



S a r a h W i l l i a m s

Springfield, MO

Interstate Phantoms Statement

It is my belief that art should originate through a painter's personal experiences in her home environment. I see my whole life as preparation for the way I paint and the work I am currently making. Even though my connection to the small town farm culture that shaped me as I grew up played a major role in how I approach these works, I believe they can speak to people from a variety of places and experiences.

For this body of work, I was recalling the many car trips spent going from one area of the state to another, often at night. Living in such a rural setting, it's not uncommon to find communities quite spaced out. Often with about 30 miles of uninhabited farmland between each. At night, that distance can be almost meditative to travel through. Usually, the first thing one might encounter when nearing a community is a lighted sign at the outskirts. In the uninterrupted blackness of the rural night, those signs become some strange kind of beacon. Their uniqueness and history also make them wonderful landmarks unlike the ubiquitous golden arches or big box store signs that seem to blur together from place to place with their commonality.

Aesthetically I am interested in light sources and the play of light on surfaces. This led me to paint nightscapes of familiar yet isolated and unremarkable structures and scenes located in rural areas close to my home. I use darkness to edit out extraneous information and provide the viewer with the essence of the place. This approach applied to slightly familiar yet hauntingly isolated areas permits me to transform the common place and make the insignificant significant.

More and more I am realizing how this work unknowingly started as a way to deal with my homesickness when I moved away from my childhood home in North Missouri to pursue my MFA degree in a southern urban setting. Even though I eventually took a job back in my home region, I am understanding that I'll never be home again in many ways. But it's this distance that allows me to really see and be aware of my hometown in a way I wouldn't be able to otherwise. My pride and passion for the rural Midwest is still strong but it's interesting to see it come through in my paintings now more from something like a visitor's perspective.

While my current paintings are beginning to act as this strange kind of souvenir of the places I left and the structures and things I know most intimately, I also love seeing how people from other regions and backgrounds relate to my work. I'm finding the more specific I can be, the more universal the work somehow becomes. I hope my work allows people to think about where they come from and take pride in the collective identity of their home region.

Sarah Williams

Blue Gallery

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 BlueGalleryOnline.com website

Sarah Williams

Springfield, MO

Curriculum Vitae

Education

University of North Texas	2006-2009
MFA in Painting and Drawing	Denton, TX
William Woods University	2002-2006
BFA in Studio Art	Summa Cum Laude Fulton, MO

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2020	Interstate Phantoms	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	Twilight Towns	Andrea Schwartz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Off-ramp Communities	Moody Gallery, Dallas, TX
	Rural Routes	Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, TX
2019	Sarah Williams	George Billis Gallery, New York, NY
2018	Home-Place	Scarlow's Gallery, Casper, WY
	Every Nowhere	Andrea Schwartz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Night Lands	University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
	Speed Trap Towns	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2017	Blanketed	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	Unseen America	Moody Gallery, Houston, TX
	Sarah Williams	George Billis Gallery, New York, NY
2016	Heartland	Round Gallery; Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL
	Area Codes	Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, TX
2015	Flyover Territory	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	City Limits	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2014	Peripheral 36	Sinclair Gallery, Northwest College, Powell, WY
	Glow	Mildred Cox Gallery, William Woods University, Fulton, MO
	Midwest Noir	Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY
2013	Blacktop Country	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	30 Miles Between	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
	Remote America	Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX
2012	Homeward	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	County Line	McMurtrey Gallery; Micro Space, Houston, TX
	Nightfall	Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX

