

MAKING KIN:

BELONGING & LONGING IN APPALACHIA

FEB 7 - MAY 3, 2025

BICKERS GALLERY

22nd
ANNUAL
APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION



tcva.org

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY

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Front:
Marcus Morris
Elegance Is Refusal: Undoing, 2022

Left:
Sarah Pfohl
Milkweed Field, 2013

What does it mean to belong somewhere? In *Making Kin: Belonging & Longing in Appalachia*, we asked photographers to show us how Appalachia shapes their sense of kinship and belonging. From across the full range of Appalachia, the artists featured here offer us moments of tenderness, resilience, and connection. Belonging is found by the rivers, in the woods, at the ancestral kitchen table, within the midst of wild-crafted families, and, in the murky relationships between complicated bodies.

Belonging does not come easily and equally for everyone. Longing alone can fuel action, revolution and change. For some, belonging becomes a dynamic and unfolding event that shifts, retreats, and advances. Sometimes, what is shared between us is painful; bearing witness takes place in silence. Sometimes sharing is so exquisitely beautiful that it defies description. As each photographer in this exhibition brings to bear their own unique qualities of creative attention, belonging echoes with luminous grace, inviting us to reimagine and broaden what it means to love.

Informed by the land and the human and more-than-human beings who live within these mountains, these photographs connect the intimately personal to the regional—inviting us to remember that Appalachia shapes us as much as we shape Appalachia.

Together, we invite you to contemplate the braided beauty of this region, the land that holds and nourishes, the complicated histories that we carry with us, the storms and floods that have shaped and devastated land and communities alike, and the intricate and tender bonds of kinship that carry us forward into the future of Appalachia.

- Jurors Susan Patrice and Frances Bukovsky of Kinship Photography Collective

Marie Bongiovanni
In Attesa Di Helene (Waiting for Helene)
2024



ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

Artists' names are hyperlinked to their respective pages.

SINGLE-IMAGE ARTISTS

JESSE BARBER

ERIK MACE

KEN BARRETT

REED MATTISON

MARIE BONGIOVANNI

LOU MURREY

LYNNE BUCHANAN

BARRON NORTHRUP

EVA BUCKNER

RANDY REDMAN

HEATHER CORMONS

KELSEY RISO

ALEX COX

LAURA RUDKIN-MINIOT

ABIGAIL FRITSCH

KAYE SAVAGE

ALICIA GREEN

ROBERT SEEVERS

ISABELLE GREEN

ARIEL SHUMAKER-HAMMOND

KAOLY GUTIERREZ

RICARDO TEJEDA

CARY HITCHCOCK

REUBEN VAN HOEVE

MARS JOHNSON

EDWARD WILLIAMS

LIZ LASINE

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

SERIES ARTISTS

MARCUS MORRIS

SARAH PFOHL

ELIZA BELL SCHWEIZBACH

Top:
Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Before the Storm, from the series *Gravida*
2023

Bottom:
Randy Redman
Blue Collar
2024



MARCUS MORRIS

Marcus Morris is a multidisciplinary artist and image-maker whose work centers queerness, Blackness, and performance. He was an MFA Fellow in Photography from The Ohio State University (2024) and received his BFA from Columbus College of Art & Design (2012). In addition, he spent six months studying Art and Photography at The Michaelis School of Fine Art at The University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa. Morris is a founder of Cineseries, an experimental film program series at The Wexner Center for the Arts. He is co-curator of the 2024 Fotofocus Biennale at Beeler Gallery at Columbus College of Art & Design. He was the Fall 2024 Artist Fellow at the Annex at The Gund at Kenyon College. Currently, Morris is a lecturer at The Ohio State University.

Statement: *Elegance Is Refusal* aims to reimagine the past with new imagery. Beloved by Toni Morrison provides a loose framework for engaging childhood trauma as a Black, queer, millennial in Appalachian Ohio. Elegance, to me, a feminine of 'cool,' long associated with Black culture, considers Black queer and femme identity as a source of power and refusal in a White supremacist, patriarchal, capitalist system. Working with Xavier Cruz in theatrical costume, cast to play my younger self, I engage race, gender, sexuality, history, class, and the promise of liberty via queer mothering. This series is made near land my family has occupied in Ohio since being emancipated in the early 19th century. Reclaiming history and identity in my art practice are essential for liberation.

Marcus Morris
The Clearing
2023

MARCUS MORRIS



Marcus Morris
Studio Portrait of Queer Beloved I, II, and III
2022



Marcus Morris
Undoing
2022



Marcus Morris
Beloved Disappears Into The Appalachian Landscape
2022

<http://www.marcus-morris.com/>

Instagram: @marcusmorris

SARAH PFOHL

Sarah Pfohl is a dis/abled, chronically ill artist and teacher. She makes work about the value, power, and complexity of a rural New York hill, the disabled body, and classroom teaching.

Pfohl serves as Associate Professor of Photography and Art Education Coordinator in the Department of Art & Design at the University of Indianapolis. She lives in Indianapolis.

Statement: Since 2012, I've photographed my mom in the rural place where we both grew up and where she has lived for more than 62 years. The hill we steward sits at the seam of the northern-most edge of Appalachia, between New York's Southern Tier and Central regions. Here I have found home always at the grace of a place far more powerful than I. I find home in the rituals my family enacts to stay here; the digging, the cultivation, the respect for weather and distance, and the felled fencepost I visit that my great-grandfather hewed. When we walk the property line, I trace the steps of four generations of my family and witness the progeny of what they saw. I imagine that the specific nuances of this land shaped our bodies into shared gestures, alive inside me now as deeply as home sits in my heart.

