this artist has the warmth and willingness to hear multiple viewpoints, even those she may disagree with. That fearless openness has allowed the artist to travel the Southern States for years.

Although she grew up near Pensacola, Florida, the artist now lives in the Southwest; for years she has made an annual pilgrimage back to the South, maintaining her relationships to extended family, introducing herself to strangers, sharing meals and asking questions – lots of personal questions. The answers she gets and the pictures she makes might make some viewers uncomfortable; the context in which these narratives are shown might make others equally uncomfortable. That's the point. We need to cross borders without guns, we need to listen to one another in ways that are not polarizing, even when we disagree. The personal is definitely political but it should not lead to neighborly violence, should not lead to incivility, should not lead to insurrection.



Curatorial Statement

One of the important roles that the arts can play is to provide spaces and opportunities that reduce animosity and invite respectfully creative dialogue. Rather than ask ourselves, do I like this or that artwork, what if we asked ourselves, what am I looking at, what am I listening to, and what might I learn from what I am seeing or hearing? Why is this artist making this artwork and why is it here in this gallery? What is the subject matter and why might it be important? Can I remain open to all perspectives and viewpoints long enough to engage, even to those that challenge my beliefs?

Art cannot solve all the problems rushing us toward the end of the world as we know it or the polarizing impact of racial, gender, social or economic injustice. Indeed, no single discipline can solve these problems. But by bringing art, education, science, economics, and people together, it's possible to discover what kinds of collaborative working practices help us find just and sustainable responses to complex problems. The exhibitions at the Turchin Center bring visibility to issues confronting our world today that create positive change for communities, places, and creative imaginations around the world. One of our goals is to provide insight into artists' creative concerns, wildest ideas, inspired hopes, and waking dreams for the immediate present and for the future.

— Mary Anne Redding, Senior Curator



Artist's Statement

It all started with a disagreement with a friend. She stated vehemently that all the Confederate Monuments needed to come down. Now. Although I understand the conflict that the monuments present, my gut reaction was, "No damn Yankee is going to tell me what to do with my statues!" As a Southerner, I often felt that most Northern attitudes toward the South were misconceptions. Now I see those misconceptions have dark truths behind them. I struggled with that reaction because I have no real connection to these monuments.

Growing up in the deep South, my Southern education led me to believe the "Lost Cause Myth," which promotes States Rights as the impetus for the Civil War. Curious, I read the copies of the original Letters of Secession from all the Southern States. Yes, States Rights, Secession, and Southern Heritage can be perceived in the texts, but the core of these letters points to the South's pro-slavery beliefs and the North's objective of abolishing slavery as the main reasons for conflict.

I am exploring my clash with my Southern Heritage through these images of Confederate Monuments and the religious, racial, and rural tensions that Southerners experience living among them.

— Wendy Young

Artist's Biography



Wendy Young is an artist and educator currently living in Cerrillos, New Mexico. In 1982, Young was pursuing a career in music as a French Horn major at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her goal was to become a studio musician and play background music for cartoons. “Horn licks in cartoons are spectacular.” When her parents gave her an SLR camera that year for her 19th birthday, she put down her horn and started making images.

The artist notes, “I was smitten by the amazing properties of photography. The idea that I could aim my camera at something or someone that interested me, develop the film, make a print, study the print, and learn from it still captivates me after 41 years.” Wendy Young has been involved in almost every aspect of photography, including working in local processing labs and photo supply stores, owning her own commercial studio, assisting other artists in printing their work, and teaching photography at The College of Santa Fe and Santa Fe University of Art and Design.

