

- For Immediate Release -

Vanderbilt University
Department of Art
Space 204

Presents

Manifest

Kristine Potter

Exhibition Dates:

September 13 - October 18, 2018

Talk/Reception/Book Signing:

October 11, 2018

Time:

Talk

3pm

Reception/Book Signing:

4pm-6pm

Artist Website:

kristinepotter.com

Location:

Space 204 Gallery
E. Bronson Ingram
Studio Arts Center
Vanderbilt University
The Department of Art
1204 25th Avenue South
Nashville, TN

Gallery Hours:

Monday - Friday
10am-4pm

**All exhibitions and
receptions are free
and open to the public.**

**For more information please
contact the Vanderbilt University**

Department of Art:

vanderbilt.edu/arts

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SPACE
204

This series of photographs was made in a remote area along Colorado's western slope between 2012-2015. The pictures describe; an abstractly seen landscape, the mountain men who are its inhabitants, the psychological tenor of living in near isolation, and the unyielding high-desert sun. She sought to question the more persistent tropes of our American Mythology: the rugged cowboy, the dominion of wilderness, and the subjective authorship of those observations from a historically male perspective.

The pictures in this collection add to the longstanding photographic conversation we have had with this symbolic geography. Potter's interest in masculine archetypes led her toward the most iconic in American mythology: The Cowboy. In this dusty region she was able to find many men who employed themselves with this title, but who otherwise did not fit the stereotype. Through slow and careful solicitations, she was able to meet and photograph a number of men who live in relative outlier status to the small community that connected the mesas and ranges of the area. Coal miners, farmers, and off-the-grid homesteaders alike; their fortitude was apparent, as was their vulnerability and fatigue.



My experience of the landscape was that it is arid, disorienting and largely inhospitable. I sought to make photographs that describe the beauty of this perplexity. The pictures are built tightly, often without a horizon. The blazing sun and the natural abstraction of black-and-white, work to heighten a kind of mystifying experience of place. There is no idealized, long view in this story. We are here now, and it's a difficult situation. If the West is a symbol of America, then these pictures suggest that those ideas and ideals might now be in a moment of reckoning, or at minimum, a moment of confrontation.

Kristine Potter is a photographer currently based in Nashville, Tennessee and a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow. She has earned a BA in Art History and BFA in Photography from the University of Georgia and received a MFA in Photography from Yale University in 2005. Her work has been exhibited at Daniel Cooney Fine Art in New York City, Light Work in Syracuse NY, The Georgia Museum of Art, The Neuberger Museum of Art, 601 Art Space, The Girls Club Foundation, and in various other galleries nationally and internationally. Her work is in

public and private collections including the Georgia Museum of Art, and has been published in Contact Sheet, the catalog "Re-Framing the Feminine," and in a single signature book by Roman Nvmerials Press. Her first monograph *Manifest* has been published by TBW Books in the spring of 2018.