<https://sarahpfohl.com/>

Instagram: @sarahpfohl

Sarah Pfohl
Mushrooms in the Windbreak I Planted with My Nana
2013



Sarah Pfohl
Spruce Before Mother
2013





ELIZA BELL SCHWEIZBACH

Eliza Bell Schweizbach is an artist and documentary photographer living in Asheville, North Carolina. She sees her camera as a tool for deepening curiosity, celebrating connection, and allowing people to feel seen. Since childhood, she has been enamored with the natural world and has been markedly influenced by a lifetime spent in the Appalachian Mountains. Alongside her current personal projects — *Gravida*, *Photo Poem Post*, and a portrait collaboration exploring the impacts of Hurricane Helene — she works as a wedding and family photographer — work she finds endlessly compelling and largely overlooked by the art world.

Statement: In the winter of 2021, after witnessing a dear friend’s harrowing battle with hyperemesis gravidarum — severe nausea and vomiting from pregnancy — I started looking at the world of maternity portraits and wondering, do pregnant people feel seen by these images? So, I started asking them, “For you, how does it feel to be pregnant?” They answered: “Exhausted. Pure exhaustion;” “It feels simultaneously miraculous, and unremarkable;” “A journey of complete and utter blind faith.” They shared their infertility struggles, child loss, isolation, lessons from being a surrogate or a same sex couple, their awe, and their fears. With their answers and stories in mind, I photographed them. Always at, or near, their homes here in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

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

Instagram: @elizabellphotography

Eliza Bell Schweizbach
from the series *Gravida*
2023 & 2024

JESSE BARBER

Jesse Barber is a documentary photographer based in the Appalachian region of North Carolina. His work focuses on the culture of rural communities and the influence of traditional values, such as those related to labor and religion. Raised in the rural South, Barber has an understanding of the nuanced perspective in small communities; he seeks to expand our understanding of how religion, labor, and history intersect with the land today.

Statement: This project is about leaving. About coming to terms with “home” being lost to the past, being lost to movement, being lost to the changes of tides in economic market forces that lie outside the borders of the place we have called home. Home and leaving becomes a sort of religion – an ethereal disposition in trying to understand the past that made us, the ground we left behind, and the new world where opportunity lies. Maybe forgetting is easier, easier for ourselves and for our neighbors as we move into a new world with new histories and new stories.

<https://www.jesse-barber.com/>

Instagram: @j_barb



Jesse Barber
Untitled (Bless You)
2019

KEN BARRETT

Ken Barrett is retired and enjoys nature and landscape photography. He spends much of his time in the North Carolina mountains hiking and finding serene places.

Statement: Music in the hills

kenbarrettphotos.com

Ken Barrett
Saturday Night
2024



MARIE BONGIOVANNI

Marie Bongiovanni is a Philadelphia native who moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains because their color literally helped to save her life. Through photographs and audio documentaries, she aims to portray the beauty and healing power of the natural world. Since earning a certificate at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, she has split her time between the mountains in Boone, North Carolina and the woods along Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Statement: Waiting for Helene on September 26, 2024, along the Flat Top Mountain Trail in Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.

Instagram: @inmoto18

Marie Bongiovanni
In Attesa Di Helene (Waiting for Helene)
2024





Lynne Buchanan
Little House Spared by the North Pacolet River
2024

LYNNE BUCHANAN

Lynne Buchanan's work focuses on biodiversity and the importance of the threats that face waterways and forests around the world. Her work is in the collection of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and has been featured in *The New York Times*, as well as numerous other publications. Buchanan's photographs have been exhibited in over fifty solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries across the United States and in Europe. Her book, *The Poetry of Being* (2023) received silver awards in the Budapest and Tokyo International Foto Awards. Buchanan is also the author and photographer of *Florida's Changing Waters: A Beautiful World in Peril* (2019). She is the recipient of master's degrees in art history/museum studies from George Washington University and in creative writing from the University of South Florida.

Statement: This image was made on a barely passable road in an Appalachian holler in Saluda, North Carolina. The North Pacolet River flooded, washing away numerous homes during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, somehow this small house was still standing. It was a symbol of endurance and survival and showed the scale of the landscape around it and the smallness of man in comparison.

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

Instagram: @lynnebuchananphotography

EVA BUCKNER

As an artist, Eva Buckner welcomes the versatility of artistic instruments avoiding the confines of a single medium. Her work acts as an antiquated map, tracing her personal exploration of themes rooted in nostalgia and the attempt to resurrect the fleeting art of observation. Each piece she cultivates is steeped in the emotional core of her experiences, nourished by an entanglement of generational resonance and whispers of memory. Through her art, Buckner aims to capture the delicacy of the human experience by gently dissecting her own. She hopes that the manifestation of her personal vulnerability will invite others to reflect on the vibrance and rarity of their own stories.

Statement: My art acts as an antiquated map tracing my personal exploration of themes rooted in nostalgia and attempts to resurrect the ephemeral art of observation. I submit myself to the versatility of artistic instruments by avoiding the myopic demarcations of a single medium. Each piece I develop marinates in the emotional core of my experiences; experiences enriched by an entanglement of generational imprints, bloodline resonances and whispers of memory. I aim to capture the delicacy of the human experience by gently dissecting my own. I hope that the manifestation of my personal vulnerability seen within *Lie in Wait* will invite others to reflect on the vibrance and rarity of their own stories.