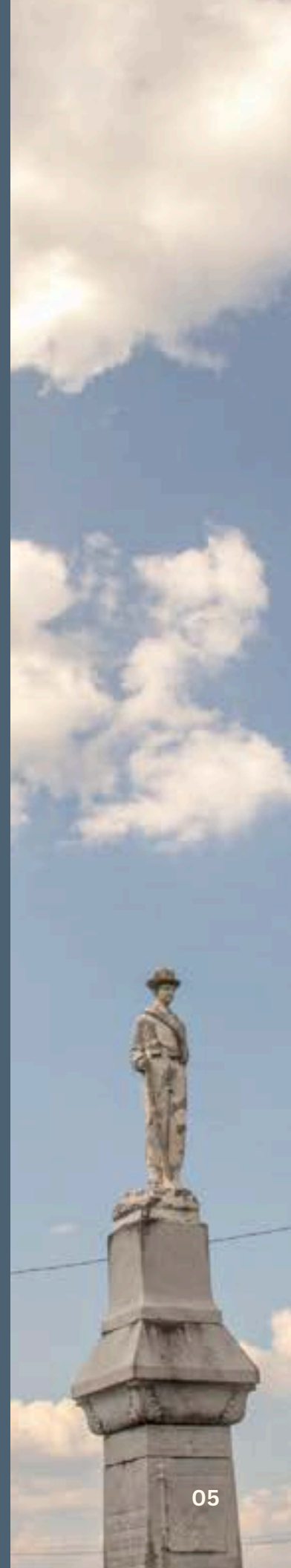
Exhibition Goals

- Assumptions are powerful; they are often unconscious. We all have assumptions and often act on them, often without thinking about why we are doing what we are doing or why we are thinking what we are thinking. We are simply going about life as we understand it. How often do we think about the underlying assumptions that motivate us?
- Deliberate doubt is the practice of actively questioning one's beliefs and assumptions. Deliberate doubt is about having the courage to suspend our certainty, identify, and let go of our preconceived notions so that we can explore different perspectives and generate ideas that might be new to us.
- An important goal of *A Long and Slow Surrender* is to encourage people to question their assumptions by asking: What do I believe? Why do I believe this? What evidence do I have that supports this belief of mine? Is there a possibility that there might be alternatives to what I believe? Are there people who have different perspectives? Can I engage in a civil conversation with people I might not agree with? What might I learn by reading something new or seeking our multiple news sources?
- Actively seeking out a variety of experiences, talking to people who have different backgrounds, reading different opinions, all help to expand one's thinking and develop a more nuanced understanding of all topics. You might surprise yourself when you use deliberate doubt as a tool for exploration.
- For more information about Deliberate Doubt see the following websites that were referenced for defining the exhibition goals:

<https://nesslabs.com/deliberate-doubt>

<https://www.readthesequences.com/The-Proper-Use-Of-Doubt>

<https://philife.nd.edu/descartes-meditations-doubt-everything>



Invitation to Create

Think about something you assume to be true. It can be as simple as thinking ALL restaurants have menus. I've never been to a restaurant without a menu, how would you know what you could order?

Now, ask yourself, what if there was a restaurant without a menu, what would that mean for the people who went to eat there? How would the waitresses and waiters communicate with their patrons and the chef? Can you think of a creative way for a restaurant to operate without menus? Find an ingenious way to share how a restaurant might operate without menus.



ARTtalk

Thursday, November 7th, 2024

TCVA Lecture Hall

5:30 pm

Behind the Scenes



Works in the Exhibition

The following extended captions are the result of artist Wendy Young's extensive research into the history of the Civil War in this country. The views expressed by the artist are not the views held by the Turchin Center or Appalachian State University. The Board of Trustees at Appalachian State University is committed to institutional neutrality and academic freedom, and to freedom of expression as indicated in the University's Free Speech and Expression Statement.



Middle of the Road, Lake Village, AR, 2023



Portraits of Lee and Jackson, Hamburg, AR, 2018



Justice Court, Waynesboro, MS, 2019



Black Lives Matter, Montgomery, AL, 2021



Plantation House, Natchez, MS, 2021



Mowing Around the Monument, Greensboro, AL, 2017

This monument is located in Hale County, Greensboro, Alabama. Hale County is known for the photographs taken there by photographers Walker Evans and William Christenberry, both of whom were inspirations to my photographic journey. Hale County is named for Confederate officer Stephen Fowler Hale. Mostly controlled by whites, Hale County has a long history of voter disenfranchisement and Jim Crow Laws. Many African Americans must live their lives and perform their jobs around Confederate Monuments.



Roadside Confederate Memorial, Georgetown, LA, 2018



Juneteenth Volunteer, Ft. Worth, TX, 2018

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that those who had been enslaved were now free . . . two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth was made a federal holiday in 2021.



Monument Moved to Cemetery, Huntsville, AL, 2021



Covered Monument, Grenada, MS, 2023

There have been more than 718 monuments located throughout the south, with nearly 300 located across Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Washington Post reports that five Confederate monuments were removed in the aftermath of the Civil War, eight more were taken down in the two years following the Charleston church massacre, 48 were removed in the three years after the Unite the Right rally, and a staggering 110 were removed in the two years following George Floyd's murder. This covered monument is in Grenada, Mississippi and has been covered since 2020 when the GrenadaCity Council voted to remove it.

