



Monica Estabrook

Artist Statement

I am a full time high school art/photography teacher, an artist, and a mother of two young girls. After attempting to photograph the landscapes while on a family camping trip, I realized a recurring theme in the way I photograph outside of the studio. The common traditions in landscape photography typically fall in the realm of waiting for the perfect lighting, bringing your most expensive equipment, and creating a sublime image that marks your feat. I would consider my current body of work the anti-sublime: kids in tow, time constrained by the needs of others, and the brief, disrupted encounter with the landscape. As a mother and a full time art teacher, my view of the land is brief and often disrupted. My hope is that the viewers can relate to that feeling of squeezing in suppressed passions that end up being overpowered by the necessity to rear children and provide for the family. By using an extremely short depth of field in my images, I inevitably convey the anti-sublime of the most popular landscapes in America. My images challenge the viewer to identify the depth and context and that inevitably helps to make them captivating images.

Artist Biography

Monica Estabrook is an art teacher at Bloomington High School where she teaches photography and advanced studio courses. Much of her professional work is teaching youth how to present their work in galleries and manage a creative career. As a conceptual artist, Monica explores themes in gender equality and teenage identity. She was awarded an individual artist support grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency for printing the works in mother·land. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography from Southern Illinois University, a Bachelor of Arts in art history and Master of Arts in teaching from the University of South Carolina.



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