Instagram: @nospeedlimit3



Eva Buckner
Lie in Wait
2024



HEATHER CORMONS

Heather Cormons is a landscape, nature, and documentary photographer based in Charlottesville, Virginia, surrounded by the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains. She began taking black and white film photos almost thirty years ago with her first camera, a Nikon F, that her father had purchased in Japan in 1964. A slow, solitary walk through the woods is often the start of her journey; her photos document what she finds along the way—both the places and people she encounters. She is fascinated by the geometry of natural objects and scenes often overlooked, stepped on, or hurried past. Her experiences being in nature have been essential to her life; she loves capturing the relationships others have with the environment as they take time from their lives to adventure outdoors.

Statement: The people of West Virginia have a long history of living independently and resourcefully in the mountains of Appalachia. The New River Gorge, now a national park attracting ever-increasing tourism, is an area with a complicated history of mining, exploitation, and environmental disasters. And yet, the area provides unparalleled beauty, with the winding, single-lane roads providing people with access to secluded places to fish, hunt, or relax. TJ and Andy have been best friends for over 25 years. TJ is a mechanic on a surface coal mine and Andy is an underground coal miner. Due to the long hours and demanding nature of their jobs, they don't get to see each other often. On this early spring day, they were able to sneak away for a few hours to fish for trout at Dunloup Creek in Thurmond, West Virginia.

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

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/heathercormons/>

ALEX COX

Alex Cox has always taken photos of his journeys and mundane life events as they organically occur. The past few years, Cox has been honing his skills as a documentary photographer with the help of a dear friend and mentor guiding him along the way. His goal is to capture life as it is and to document the amazing people that make the Appalachian region what it is.



Alex Cox
Appalachia Strong
2024

ABIGAIL FRITSCH

Abigail Fritsch is currently a graphic design student at Appalachian State University, graduating May 2024. Fritsch incorporates many practices into her work that are not directly related to graphic design; photography being one of her favorites. She has spent much of her life in rural Appalachia and though many of her feelings are complicated, Fritsch has truly found belonging in this place with the people she lives with.

fritschat1c18.myportfolio.com

Personal Instagram: @abbyfritsch_

Design Instagram: @design_byabby



ALICIA GREEN

Alicia Green’s photography started with a trip during high school. Taking her camera with her on trips abroad, to the store, and around the house became a habit that stuck. Documenting life feels as natural to Green as grocery shopping. She turned this habit into a profession in 2011. Since then, Green has been creating images for companies, brands, families, and magazines in the hopes to share stories, color, and make us all feel a little closer than before.

Statement: Sisters comparing natural treasures from their backyard

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

Instagram: @_eddylinecreative_

Facebook: @_eddylinecreative_

Alicia Green
Private Conversations
2024





ISABELLE GREEN

Isabelle Green is a fine art photographer based in the mountains of Western North Carolina. She grew up in the charming town of Bryson City. The close-knit community and “love-thy-neighbor” atmosphere carefully weaves its way into her photographs, influencing her conceptual work as a whole. While painting and crafting were her first creative loves in life, Green’s interest in photography happened seemingly overnight. After taking a beginner level photography course at Appalachian State University, she took a leap of faith, bought a camera, and never looked back. Green tends to gravitate towards film photography and alternative processes. Her work revolves around her personal experiences, encapsulating the age-old ideas of culture, tradition, and memory.

Instagram: [@isabellegreenphoto](https://www.instagram.com/isabellegreenphoto)

Isabelle Green
Nana’s House
2024

KAOLY GUTIERREZ

Born in Mexico and raised in the mountains of Southern Appalachia, Kaoly Gutierrez's journey to creating art has been far from linear. She has spent most of her adult life working in construction. Without any formal art school training, Gutierrez was drawn to photography in her spare time as a means of exploring people's stories and relating to the world around her in satisfying and ever-curious ways. An internship in 2022-2023 provided her with invaluable insights, vocabulary, and skills in the field. Gutierrez primarily shoots documentary and portrait photography. For Gutierrez, photographing is a natural way to facilitate interactions in her life; it is a means for both caring for herself and those around her through the attention she imbues through the lens.

Statement: Although I wasn't born here, I was raised in these mountains, and in them, I have found home, love, heartbreak, friendship, and all the other wonderful experiences life brings. In this series, I offer a glimpse into some of the complex relationships that have shaped who I am. These are all women I once had crushes on and shared murky connections with. There is much that remains unspoken when you have a crush on someone; this project captures what was spoken. It also serves as a reflection of my own psyche, particularly in relation to the concealed energies—the secret thoughts—surrounding what I want and need from my relationships. At the same time, I explore how this all ties back to my complicated relationship with my mother. These are stories that these mountains have held.

<https://kaolygutierrez.com/>

Instagram: @kaolygtz

Kaoly Gutierrez
I'm Sorry. Forgive Me. Thank You. I Love You.
2024

CARY HITCHCOCK

Cary Hitchcock is an amateur photographer who is fascinated by black and white film. Hitchcock, his wife Meaghan, and their son Luckie moved to Fleetwood, North Carolina in the fall of 2022. Every day, Hitchcock travels the length of the railroad grade to his office just outside of Todd, North Carolina. He often stops on the side of the road to photograph the area. Professionally, Hitchcock is the Director of Accounting and HR for Challenge Towers. He is also an avid runner and climber.

Instagram: [@cary.hitchcock](https://www.instagram.com/cary.hitchcock)

Cary Hitchcock
Homestead
2024





MARS JOHNSON

Mars Johnson (they/them) is a queer photographer from Northeast Ohio whose work focuses on the complexities and importance of life in Appalachia. Through their lens, Johnson captures the everyday resilience and beauty of a region often misunderstood. While living in rural Kentucky in 2020, they documented the people of Cynthiana, sharing intimate moments with farmers, the Amish and Mennonite communities, and a young couple raising their first child together. Now based in Western Pennsylvania, Johnson is focused on documenting the intersections of rural life, politics, and the queer community.

