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LEAH SWENSON

EDUCATION

BFA: Photography and Video Art, 2013
Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, Denver, CO
Summa cum laude

Undergraduate Studies: Photography, 2009-2010
Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA

EXHIBITIONS

2022

- Stratum, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver, CO
- New Directions, Novi Hram (The New Temple), Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- (In)Divisible, Dar Al-Kalima, Bethlehem, Palestine
- Works on Paper, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver, CO
- Common Nature, El Centro de Memoria, Paz, y Reconciliación, Bogotá, Colombia

2021

- 41st Annual Members Show, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver, CO
- Tragedy of the Commons, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver CO (solo show)
- rePurpose, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO (curator C.L. Seving)

2020

- *Connections*, National University of Colombia, Leticias, Amazonas, Colombia
- *Pink Progression: Collaborations*, Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, Arvada, CO
- *The Walls Between Us*, Center for Visual Art, Denver, CO
- 41st Annual Members Show, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver, CO

2019

- *Fetal Dreams*, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Denver, CO (Solo show)
- *Connections*, Universidad de Los Llanos, Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia
- *Turning Points*, Royal University of Fine Art, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- *Locus of Self*, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO (Two-person show)
- *Invictus*, Global Livingston Institute, Entusi, Uganda

- *Art of the State 2019*, Arvada Center, Arvada, CO (Jurors Joy Armstrong, Daisy McGowan, Collin Parson)
- *39th Annual Group Show, Pirate: Contemporary Art*, Lakewood, CO

2018

- *Meander Lines*, Pirate: Contemporary Art, Lakewood, CO (Solo show)
- *SYNChronicity*, SYNC Gallery, Denver, CO (Juror Doug Kacena)
- *Rimae*, NEXT Gallery, Lakewood, CO (Solo show)
- *Pink Palace*, NEXT Gallery, Lakewood, CO (Juror Andrew Novick)

2017

- *Big Bad Bettie Press's Bookshelf at Redline*, Pop-up at Redline, Denver, CO

2016

- *Pantographs*, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO (Solo show)
- *Sketch-O-Rama*, New Bohemian Gallery, Brainerd, MN

2015

- *Vide Infra*, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO (Solo show)
- *New Blood*, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO
- *Mail Modeling*, Buffalo Exchange, Boulder, CO

2014

- *Correspondence*, Franklin Arts Center, Brainerd, MN
- *Persistence*, Red Door Art Gallery, Wahpeton, ND
- *Entity*, Hinterland Art Space, Denver, CO (Two-person show)
- *Utopia/Distopia*, The Athena Project, Denver, CO (Curator Janice Schindler)
- *The Macro in the Micro*, NEXT Gallery, Denver, CO (Juror Derrick Velasquez)

2013

- *Habitat*, Franklin Arts Center, Brainerd, MN (Curator Martin Nelson)
- *My City*, Federal University of the State of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil
- *Bunny to Bridges*, Eve-N-Odd Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
- *Memory*, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada
- *RMCAD BFA Exhibition*, Philip J. Steele Gallery, Denver, CO
- *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, The Scrap Exchange, Durham, NC
- *RMCAD 50th Annual Student Exhibition*, Philip J. Steele Gallery, Denver, CO (Juror Petra Sertic)
- *STOCK*, Hinterland Art Space, Denver, CO
- *The Big Picture*, Artwork Network, Denver, CO (Curator Mark Sink)

- *Instant Lunch*, EPIC Gallery, Denver, CO

2012

- *Zac Efron is the New Keanu Reeves*, RMCAD Alumni Gallery, Denver, CO
- *Correct Me if I'm Wrong*, Mary Harris Auditorium, Denver, CO

2011

- *The Big Picture*, Illiterate Gallery, Denver, CO (Curator Mark Sink)
- *The Fashion Show*, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
- *Roll Call*, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
- *New Perspectives*, University House Wallingford, Seattle, WA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artnauts Art Collective –

Member Artist

January 2019-January 2020

Pirate: Contemporary Art –

Associate Member

January 2018-Present

NEXT Gallery –

Associate Member and Artist Mentor

September 2017-December 2019

Colorado Photographic Arts Center –

Exhibition Committee Member

November 2014-June 2015

Planning, curating, + developing exhibitions and lecture series programming

Editor in Chief and Social Media Manager

February 2013-November 2013

Editing, finding/producing content for, and organizing photography blog

Grant Writing Internship

February 2013-October 2013

Grant research and writing, administrative assistance

Artist Statement

There are many types of landscapes: emotional, psychological, geographical, and physical. I create collage work from found paper along with my own imagery to construct these landscapes. I use encaustic wax, one of the oldest art practices, as a collage medium. I'm inspired by many contemporary and historic artists and movements, including the Mail Art Movement. My work often includes fragments of maps, which I've always been drawn to- the idea of mapping is beautiful to me. Orienting, grounding, from incredibly detailed to crude and abstract, guiding.

I was born in Breckenridge, Minnesota in 1989. The landscape was very flat. In 2008, I drove across the country with a minivan full of my possessions to Seattle, Washington to attend Cornish College of the Arts, where I completed the first year of my undergraduate study of Fine Art with emphasis in photography. In 2010, I drove back across the country the opposite direction to finish my undergraduate work at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design (RMCAD) in Denver, CO. It was a long, lonely drive. In 2013, I completed my undergraduate work, earning a BFA summa cum laude with emphasis in photography and video from RMCAD.