



kendra keefer

SHE/HER/HERS

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“The work of memory collapses time.”
—Walter Benjamin



Kendra Keefer is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and poet. She designs installations that layer new and traditional media, including time-based media, painting, photography, and poetry. Through storytelling and autoethnography, her work investigates how trauma shapes human and non-human animal behavior, recognizing that we share hypervigilance in search of patterns with other animals. Keefer's work also considers migration, connection/disconnection to the landscape, the specificity of place, and the craving for home. Her investigations are grounded in insights gained from a childhood with a veteran father, who suffered from PTSD, experience parenting three neurodivergent children (two of them queer), and two decades of teaching in underserved communities.

Keefer has a BFA in Painting and Drawing, an MA in Art Museum Education, both from the University of North Texas, and an MFA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Her professional experience includes guiding a Museum Studies Graduate student through the Harvard Extension Program, designing museum education programs at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Dallas Museum of Art and teaching art at low-income public schools in rural Texas.



In 2021, I fled my home to ensure the safety of my LGBTQIA teen. This multimedia installation maps that relocation and on how it echoed childhood relocations.

...OH, BUT IF I HAD THE STARS FROM THE DARKEST NIGHT...

MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, EXHIBITED DECEMBER 2024, NORTH LIGHT GALLERY, SIU SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS CARBONDALE IL



EXIT



"...it is half the art of storytelling to keep a story free from explanation as one reproduces it" **Walter Benjamin**

...OH, BUT IF I HAD THE STARS FROM THE DARKEST NIGHT...

MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, EXHIBITED DECEMBER 2024, NORTH LIGHT GALLERY, SIU SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS CARBONDALE IL



WAKE: IF HEAVEN'S NOT MY HOME
MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION INCLUDING VIDEO AND PERFORMANCE,

Spring 2022

It had become my routine to observe a specific herd every morning after dropping my teenager off at school. Estranged from my family of origin, watching the deer take care of each other, gave me comfort. One morning, I found that a young male member of the herd had been killed by a car the night before. Enlisting my teenager's help, I drew on the rituals I had grown up with to honor the young buck's life.



*WILD * DEER * NESS*

MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION EXHIBITED IN MAKING KIN EXHIBIT AT THE SIU SCHOOL OF ART AND MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS GALLERY, APRIL 2022, CARBONDALE IL



GROWING NOTES : A COMMUNITY ART EVENT
MAPPING AND JOURNALING ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN CARBONDALE IL