Statement: Katelyn Hollar holds her daughter's hand in Harrison County, Kentucky, on June 6, 2019.

<https://www.mwjohansonphoto.com/index>

Instagram: marsjohnsonphoto

Mars Johnson
Hold Close
2020



LIZ LASINE

Liz Lasine is an inter-media artist currently living in Gainesville, Florida. She received her BFA in Studio Art with an emphasis in Photography from Appalachian State University in 2017.

<https://lizlasinge.wixsite.com/lizlasingeart>

Instagram: @liz_lasine

Liz Lasine
Meet You Where the Pavement Ends
2017



ERIK MACE

Erik Mace is a visual artist who combines photography, graphic design, and book arts into a singular tool of inquiry. He experiments with multiple forms of visual communication, curious about how to take advantage of an individual medium's limitations. The work he produces is tied together, not only by a desire to expressly match visual- and language-based tools to subject matter, but also by an interest in how information shapes relationships with ourselves, each other, and our environments. Mace is an alumnus of the Contemporary Photography program at the International Center for Photography in New York. In 2024, he was named the Photography Artist in Residence at The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands, North Carolina.

erikmace.com

Instagram: [@erik.mace](https://www.instagram.com/erik.mace)

Erik Mace
Belief in the Present, Faith in the Future
2022





REED MATTISON

Reed Mattison is a photographer and writer from Bowling Green, Kentucky. He earned his bachelor's degree in photojournalism from Western Kentucky University. Mattison grew up in southern Kentucky spending his childhood outdoors on family farms, spring creeks, and the karst hills that would come to influence his visual aesthetic. His semi-rural upbringing and education in the immigrant resettlement town of Bowling Green provided a racially and culturally diverse community that was formative to his photographic philosophy and class consciousness. Now based in Jackson, Wyoming, his long-term film photography focuses on themes of community, memory, and sense of place. When he isn't making photographs with his neighbors, Mattison is a babysitter, bike mechanic, and teacher.

Statement: These images are from an ongoing project, *to and from*. I relocated to Wyoming for a job in the journalism industry in 2021. I quickly discovered that traditional journalistic dogma was not in line with how and why I wanted to make pictures. So, now I've estranged myself from a region and culture that is deeply ingrained in me for a career path that personally was the wrong direction. Twice a year I'll load up my car and drive through the Heartland back home to the South. These trips and images have become a way for me to unpack my estrangement, investigate a place I thought I knew, and bring new love to the region I called home for 25 years.

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

Instagram: [wrmattison](#)

Reed Mattison
to and from, 2
2023

LOU MURREY

Lou Murrey (they/them) is a queer photographer and community organizer from the mountains of North Carolina. They got their start as a youth organizer with the Stay Together Appalachian Youth Project and now work with communities across the South to build people power through peoples' movement assemblies. Murry has chosen to stay to work, organize, and live in the mountains. Photography has been a documentation of their commitment to this place - in joy and grief and community and isolation.

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

Instagram: @loumurrey



Lou Murray
Julie at the Surghum Boil
2023





BARRON NORTHRUP

Barron Northrup is a photographer based in Asheville, North Carolina. During the Covid lockdown, he received his BA with highest honors from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He uses photography to examine the pandemic's long-term impacts on life and society—grappling with visual art's relationship to expectation, loss, and time.

Statement: *Buddy You're Dying and I Hate that for You*, focuses on the past and present impacts of the Covid pandemic. The title comes from a text the artist received in 2022 from a friend who observed that his physical, social, and emotional isolation didn't improve following the end of lockdown. Through this work, he is exploring his own ongoing grief, forgiveness for himself for not meeting his own pre-pandemic expectations, and acceptance of the possibility that a "post-Covid world" might never truly arrive.

barronphoto.weebly.com

Instagram: [@barronorthrup](https://www.instagram.com/barronorthrup)

Barron Northrup
exhale
2020

RANDY REDMAN

Randy Redman is a retired military veteran who spent more than half his life traveling the world in service of his country. He is also an internationally published author with a bohemian career that includes (in no particular order) lifeguard, airbrush artist, radio personality, nightclub DJ, aircraft mechanic, motorcycle test rider, hot-air-balloon chaser, war-zone journalist, newspaper editor, museum curator, community relations manager, media consultant, wine sommelier, and most recently, an aspiring art student at Caldwell Community College. Redman is an avid collector of tattoos; he enjoys spending time with his French Bulldog, Tank.

Statement: A slice of life—both mundane and deeply personal—where man, machine, and dog coexist in quiet harmony. It's not a glamorous moment, but one shaped by routine, patience, and love for things that last. The dog's calm presence mirrors the unspoken bond between the two friends, offering quiet companionship beneath the truck just as the photographer offers it through the lens. Together, the image evokes a sense of timelessness: a man tending to what's his, with his best friends—both human and canine—by his side.

Instagram: @swing.set.studio

Randy Redman
Blue Collar
2024





KELSEY RISO

Kelsey Riso is a student at Appalachian State University majoring in Fine Art Photography. Riso's practice is rooted in introspection and observation. She draws inspiration from the world—nature, emotions, human experiences—and translates them into visual narratives that resonate for her. Riso's work reflects discovering her own identity and finding her place in a society that often feels unwelcoming to those who are different.

