



NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL

Origin of Rurality

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/06/19

(Omaha, Nebraska) – The Nebraska Arts Council welcomes Lisa Bang Hoffman & Terry Koopman to showcase their works in the Fred Simon Gallery, as a continuation of the FSG exhibition program. *Origin of Rurality* explores the vast multi-faceted landscape that is rural Nebraska, along with the power of nature, and the resolve and determination of rural communities.

Exhibition Dates: December 13, 2019 - February 7, 2020.

Opening Reception: December 13, 2019 5-7pm

Artist Statement - Lisa Bang Hoffman

The mood of my images is ambiguous and timeless, with subject matter drawn from my family, rural environments and domestic scenes. Childhood themes reoccur, with the context shifting.

The images in this exhibit are film based; I continue to work in film because of the tactile, deliberateness of the darkroom process. Many of the photographs are shown in book format, allowing the viewer to also experience the work in tactile way. Sequencing of the images defines a more precise context.

My origins are from Northern Minnesota, graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1991 and receiving my MFA from the University of Nebraska in 1995. I am a well-educated Midwestern woman photographing domestic and family life which is quite ordinary. What is unique to my work is the context from which I view family, personal history, and the notion of nostalgia. I am one of four daughters, the youngest and only adopted child. Being adopted creates an existential mystery and detached independence that has stayed with me throughout my life, comfortable with the dark unknown and portents of the everyday. Lack of familial resemblance and living, in a sense, as the Other within my intimate world is normal, I am interested in the past, but feel untethered by it, living within my own history.

The editing process is crucial in trying to understand the compulsive instinct of one's aesthetic. In photographing my children, I have always been drawn to the ineffable, non-verbal world, and am coming to understand how my own relationship with others and to family comes through in my work, living with wonder while making peace with the unknown.



Artist Statement - Terry Koopman

I have lived in Omaha Nebraska my entire life but it has just been in the last several years that I began to really see the Nebraska that exists outside of its cities. It is there that you find the juxtaposition between rugged and peaceful, calm and chaos, serenity and immense power.

Once I looked beyond the day to day grind and began to experience the state I found an awe and respect that I hope translates into my images. When I pause and really look within and around our rural communities, I see their resolve to persevere.

Although there are images that best translate in color, for me I prefer the depth and tonality that black and white lends to an image.



About the Nebraska Arts Council

The Nebraska Arts Council (NAC), a state agency, provides numerous grants, services and special initiatives that help sustain and promote the arts throughout Nebraska. NAC is supported by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Legislature and National Endowment for the Arts.

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