A Mississippi law passed in 2004 prohibits the relocation, removal, disturbance, alteration, renaming, or rededication of any war monument. However, the law allows the governing body to move the memorial to a more suitable location if it's deemed appropriate for displaying the monument. The estimated cost to relocate the statue, unveiled in June 1910 and sponsored by the Daughters of the Confederacy, ranges between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Moving monuments is an expensive endeavor but is necessary to bring racial justice into communities that have long been marginalized.

This particular monument has an interesting history due to its involvement in a storied civil rights march. As the Civil Rights Movement met significant legislative victories, Black Southerners grew more adamant about gaining their rights to vote and also to occupy public spaces that had long been off-limits to them under the shadow of Confederate statues.



Covered Monument, Grenada, MS, 2023

Registering Black voters, particularly in resistant states like Mississippi, was critically important. James Meredith—both a military veteran and a consummate warrior against white supremacy, having integrated the University of Mississippi a few years earlier—decided to lead a march from Memphis, Tennessee, through the Mississippi Delta. He was shot outside of Hernando, Mississippi, but was not killed. Stokely Carmichael, Floyd McKissick, and Martin Luther King Jr. resumed the march, and it became known as the Meredith March.

When the Meredith March reached Grenada, Mississippi in mid-June 1966, the true significance of Confederate monuments as symbols of inequality became undeniable. On June 14, 1966, more than 200 marchers, both Black and white, streamed into the small town and proceeded down Grenada's Main Street. They were joined by several hundred locals, and together they sang songs of freedom. After joining forces, the marchers headed straight for the Confederate monument located predictably in the town square. Grenada's monument, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1910, depicted a solitary Confederate soldier atop a pedestal that featured a bas-relief of Jefferson Davis on one side. As stunned local white residents watched, Robert Green, representing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, ascended the monument and placed an American flag above the likeness of Jefferson Davis. He proclaimed, "We're done with the rebel flags. Give me the flag of the United States, the flag of freedom."

Moving this monument to a local cemetery would allow it to remain a historic representative for the entire community instead of a memorial to supremacy culture alone.



Emma Sansom Monument, Gadsden, AL, 2018

In Spring of 1863, Union Colonel Abel Streight burned the bridge across the flooded Black Creek near Gadsden, Alabama. Sixteen-year-old Emma Sansom's home was nearby. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was pursuing Streight, realized he would not be able to cross the creek. Forrest rode to the Sansom farm and asked Emma if there was another place to cross. With no time to saddle a horse for Emma, she rode behind Forrest to show him the narrowest point of the creek. This monument to Emma Sansom was dedicated in 1907.



Boys Playing on the Monument, Tupelo, MS, 2022



Confederate Steps, Pensacola, FL, 2017

The west face is dedicated to: “Edward Ayles worth Perry, Captain of the Pensacola Rifle Rangers, Colonel of the Second Florida Regiment, General of the Florida Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. Among the first to volunteer in the defense of his adopted state, faithful in every position to which his merit advanced him, his life and deeds constitute his best monument.”

The north face is inscribed: “Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States of America.”

Growing up, I heard that the statue was placed facing south so that the figure’s “ass faced north.” Another interpretation was that it faced south “as a symbol of looking towards home”. Reverend J.H. Curry, from First Baptist Church gave one of the dedication speeches during the dedication ceremony. The monument was removed in 2020 and has been the subject of a series of lawsuits involving the city and pro-monument groups since its removal. Lee Park was renamed Florida Park, the original name of the plot of land where the monument stood since 1891.



Monument and Civil Rights Mural, Port Gibson, MS, 2018

In 1966, Black citizens of Port Gibson, Mississippi and the NAACP organized a boycott of local white owned businesses. The businesses sued and were awarded a settlement in a lawsuit held in a Mississippi trial court. The case was taken to the Supreme Court; in a unanimous decision the ruling was overturned, reaffirming the rights of citizens to free speech, assembly, and association to produce social change. Port Gibson is one of the few places where I found a Civil Rights mural adjacent to a Confederate Monument.