Instagram: [@corporatetoothpaste](https://www.instagram.com/corporatetoothpaste)
corporatetoothpaste

Kelsey Riso
Untitled
2023

LAURA RUDKIN-MINIOT

Laura Rudkin-Miniot is a trail photographer based in Asheville, North Carolina. She is exploring Southern Appalachian nature and photography following a lengthy public health career that focused on place and health. She finds her photos during pauses on walks, hikes, and drives. Her photographs have been exhibited at the Madison County Arts Council in Marshall, The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands, and the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center in Cowee, North Carolina.

Statement: This series includes diptychs of photos taken along Asheville's Wilma Dykeman Greenway in July and October 2024, pre- and post-hurricane. The original (before) photographs were part of an exploration of how natural and unnatural (human made) beings and objects form environments in which people walk, run, bike, boat, and float. The after photographss depict how those beings and objects were rearranged by the power of wind, water, and moving earth.

Instagram: @llrudkinminiot



Laura Rudkin-Miniot
Helene and the Wilma Dykeman Greenway
2024

KAYE SAVAGE

Kaye Savage teaches Environmental Studies at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Her artwork spans photography and mixed media/handmade paper, with place-based themes centered on terrain patterns, natural materials, and representations of scientific data. Savage's past research in environmental geochemistry and her current art practice are explorations of chemical, physical, and biological interactions across multiple scales of time and space.

ksavage.myportfolio.com

Instagram: [@savage.kaye](https://www.instagram.com/savage.kaye)

Kaye Savage
Lawson's Fork Creek, Winter
2021



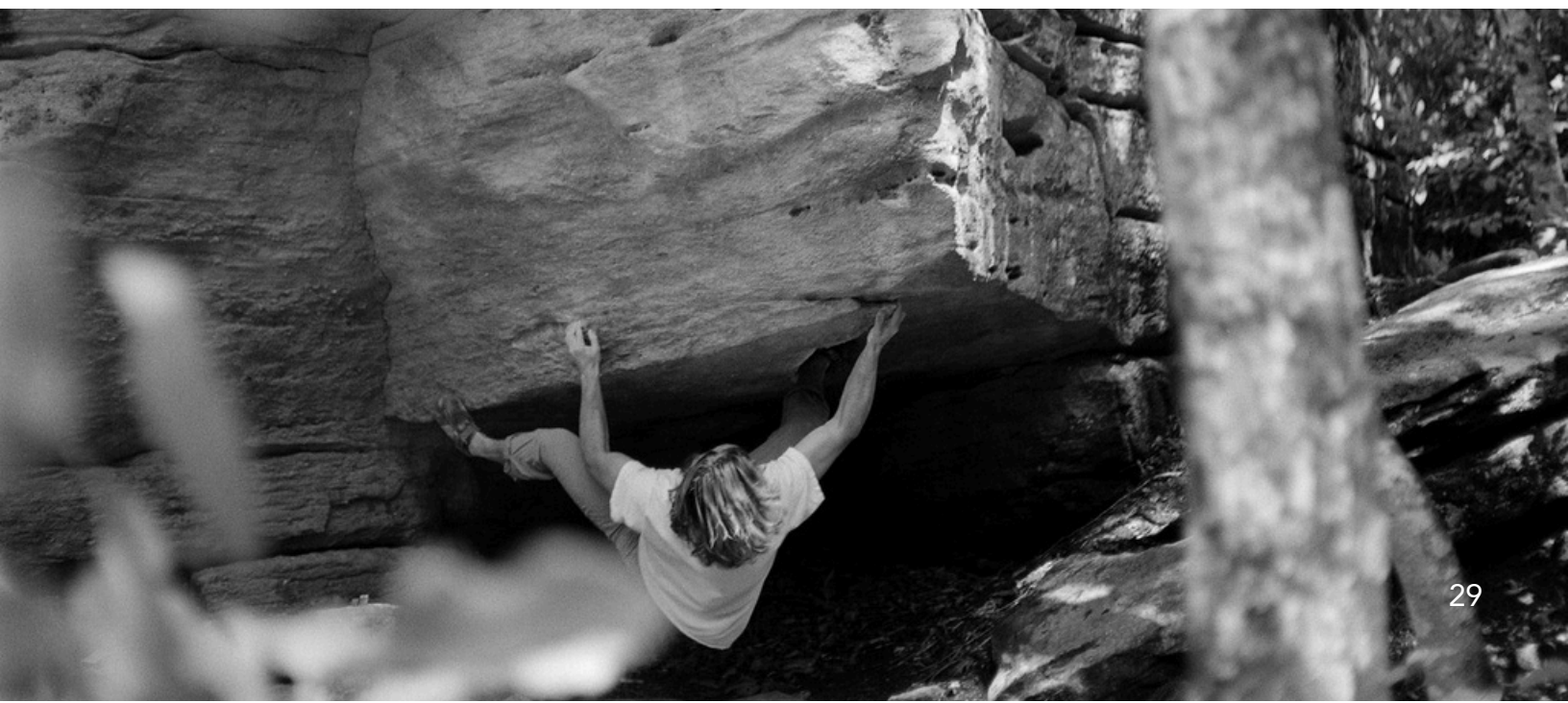
ROBERT SEEVERS

Robert Seevers is a native of Morganton, North Carolina who grew up exploring the Blue Ridge Mountains with his family. He is an avid climber and picked up photography during his time at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. As a graduate student at NC State, he has developed his skills and passion for analog photography and darkroom printing. Seever's work centers around the important people in his life and the moments he shares with them, whether those moments take place deep in the woods, a local coffee shop, or anywhere in between. Seever uses photography as a tool to appreciate and process his life experience by reminding him of the people and places that bring joy through life's complexities.

