

Kristin Tordella-Williams

kristintordellawilliams.art

Artist Statement:

I examine the impact of personal and communal labor on the post-industrial landscape, both environmental and physical. My work explores themes related to social justice, identity, gender, and memory, using materials commonly found in historical archives, hardware stores, and recycling bins. Using primary processes of iron casting and hand papermaking, I create installations that visually and conceptually condense layers of memory, materiality, and process.

Viewers experience a dialogue between labor, memory, and identity that highlights the impact of our actions on our environments and collective culture. By gathering and re-interpreting the remnants of labor like setting Edna St Vincent Millay's poems in letterpress or pulping threadbare work clothes, I invite viewers to reflect on their own experiences and the residue they leave behind. My work raises important questions about the intersection of labor, identity, and environment, and encourages us to consider the legacy we are leaving for future generations, be it through our trash, our work, or our art.

Biography:

Kristen Tordella-Williams is a contemporary carpetbagger who was raised in Massachusetts, lived and worked in Jackson, Mississippi for seven years and now resides in Opelika, Alabama. Her research focuses on the impact the past has on our present through labor, both personal and communal. She re-interprets materials commonly found in recycling bins, hardware stores, visual archives, and nature as remnants of our labor and explores issues of social justice, identity, gender, and memory manifest in these works.

Kristen has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally, most recently in a villa in Berlin, Germany. She has been an artist in residence at Salem Art Works in New York, the Ateliers im Alten Schlachthof in Sigmaringen, Germany, and the Tides Institute & Museum of Art in Eastport, Maine. In 2023, she was awarded prestigious 2nd place out of over 1000 entries in Lake City's ArtFields competition for her work 40 Burnt Books. Kristen is currently the President of the Mid-South Sculpture Alliance and an Associate Professor of Sculpture at Auburn University.

Exhibitions:

- 2023 Watershed O'Fallon Municipal Center Gallery O'Fallon, MO
- 2022 Of an Industrial Nature Pogue Art Gallery, Eastern Oklahoma University, Ada OK
- 2021 *Fallen Lines*, Lycoming College Art Gallery, Williamsport PA
- 2021 *Alone, together//Alleine, zusammen Projekt Traum*, Friedrichshafen, German
- 2021 The Harder Barter Market Hall Art Gallery, Millsaps College, Jackson MS (as Lifetime Guarantee)