So White and Fair, Centreville, AL, 2019



Early Voting, Alexandria, LA, 2019



***General Cleburne with Patriot Front
Flyer, Cleburne, TX, 2023***

As I traveled to document monuments after the pandemic, I started noticing flyers and stickers for an organization called Patriot Front being distributed. Of course, it piqued my curiosity, so I did some research. Patriot Front has been deemed a hate group by the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center. I understand that all do not agree with the labels bestowed by human rights organizations. However, I believe human-right organizations are legitimate and have done the due diligence needed to keep all Americans safe against groups formed to demonstrate supremacy over others. Supremacy culture is a dangerous and reprehensible presence in our country at this moment. It must be prevented from becoming the dominant culture represented by our politics. By visiting Patriot Front's website, I found that the ADL and SPLC have properly identified them as a hate group or at the very best, a supremacy group. Here is the Patriot Front mission statement:

When our pre-Columbian forefathers left their European homes... they found a common cause and a common identity as Americans. From the varied nations and cultures of Europe a new nation was forged in the fumes of conquest.



***General Cleburne with Patriot Front
Flyer, Cleburne, TX, 2023***

To be an American is to be a descendant of conquerors, pioneers, visionaries, and explorers. This unique identity was given to us by our ancestors, and this national spirit remains firmly rooted in our blood.

Our mission is a hard reset on the nation we see today – a return to the traditions and virtues of our forefathers.

America needs a generation of brave men to fearlessly rise to face all threats to their collective interests. A generation steeled in their effort to realize their grand vision of a new nation. This gathering of the faithful – the true inheritors of America – will urge our people onward.

The merging of supremacy culture and the Confederacy is not new, but it is being reborn in a terrifying manner, putting at risk all the hard-fought civil rights gains made for our most marginalized communities. Can we just make America great for once, and for all citizens, no matter their country of origin? History is pretty clear on this: looking backward has never proven well for any empire's longevity.



God Guns and Guts, Atmore, AL, 2017

You really can't discuss the South without speaking of God, guns, and guts.



Fear This, Palestine, TX, 2017



Courthouse Monument Removed in 2020, Denton, TX



Move the Statue, Denton, TX, 2019

Willie Hudspeth has been championing the removal of this monument since 1999. On Sundays, from 4pm-6pm, he sits in the town square and talks to passersby about their thoughts on the monument. Most people are not even aware of the monument until it is pointed out to them. Mr. Hudspeth is patient and diligent. He welcomes dialog but is firm in his conviction that the monument needs to be moved. I last visited with him in 2019. The monument was removed in June of 2020.



USM Flaggers, Hattiesburg, MS, 2018

The USM Flaggers had spent almost 200 consecutive Sundays protesting the removal of the Mississippi State Flag from the University of Southern Mississippi when I made this photograph. The flaggers said they will continue until the flag flies on campus again. According to a TIME magazine article published in 2015: “Opponents of the state flag consider the Confederate symbol racist and a bygone emblem of slavery while supporters say it represents southern heritage and honors slain Confederate soldiers.” A new Mississippi state flag without the confederate icon was ratified and flown over the state Capitol for the first time in 2021.



Half & Half Confederate Flag, Tumbling Shoals, AR, 2018



Are you Lost, Side of the Road, AL, 2019



Sam, Juneteenth Museum, Ft. Worth, TX, 2018

Sam was so welcoming and happy to show me around his Juneteenth Museum, Gallery, and Theater. He was very proud of his heritage as an African American. I went to visit the Juneteenth Museum, Gallery, and Theater in 2023 only to find it still smoldering from a fire. It was completely burned down. I found out that Sam had passed away in 2022.



Jesus Saves, Cherry Valley, AR, 2018



Monument and Baptist Church, Opelika, AL, 2021



Half & Half Confederate Flag, Bernie, MO, 2022



Homecoming Parade, Tuscumbia, AL, 2018



Among the Magnolias, Livingston, AL, 2021



Confederate Flag and Taxidermy, Krotz Springs, LA, 2017

Monuments come in all forms. Taxidermy is a monument to power over nature. The Confederate Flag is a monument to power over others. The South is complex. I couldn't see the dark truths hidden in the monuments of the South until I moved away.