Statement: We grow alongside those stronger than ourselves. Here Galen shows me how it's done through the opening moves of a classic climb on a warm summer day in the High Country. Climbing with Galen and his friendship have helped me through dark times these past few years.

Instagram: @robertseevers2000

Robert Seevers
Climbing Out from the Dark
2023



ARIEL SHUMAKER-HAMMOND

Ariel Shumaker-Hammond (she/her/hers) is a photographer and therapist from the Piedmont region of North Carolina, living in Asheville for the past 12 years. Her focus is always on people, their stories, and their inner worlds. As a therapist and photographer, she sees through an ever evolving anti-oppressive, decolonizing lens.

<https://www.arielshumakerphotography.com/photography-portfolio>

Instagram: @arielshumakerphoto



RICARDO TEJEDA

Ricardo Tejada is a multi-discipline artist focusing on graphic design and photography, with landscape photography as his main passion. At 20, without experience or formal education, Tejada started working for a small print and design house in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He dove headfirst into the work and found a love for the tactile nature of print. After working as a prepress technician for the first eight years of his career, he shifted his focus to becoming a better designer. Through that desire to grow, he found his love for photography. In 2021, after years of freelancing as a side hustle, Tejada left his full-time position as a Senior Production Artist at an Asheville based print and design firm and officially launched his own business, Show and Tale Creative.

Statement: This photo represents a lot of what I love about woodland photography. There is no grand vista or waterfall that becomes the obvious focal point. Woodland photography forces you to slow down and work for good compositions more than any other form of nature photography I've personally engaged with. You have to have the patience to explore and wait for your shot. You sometimes get dirty bushwhacking. You have to study the weather and how it affects the environment you photograph. You must have a keen understanding of light, and extreme situational awareness because conditions can change in a matter of seconds. And, you really have to be able to see the forest for the trees—pun intended—in order to achieve a photograph that makes sense within the clutter and chaos of a woodland scene.

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

Instagram: [@showandtalecreative](https://www.instagram.com/showandtalecreative)

[YouTube](#)

REUBEN VAN HOEVE

Reuben Van Hoeve is a visual artist who was raised in Jackson County, Kentucky. He was born in Guelph, Ontario in 1996; in 1997, his parents immigrated to Kentucky to perform non-profit work through the Dutch Reformed Church. In time, what was supposed to be a two-year stint became the entirety of his childhood as his family remained in the mountains. Van Hoeve no longer resides in Kentucky, having lived on the west coast for much of his adult life, but he still returns every year to visit family and document his childhood home.



Reuben Van Hoeve
Archipelago 08
2024

Statement: The impetus for this project came after the flooding of Whitesburg and other communities in Eastern Kentucky in the summer of 2022. I became obsessed with the idea of the river as both a life-giving, and destructive force—one which ties the peoples and communities of the mountains together, while simultaneously threatening their demise. I have been recently traveling along both the Kentucky and Cumberland rivers to capture the essence of the 'Appalachian River' and the communities they encompass as I perceive them. I've only just begun to scratch the surface of this endeavor; my goal is to—in time—capture images from communities along both rivers from the mountains to the bluegrass in order to create an omnibus which expresses our collective relationship to our environment.

<https://reubenvanhoeve.com/>

Instagram: @rvhoeve

EDWARD WILLIAMS

Edward Williams is currently a student at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. They are an aspiring photographer, enjoying all the arts and classes at 43 years old. Williams has been a single parent of a child with autism for 17 years; they have found kin within a few friendships and with their partner, Nyxx and their family of three children. They are queer identifying with multiple aspects of themselves constantly being explored. They are the human subject in most of William's photographs at this time, but they would love to serve the LGBTQ+ community with the opportunity to create a safe and self-explorative space for all.

Statement: Abandoned places

Instagram: @kastiel999

Facebook: Edward Kastiel Williams



Edward Williams
Memory of Light
2024



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Elizabeth Williams is an artist, photographer, and human centered in the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia for the past two years, and the foothills of the Western North Carolina mountains for the rest of her life. Growing up exploring the creeks, rivers, and woods, she and her brother formed their own connections and relationships with the animals and plants of the region. To this day, Williams remains deeply influenced by the explorations of her childhood, and continues to ask questions of, wonder at, and seeks to deepen her vital relationships, with loved ones and the land through the medium of photography.

Instagram: @stillnotmoving

Elizabeth Williams
Mom and the Magnolia Tree
2021



ABOUT AMPC

From over 500 images submitted by 76 artists, jurors Frances Bukovsky and Susan Patrice of Kinship Photography Collective selected 44 photographs for this year's 22nd Annual Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition. These images capture the diverse and complex relationships that define Appalachia. Guided by the theme **Making Kin: Belonging & Longing in Appalachia**, this year's jurors sought images and projects that honor "diverse roots, complex connections, and entangled relationships," showcasing the many ways Appalachia shapes a sense of kinship and community.

The 22nd AMPC exhibition opens Friday, February 7, 2025, with a public reception that evening during Fizzy First Friday (5-8 pm) and will be on view through May 3, 2025. People's Choice voting will take place in person in the gallery. Competition winners will be announced at the private Awards Reception on March 22, 2025. Visitors are invited to experience this moving exploration of Appalachian identity, history, and kinship.

This year AMPC is partnering with the *Appalachian Journal*, which will be publishing a special visual arts issue highlighting important work by Appalachian artists and researchers. This year's AMPC jurors and AMPC photographer, Marcus Morris, will be featured in the journal alongside a transcription of a panel discussion held in 2021 with Appalachian photographers Clarissa Sligh, Lydia See, and Megan King.

