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ART PHOTOGRAPHER

I take things apart and put them back together again to symbolize our destructive relationship with the natural world.

A proposal for Broken Forests

A Little About Me:

Born in Canada and with a youth spent outdoors, nature is a natural focus for me. I studied literature and theatre at University and graduated with a first (summa cum laude) in a BA in 1993. I later went on to get a teacher's degree from UofT (OISE) and a college diploma in graphic design in Boston, but photography, my first artistic love is what won over in the end in combination with my devotion to the natural world, and my frustration with the entitlement of people, including me.

Why Broken Forests?

I have learned about Broken Forests through my work as President of the Ontario Society of Artists and Cesar Forero. I don't actually know how or why working with Broken Forests would be important to me. However, through Broken Forests this past summer I met Dermot Wilson and Ernest Daetwyler and, as I had hoped, meeting and talking with these other creatives was very inspiring and energizing for me. I spend countless hours by myself in nature, which I love, but I struggle to find ways to share my passion for the earth and all it has with the public and I struggle to find ways to connect with other artists with similar passions. My hope for working with Broken Forests would be the same hope I always have - I would like to share the work, the ideas, the beauty the passion with artists and ultimately the public through my own platforms. I think that once a person connects with nature, that connection can only grow and lead to good action. I think that it is really important to meet people where they are, so my work is intentionally beautiful. I see value in beauty in art for many reasons but perhaps the most important is that it draws people in and it keeps them there long enough for a deeper connection to develop. And I hope to continually be inspired by the work of others and the energy of others as they too develop their relationship with and their representation of the natural world around us - forests and all the creatures big and small that are either plants or animals as well as the pristine rock, water and air that houses them.

My work:

I work in series. My last series was rooted in taking apart plants and putting them back together in new ways, with new combinations of colour shape and line - bringing to the viewer something alien but still beautiful. My goal was to raise questions in the mind of the viewer. What happened? Why? What does it mean? Does this exist in my life? What role do I play? What do I want for the future. And so on.

My current and new series is with nests, so far bird's nests found in trees. Again I am taking them apart. I show them whole, then I inventory them and show all the parts in a beautiful array, and then I build a new kind of nest, useless to the original creature but beautiful in the eye of the human beholder. Why? What does this mean? Why do I like it? Should I like it? Don't I like the original? Should I like that better? Do I want to protect the natural world as I find it or do I feel compelled to change it? Am I entitled to change it? If so, why?

What Will I Do?

Go into and meet the forest as it is. Find nests, of any kind, provided they have been abandoned, and play with them to make change and illustrate gain and loss, the authentic and the superficial. If I am given an opportunity to make any kind of presentation, I think that it would be to create a space in the woods that is changed the way I change things on a small scale, but there in a larger scale, and let people walk through it. I would bring materials with me so that I can take them away and leave the space as it was before I got there. I would need time - at least two or three days to set it up. I am not sure if this fits in with your hopes, but it is something I have thought of for some time. This installation and experience could be recorded. I also have an interest in still photography of interaction and also audio recording. It would be fascinating to record people's interactions in audio separate from video. Again - the whole topic is disconnection. taking apart. pieces and then put back together in a way that could be seen as beautiful or could be seen as wrong. Its symbolic of what we are doing to nature every day.

Thank you for considering my proposal.