MLK Connection, Juneteenth Museum, Ft. Worth, TX, 2018

I stumbled upon the Juneteenth Museum, Gallery, and Theater in Fort Worth on June 16, 2018. This wall was the pride of Sam, who helped build and manage the museum. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Fort Worth only once during his life, yet his brief stay had an enduring impact its Black citizens. In October 1959, Dr. King delivered a speech at the historic Majestic Theater, amid controversy including anger, hostility, and even a bomb threat. Dr. King was denied accommodation at local hotels, leading him to stay overnight at a Southside home with a friend. Several prominent African American leaders bravely supported him during this remarkable moment in Fort Worth's history. Sam invited me to attend a Juneteenth Blues Music Show that evening. I was welcomed with open arms. Everyone introduced themselves to me and told me they were glad to have me present to celebrate with them.



Stages of Cotton Growth, 2017

Without firing a gun, without drawing a sword, should they make war on us we could bring the whole world to our feet. The South is perfectly competent to go on, one, two, or three years without planting a seed of cotton. I believe that if she was to plant but half her cotton, for three years to come, it would be an immense advantage to her. I am not so sure but that after three years' entire abstinence she would come out stronger than ever she was before, and better prepared to enter afresh upon her great career of enterprise. What would happen if no cotton was furnished for three years? I will not stop to depict what every one can imagine, but this is certain: England would topple headlong and carry the whole civilized world with her, save the South. No, you dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth dares to make war upon it.

Cotton is king.

—James Henry Hammond

James Henry Hammond's words on March 4, 1858, fostered a belief among Southern whites that they were economically invincible due to cotton being "the greatest material interest of the world." When the Civil War began, Southerners sought support from England and France, only to be turned away by both countries. The South enacted a self-imposed cotton embargo in hopes of persuading England and France to recognize their sovereignty. As a result, large quantities of cotton were left to spoil on docks while India, Brazil, and Egypt took over providing the global supply.

Picking cotton in the American South was brutal. Enslaved people endured relentless sun, the sharp, cracked bolls tearing at their hands, and constant physical strain. Ferocious punishments for perceived slowness were a constant threat. Exhaustion and fear were daily companions, making life a grueling test of endurance and survival. Many did not survive the brutality.



Shadow of the Confederacy, Americus, GA, 2017

This Monument to the Confederate Dead was erected in 1901 in Americus, Georgia. It's an example of the post-reconstruction monuments placed by the Ladies Memorial Association, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It is a reminder of White Supremacy.



Monument Dedication, Cedar Bluff, AL, 2023

On October 14, 2023, my husband and I attended a monument dedication sponsored by the Cherokee Battlefield Preservation Corporation in Cedar Bluff, Alabama. The dedication was preceded by a battle reenactment depicting Union Colonel Abel Streight's surrender to Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest on May 3, 1863. After going over the pictures I took and remembering the words I heard, the items I saw for sale, and the prayers uttered during these events, I was saddened by my fellow Southerners' desire to cling to the past instead of reconciling their history and moving forward with love and compassion. Since I started this project in 2017, I've been on a journey of unlearning a history I was taught and discovering the veracity of why Confederate monuments have been erected throughout the South. One can say the Civil War was fought over states' rights, but that is an incomplete sentence. It was fought to preserve states' rights to own humans and extract free labor from them to the benefit of those that owned them. Period. The Mississippi Declaration of Secession sums it up succinctly:



Monument Dedication, Cedar Bluff, AL, 2023

Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery-- the greatest material interest of the world. Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth. These products are peculiar to the climate verging on the tropical regions, and by an imperious law of nature, none but the black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun.

The current climate of legislators attempting to twist the mistreatment of human beings into tolerable terms such as “involuntary relocation,” and changing history books to say that “slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit,” only adds insult to injury. These supremacist politicians are detrimental to the future of our society.

I understand that some Southerners feel that their history is being erased. It isn't. The history they are clinging to is only half the history. That being said, the monument that was dedicated in Cedar Bluff is on private land paid for by private funds. It is a better solution than erecting monuments in public places as a reminder of white supremacy during post reconstruction and the civil rights era, however, it is not positive progress.



Pedestal of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Monument, Memphis, TN, 2018

Nathan Bedford Forrest was a Confederate General and the first Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan. The statue was removed in 2017 when Health Sciences Park was sold to Memphis Greenspace, a non-profit organization. The site is also the burial place of Forrest and his wife, Mary Anne Montgomery Forrest. In 2021, the Sons of Confederate Veterans agreed to house the remains in their National Confederate Museum at the historic Elm Springs Estate in Columbia, 200 miles away. Removing monuments can be a complicated situation with no easy answers.