An ARTtalk and panel discussion with jurors Frances Bukovsky and Susan Patrice and exhibiting artist Marcus Morris will take place at the Turchin Center on April 4, 2025 (First Friday) at 5 pm followed by a reception for the release of the *Appalachian Journal* special issue.

The Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition is made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Mast General Store with additional support from Appalachian Voices, Bistro Roca, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Footsloggers Outfitters, Peabody's Wine and Beer, Stickboy Bread, and App State's University Recreation.

JURORS

FRANCES BUKOVSKY

Frances Bukovsky (they/them) is a photographer who is interested in the relationships between bodies, places, and identities, particularly within the context of chronic illness, disability, and queerness. Bukovsky was born in upstate New York and earned a BFA with honors from Ringling College of Art and Design in 2018. Since then, their work has been featured in institutions such as UC Irvine's College of Health Sciences, The Bascom: A Center for the Arts, UGA's Circle Gallery, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Bukovsky is a co-founder of [Kinship Photography Collective](#) as well as a member of Women Photograph. They reside in Marshall, North Carolina.

Instagram: @frances_bukovsky

SUSAN PATRICE

Susan Patrice is a documentary photographer and interdisciplinary artist. Her photography and public installations focus on the Appalachian and Southern landscape and its people and feature intimate images that touch deeply into questions of place and belonging. Since 2016, her work has primarily explored the nature of visual perception and its impact on our feelings of connection and kinship with the natural world. Here, she engages in intimate gestural conversations with the land through the use of handbuilt cameras designed in response to place. She lives in Marshall, NC, where she is the director of Makers Circle and a co-founder of the [Kinship Photography Collective](#).

Instagram: @susanpatrice & @kinshipphotographycollective

INVITATION TO CREATE

This year's AMPC theme is ***Making Kin: Belonging and Longing in Appalachia***. The jurors encouraged artists to submit work that "has shaped your sense of kinship and belonging." They asked, "How have you found, stewarded, or made home in these mountains and valleys? Maybe it is by the river, in the woods, at your grandmother's kitchen table, alongside your own wild-crafted family, or in the murky relationships with other complicated bodies."

kinship, noun:

a sharing of characteristics or origins
"they felt a kinship with musicians"

belonging, noun:

an affinity for a place or situation
"we feel a real sense of belonging"

Take a moment to think about how the theme of belonging and longing emerges in your own life. Choose one of these ideas and write/draw about how you connect to it. Use the artmaking materials available to you to create an artwork that represents how you feel or think about kinship and belonging.

Definitions from Oxford Languages

ARTTALK

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 | 5 PM
TCVA LECTURE HALL 1102