Selected Group Exhibitions

2019	Passing Through	Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler, TX
	Getting Real	Strohl Art Center; Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
	Out of Town	Andrea Schwartz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2018	Wonder Wall	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	Target Texas: What Inspires	Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
2017	Cityscape Show VII	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	As Is: Rural Realism	The Grace Museum; Abilene, TX
	Art Palm Spring Fair	George Billis Gallery; Palm Springs, CA
2016	Wonder Wall	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	Texas Contemporary Art Fair	Moody Gallery/Texas Contemporary Art Fair, Dallas, TX
	40th Anniversary Exhibition	Moody Gallery, Houston, TX
	Palm Springs Art Fair	George Billis Gallery/Palm Springs Art Fair, Palm Springs, CA
	Dallas Art Fair	Talley Dunn Gallery/Dallas Art Fair, Dallas, TX
	New American Paintings	Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
2015	Destination Unknown	Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, TX
	The Real Show	The Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX
	Dallas Art Fair	Talley Dunn Gallery/Dallas Art Fair, Dallas, TX
	MSU Biennial Faculty Show	Brick City Gallery; Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
2014	Wonder Wall	Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
	The Cityscape Show IV	George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	Homeward Bound: An American Pictorial	Fowler-Kellogg Art Center, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
	Night Music	Trudy Labell Fine Art, Naples, FL
	Seven	McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2013	Object, Object!: A Selection	Helmuth Projects, San Diego, CA; Curators: John Oliver Lewis and Jessica McCambly
	Amy Blakemore and Sarah Williams	The Gallery at UTA; The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX



Sarah Williams

Springfield, MO

Awards

- 2020 The Studios of Key West Artist Residency, Key West, FL
2019 Missouri State University Research Sabbatical; Springfield, MO
2016 Millay Colony for the Arts Residency; Austerlitz, NY
2015 Willapa Bay Artist in Residence; Oysterville, WA
Summer Faculty Fellowship; Missouri State University; Springfield, MO
2013 Department of Art and Design Travel Grant; Missouri State University; Springfield, MO
College of Arts and Letters New Faculty Summer Research Fellowship Missouri State University ; Springfield, MO
Ucross Foundation Artist Residency Program Participant; Clearmont, WY

Activities

- 2018 Artist Panel Discussion Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
Artist Lecture University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
2017 Artist Lecture Moody Gallery, Houston, TX
Artist Lecture The Grace Museum, Abilene, TX
2016 Artist Lecture Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL
Visiting Artist Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL
2014 Visiting Artist Northwest College, Powell, WY
Gallery Talk Northwest College, Powell, WY
Gallery Talk William Woods University, Fulton, MO
Gallery Talk Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY
2013 Gallery Talk University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX
2013 Gallery Talk McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2010 Panelist member for the Here. There & Beyond Exhibition; Dallas Contemporary Gallery, Dallas, TX
Gallery Talk Houston's Looking At Art Group; McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, TX
2009-2010 Member of 500X Gallery Artist Co-op 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
Treasurer for 500X Gallery Artist Co-op 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX

Publications

- 2020 Create! Magazine; p 162-165, Winter 2020 Issue 19
2019 American Art Collector; p 112-113, June 2019 Issue 164
2017 American Art Collector; p 66-67, March 2017 Issue 137
2016 The Southern Review; Spring 2016 Edition
Parcel; Spring 2016 Edition
2015 New American Paintings; No 119, Midwest Issue
2011 New American Paintings; No. 96, Western Issue
2010 Houston Chronicle; p E8, Thursday February 11, 2010
2009 Dallas Modern Luxury Magazine; p 56, December 2009 issue
2008 Houston Chronicle; p E2, Friday August 15, 2008
CAA News; volume 33, number 1, January 2008,
2007 Fishwrap; volume 4, number 2, summer 2007, Institute for Small Town
Studies; Fairfield, IA

Work Experience

- 2018-current Associate Professor Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
2012-2018 Assistant Professor Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
2009-2012 Adjunct Faculty University of North Texas, Denton, TX
2010-2012 Adjunct Faculty Brookhaven College, Dallas, TX
2012-2012 Adjunct Faculty Austin College, Sherman, TX
2009 Adjunct Faculty Richland College, Dallas, TX
2007-2009 Teaching Assistant University of North Texas, Denton, TX