Mike Taylor, VP, Confederate Riders of America, Longview, TX, 2017

I found Mike on Facebook. He was protesting the removal of a confederate monument. I was struck by the gentleness of his approach. When I met with him, he made a generous breakfast for me in his home. I found him to be very engaging and was amused by his sense of humor and nervous laugh. He is the Vice President of The Confederate Riders of America, an organization that often delivers food and water to places hit by natural disasters. This is the mission statement from their website:

To defend our Constitutional Freedoms and our Southern heritage, history, culture and way of life.

We welcome people from all walks of life, backgrounds and color. We are a non-racist, non-hate organization dedicated to defending the freedoms our forefathers envisioned.

Now is the time for all of us to band together as a UNITED people with a common goal. That goal is to protect our flag, our way of life, our freedoms and our families.

The book in the photograph is *The Raving Foe: The Civil War Diary of Major James T. Poe, C.S.A. and the 11th Arkansas Volunteers, and a Complete List of Prisoners*, written by one of Mike's ancestors. Mike told me that the book is always in his truck and since his ancestor never spoke of slavery as a reason for the Civil War, it wasn't a valid argument for the Confederate Flag to be considered a racist symbol. Mike is very attached to his Southern Heritage.



Barbara Ann's Place, Eldridge, AL, 2017



Cajun J Gotreaux, Baton Rouge, LA, 2015

I first met Cajun J in 2015. He was the first person to tell me that Donald Trump would be President. I visited with him several times, once with my husband and son. He used to call me from time to time to let me know that he was praying for me. The roadside motel that he lived in housed many Confederate flags, a 911 Prayer Room, and a lot of water containers labeled, "Holy Water." I have the privilege to meet all types of people when I travel to photograph and Cajun J holds a tender spot in my heart. I believe that I met him when dementia had started appearing in his world. In the last voicemail I have from him in 2017, he evidently thought he had called the Trump Headquarters to congratulate Trump for winning the election. Cajun J passed away in 2019.



Monument with Patriot Front Sticker, Florence, AL, 2021

I first visited this monument in 2018. My maternal grandfather is from the Florence area commonly referred to as The Shoals. It's not far from Muscle Shoals, the home of Fame Recording Studio which is responsible for the Muscle Shoals Sound. I have relatives in that part of Alabama, so Florence became a good “home base” for me during this project. Florence is also the place where the song, Look Away, was written by Kate Campbell and Walt Aldridge. LookAway contains the lyrics that I used to title this project. The refrain reads:

And it's a long

And slow surrender

Retreating from the past

It's important to remember

To fly the flag half-mast

And look away

Kate says of her music, “My songs are a dialog with myself and the community of the South. So those words are important . . . remembering . . . but then surrendering enough to look away and move forward.”

The Confederate monument depicted here with a PatriotFront sticker on the flagpole is entitled “Eternal Vigil,” and is placed squarely in front of the Lauderdale County Court House. An organization called ProjectSay Something (PSS), founded by Camille Goldstone Bennett, has been trying to negotiate with the city and county to either move the monument to a local cemetery or to add context to tell both sides of the story of the civil war.



Monument with Patriot Front Sticker, Florence, AL, 2021

In 2017, Governor Kay Ivey put in place the Alabama Monument Preservation Act, which “prohibits the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any monument located on public property which has been in place for 40 years or more.” If a city or county moves a monument, it will incur a \$25,000 fine. Project Say Something has been pushing for racial justice in telling the story of “Eternal Vigil” since 2014. In 2019, PSS had an artist draw up a plan for a monument depicting Dred Scott and his wife pulling on the chain of slavery to place on courthouse grounds on an opposite corner from the monument. That compromise was shot down by the city council. In response to the Monument Preservation Act, PSS raised the \$25,000 fine for moving a monument and paid to have a slab poured in a local cemetery so it would have a resting place. This compromise was also not acceptable. In 2024, PSS developed a marker denouncing the egregious words spoken at the dedication of the monument in 1903. That has also been shot down.