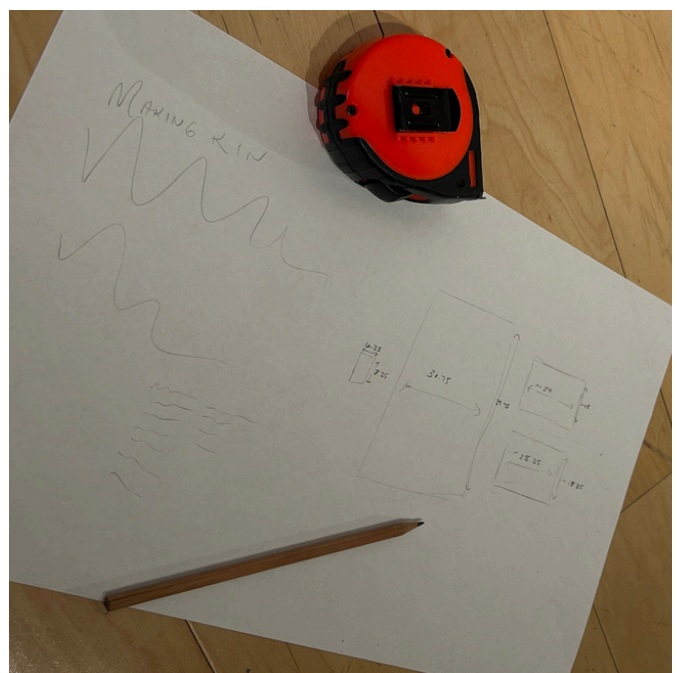


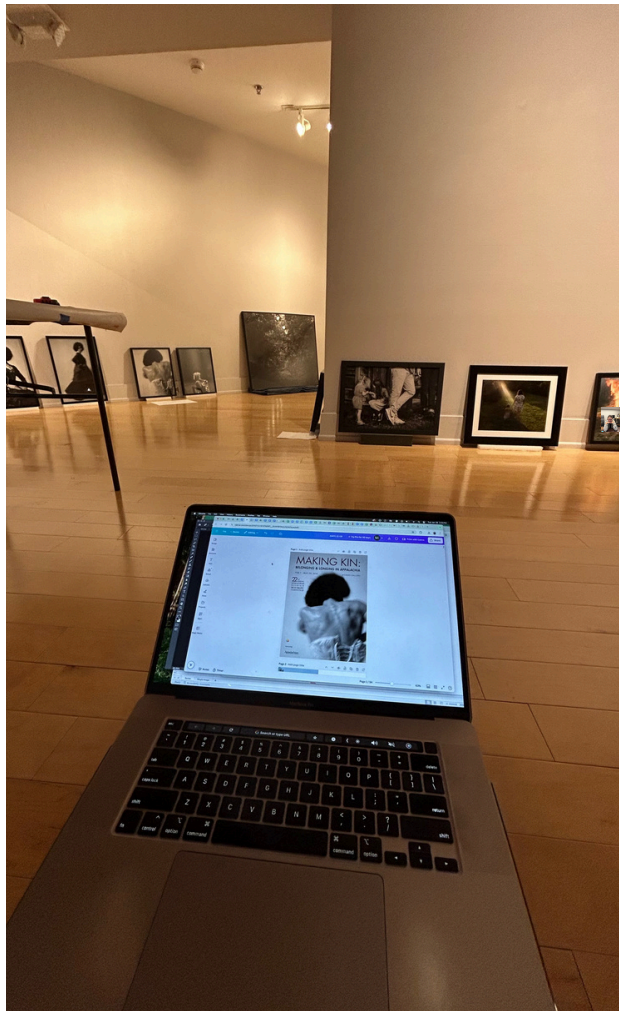
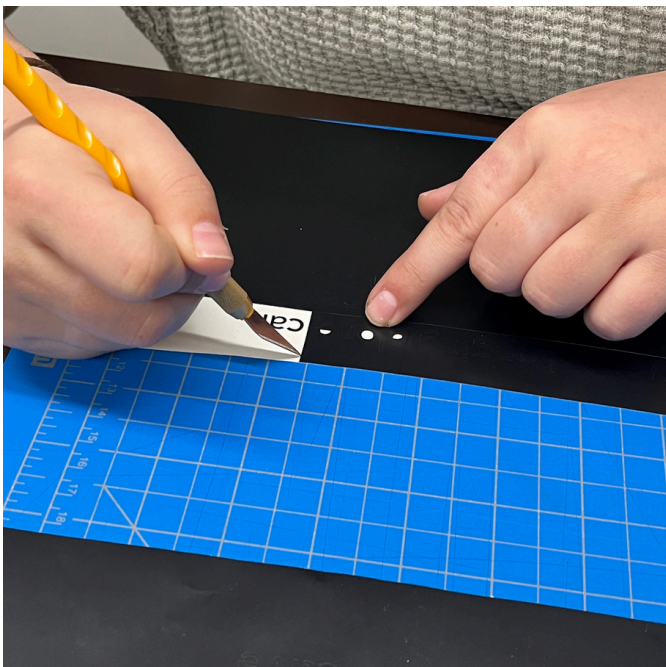
Panel discussion featuring exhibiting artist, Marcus Morris and jurors Frances Bukovsky and Susan Patrice of Kinship Photography Collective.

Special visual arts issue of *Appalachian Journal* release party immediately following panel discussion in the Moskowitz Gallery

Marcus Morris
Beloved Disappears Into The Appalachian Landscape
2022

BEHIND THE SCENES





SELECTED WORKS IN THE EXHIBIT



Lou Murray
Julie at the Surghum Boil
2023



Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Gravida 22
2023



Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Gravida 1
2023



Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Gravida 8
2023



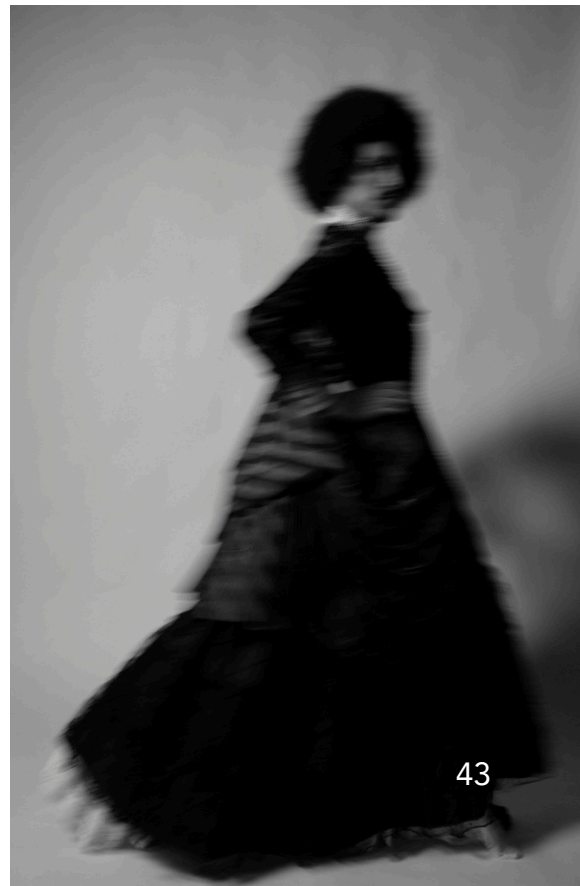
Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Gravida 14
2023



Marcus Morris
Elegance is Refusal: Studio Portrait of Queer Beloved I
2022



Marcus Morris
Elegance is Refusal: Studio Portrait of Queer Beloved II
2022



Marcus Morris
Elegance is Refusal: Studio Portrait of Queer Beloved III
2022

Sarah Pfohl
Spruce Before Mother
from the series: *The Forest Rests Also in You*
2023



Sarah Pfohl
Milkweed Field
2023



Reuben Van Hove
Archipelago 08
2024



Laura Rudkin-Miniot
Helene and the Wilma Dykeman Greenway
2024



Kaye Savage
Lawson's Fork Creek, Winter
2021



Jesse Barber
Untitled (Bless You)
2019



Eva Buckner
Lie in Wait
2024



Alicia Green
Private Conversations
2024



Alex Cox
Appalachia Strong
2024



Eliza Bell Schweizbach
Gravida 5
2023

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

KINSHIP PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE

APPALACHIAN JOURNAL

CONTEMPORARY APPALACHIAN PHOTOGRAPHY:
PANEL DISCUSSION, TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS 2021

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION ARCHIVE

BOONE PHOTO EXHIBIT EXPLORES KIN AND COMMUNITY IN
APPALACHIA, WFDD 2025



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.

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY