

SANDRA LOUISE DYAS

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BIO/ARTIST STATEMENT 2019

BIO:

Sandra Louise Dyas is a visual artist and published author living in Iowa City. She is a Lecturer in Art at Cornell College, in Mount Vernon, Iowa where she teaches photography, video and performance art. This past summer she received an Iowa Artist Project Grant from the Iowa Arts Council. Sandra is a co-founder of Homegrown Stories and has been collaborating with filmmaker LeAnn Erickson since its inception in 2013. *Down to the River; Portraits of Iowa Musicians* was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2007.

Her photographs and video work have been shown in solo shows including the Dubuque Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Luce Gallery at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA, Hudson River Gallery in Iowa City, Drake University in Des Moines, Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, Farnham Galleries at Simpson College, the University of Iowa Hospitals (Project Art), Iowa State University, the Englert Theatre in Iowa City, Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, Portland Community College in Oregon, Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, Midcoast Fine Arts in Davenport, IA, Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, IA and Luther College in Decorah, IA.

Her work has been exhibited in numerous national and international competitions and invitations including Athens International Film/Video Festival, Falconer Gallery at Grinnell College, Rural Route Film Festival in NYC, Project Basho in Philadelphia, Minneapolis Photo Center, Photo Place Open in Middlebury, VT, Photographic Center NW in Seattle, the Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, CO and Gerrit Roetveid Academe in Amsterdam, Holland. She has participated in many online photo projects, both invitational and juried including: The 50 States Project, The Swap, Someone I Know, 100 Mile Radius and Gillian Wearing's international video online project *Your Views*.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I use cameras as a way to see and to interact with the world. My creative practice is personally motivated and interconnected by a sense of place, both physical and emotional. My work is about the relationship I have with my surroundings, both place and people. How and why we attach ourselves to a place is something I wonder about. I grew up on a farm in Eastern Iowa and am very connected to this particular landscape. How does a place inform who you are and who you become over time? My work is a way for me to go below the surface to convey an unspoken and emotional understanding of the human struggle.