**AMcE Artist Interview Questions**

**Kendra Larson**

**INTRO**Kendra Larson is a Pacific Northwest artist whose work is reflective of her community and with her local environment. Kendra has a multifaceted art practice that includes drawing, painting, sculpting, and crafting installations. Prominent motifs in her work include familiar, organic forms found in nature, in our backyards, and in the nostalgic memories of our youth. We see woodland creatures, vast landscapes, and the sky above us reimagined by Kendra’s hand. She has exhibited extensively across the American West and has recently participated in two Portland-based exhibitions.

Your recent exhibition at the Buckley Center Gallery in Portland – *Night: New Works by Kendra Larson* – focuses on the natural world after dark. Why have you approached depicting nocturnal landscapes when this motif has primarily been shown in the daylight?

Some of your work exhibited at the Augen Gallery highlight human interaction within the environment. It shows people camping, exploring, and relaxing in nature. But it also shows the, sometimes, unintentional effects that our presence has in the wilderness, like wildfires lit by fireworks, or a decrepit cabin. How do you reflect on the idea on the natural world being a delicately balanced space for exploration when it is ever-changing and malleable?

Your work will be featured in AMcE’s upcoming show, *Stasis*, where you will be featuring some larger works. Without revealing too much, can you let us know about the kinds of pieces that you are working on? Any surprises you’ve encountered while creating theses new works?

**Jennifer Vanderpool**

**INTRO**

Jennifer Vanderpool is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work is socially conscious and explores ideas of labor conditions, power structures, and gender roles. Her ongoing series, *Untold Stories*, explores these themes in disinvested and deindustrialized cities, originally in Youngstown, Ohio where Jennifer is from, and then Akron, Ohio after receiving funding from the Ohio Arts Council in 2019. In 2020, Jennifer was awarded the Fulbright Artist Fellowship, a grant that has provided her to the opportunity to recontextualize *Untold Stories* in Liverpool, England.

What resources were made available to you as part of the Fulbright Fellowship? What effect did limited international travel have on this project as the pandemic had just set in? Are there connections that you see between the communities of Youngstown, Akron, and Liverpool as disinvested and deindustrialized cities?

What do you see for the next progression of *Untold Stories*?

**Second Intro**

A core component of Jennifer’s art practice is sourcing visual components from archival material – such as advertisements, magazines, and other print ephemera – to craft original compositions. She was recently commissioned by the University of La Verne to create an original work, Not From Concentrate, sourcing images from their archive that considered the role of the citrus industry, for their exhibition *An Artful Reframing: Expanding Our ULV Story through an Inclusive Voice*.

What is your approach when you begin diving into an archive of media, particularly when you are responding to a prompt?

Are there certain kinds of media that you can an eye out for to use as specific elements in your composition?

How do you balance the positive and negative space when using different segments of images?