I don't know about you, dear viewer, but I was taught that words matter. They definitely carry weight when spoken aloud, especially in front of others. Words become prayer-like in such a scenario. I understand that the dedication speech was written in a “different era,” but putting up a marker to promote dialog around a historic object is NOT erasing history. It's actually painting a fuller picture of history that pushes us toward reconciliation. Preventing an equitable dialog between the present and the past reflects the lingering influence of supremacy culture from the Post Reconstruction and Jim Crow Eras.

Here is an excerpt from the original dedication speech spoken over “Eternal Vigil” in 1903:

In this our southland flows the purest Anglo-Saxon blood that pulses in any human veins. Isolation, a lack of immigration, fastidious taste and public opinion all have conspired to produce this result. In the Northern states public opinion leans in the opposite direction.



Monument with Patriot Front Sticker, Florence, AL, 2021

Fellow citizens, we are all citizens of the same great country, worshipping the same God, sharing the same bright heritage of honor, loving and following the same bright, starry flag whither so ever it may lead us in that country's cause. But binding and eternal as our union is and forever shall be, between our countrymen of the North and our countrymen of the South, there is drawn a line which must separate us in our beliefs and sentiments until it shall fade away in the light of truth and experience.

Their civilization differs from ours in one essential that creates an impassable barrier. They look upon a Negro as a white man with a colored skin and believe education to be the one thing needful. We of the South know better. No other people know him so well or love him so well, but nowhere here is he accorded social equality. When the highest representative of Northern civilization invites the highest representative of Negro civilization to sit at his table as his social equal, he digs a gulf between us too wide and deep for us to go to them or for them to come to us. Into the form of man God breathed the breath of eternal life and he became a living soul, so separate from the manlike forms around them that when the children of Adam, Sons of God by virtue of that miraculous inspiration, saw that the daughters of men were fair and married them, he sent a deluge that destroyed the mongrel race. We are the sons of God. Let no second deluge be brought upon the world on our account. United Daughters of the Confederacy, into your fair hands your Creator has placed the power to prevent this degradation. Let no man, be he as learned as Socrates or as rich as Croesus, cross your threshold if he has bartered away this right.

To you, fair daughters of the Confederacy, we return our thanks for what you have done and are doing for us and for the South.

I've presented my exploration of Confederate Monuments. It's now up to you decide if this country and all its citizens are important enough to surrender the lost cause of the past and move forward to promote truth and reconciliation within communities throughout the South.

Resources

ABA / Legal experts say removal of Confederate monuments a complex, lengthy undertaking

SPLC / SPLC REPORTS 48 CONFEDERATE MEMORIALS REMOVED IN 2022

Wendy Young / Website

Southwest Contemporary / Wendy Young: A Long and Slow Surrender

aint – bad / wendy young

Soundcloud / @and_wendy_young

Turquoise Trail Studio Tour / Wendy Young

Instagram / @and_wendy_young

NPR / Nearly 100 Confederate Monuments Removed In 2020, Report Says; More Than 700 Remain

NC Campaign to Remove Confederate Monuments

Arlington National Cemetery / Removal of the Confederate Memorial

The Guardian / A US city took down its racist statues. Where do they go next?

Stanford | News / Controversies over Confederate monuments and memorials are part of an overdue racial reckoning for America, says Stanford historian

CNN / 73 Confederate monuments were removed or renamed last year, report finds

PBS News Hour / Richmond removes final public Confederate statue

SPLC / Fighting the ‘lost cause’: Whose heritage? Report documents progress in battle to remove confederate iconography

abc NEWS / Confederate monuments spark debate about how cities remember their history

Free Speech Center / Confederate Monuments

Appalachian State University Campus Resources

UNC Policy 1300.8

Appalachian's Facility Use Policy

Academic Affairs

Office of Access and Equity: Equal Opportunity

**Board of Trustees Resolution on the Affirmation of Freedom of
Speech at Appalachian State University**

Office of the Dean of Students

Office of Diversity

Intercultural Student Affairs

University Ombuds Office

App State Police Department

Free Speech Responsible Officers

Free speech and expression at App State

Jeff Cathey
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Acting Senior Vice Provost
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Freedom of Speech Resolution

This Freedom of Speech Resolution was adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees on June 23, 2023.

The views expressed by the artists are not the views held by the Turchin Center or Appalachian State University.

The Board of Trustees at Appalachian State University is committed to institutional neutrality and academic freedom, and to freedom of expression as indicated in the University's Free Speech and Expression statement.



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.

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