ON THE BUS TO THE WATER PROTECTORS CENTER



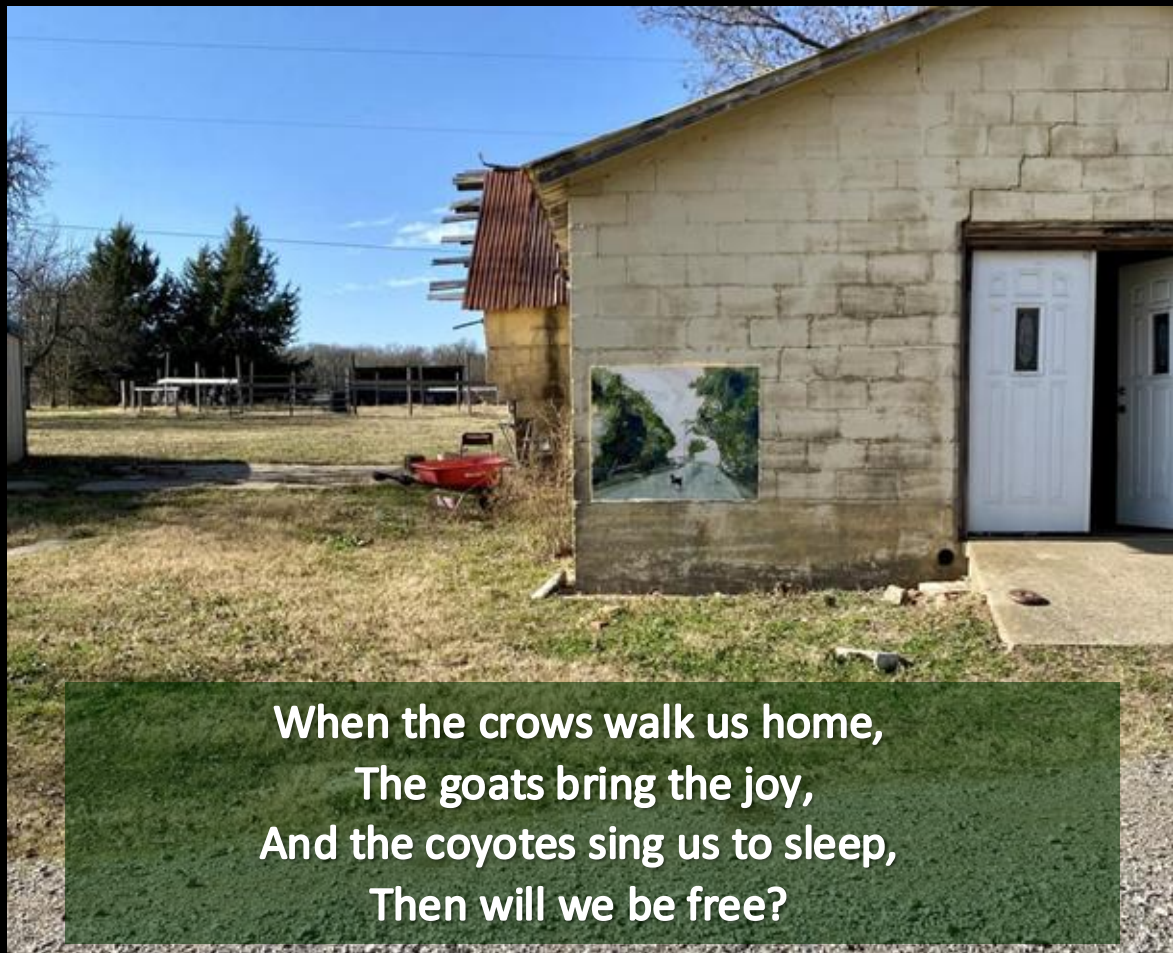
PRAYERS TIED INTO THE TREES AT THE PROTEST SITE



THE GATE TO THE WATER PROTECTORS CENTER

NOTHING GOES AWAY, 2021

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE WELCOME WATER PROTECTORS CENTER IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA FOR *THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER OPEN SCHOOL FOR KINSHIP AND SOCIAL EXCHANGE*. THE CENTER WAS THE SITE OF A STAND-OFF BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS (WATER PROTECTORS) AND MULTINATIONAL ENERGY CORPORATION, ENBRIDGE, INC.



WHEN THE CROWS

SITE BASED INSTALLATION, GOUACHE ON REPURPOSED UPHOLSTERY PAPER, NOVEMBER 2020, GRAYSON COUNTY TX

**ROAD WARRIOR,
BESTIARY SERIES,
2020**

mixed media and collage
on repurposed drawer,
21 x 27 inches, 3 inches
deep

November 2020,
Grayson County Tx



Won Best 3D Work at **Great
Plains Annual Juried Art
Show**, 2019, Centre Gallery,
Southeastern University,



THE ANXIOUS CHILD'S ALPHABET

Kendra Keefer-McGee



413 MAKERS

413 Main Street,
Denison, TX, 75021

**Opening Reception
7-10 June 3, 2017**

Exhibit on view
through July 3, 2017

**THE ANXIOUS CHILD'S
ALPHABET, 2017**

26 mixed-media works
on wood panels that
investigate the
existential anxieties of a
child who experiences
the world differently.

PRESERVING PUBLIC SOUNDS



Josh Shepperd is an assistant professor of media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. Josh designs applied policy and public humanities projects for the Library of Congress, and serves as director of the Radio Preservation Task Force and Sound Submissions Project. He is author of *Shadow of the New Deal: The Victory of Public Broadcasting* (University of Illinois Press), and is the founding Associate Editor of *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture* (University of California Press).



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WSIU PUBLIC BROADCASTING

GUYON AUDITORIUM
MORRIS LIBRARY

EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

FEBRUARY 22, 2024
4:30-5:30 PM



SIU SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS

Current works, performances, and installations of audio art, time based media, and more created by SIU School of Media Art (SoMA) MFA students.

Individuals with disabilities welcome. Please call 618-453-5738 to request accommodations.

JORDAN BARDGETT
NICK KARPINSKI
KENDRA KEEFER
ASHISH KUMAR P.
NATHANIEL OGDEN
LEAH SUTTON
DREW YEPSEN



SIU SCHOOL OF MEDIA ART
FALL MFA EXHIBITION

Framing Realities

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022 4:00-9:00

Southern Illinois University
Communications Building,
NORTH LIGHT STUDIO, 1251
1100 Lincoln Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901



*Oh, but if I had the Stars from
the Darkest Night ...*



Thesis Installation & Performance

Kendra Keefer

featuring *Siabhon, Elijah,
and Elliot Keefer-McGee*

Committee Members
Chair, Heather M. O'Brien - Takahashi
Member, Jay Needham

6PM-8PM

Friday December 6
North Light Gallery

SIU COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING
1100 LINCOLN DR, CARBONDALE, IL 62901

