

August 21 through October 23, 2022

# Visitors

works on paper from the  
Konza Prairie by  
**Erin Wiersma**  
of Manhattan, Kansas

## Artist Statement

My artistic practice focuses on the body's capacity to absorb and respond to an environment. The Konza Prairie works on paper are created on location in one of the few remaining protected grasslands in the world at Konza Prairie Biological Station south of Manhattan, Kansas. I create a record of the land, using both bio-char produced from controlled burns and the embossing from the forbs, fauna and rocky terrain as they incise and transform the paper surface echoing the topography. Pulling, rubbing, dragging, pushing, and lifting – changed by the elements: wind, temperature, humidity, and the landscape itself. Paper offers an unparalleled medium to make process visible to the viewer. I create with the prairie; it influences my actions into large-scale works, resulting from the varying burn treatments, fire intensities, and vegetative composition from each locale. As the prairie becomes both the subject and the medium, new landscape is revealed allowing me to know where I dwell.



*Transect 2022 105 HQC (ShW, alluvial plain I)*  
by Erin Wiersma

## Biography

Erin Wiersma is represented by Robischon Gallery in Denver, Colorado, and Galerie Wehlau in Munich, Germany. Her work has recently been featured in The Center for Human and Nature's publication, *Minding Nature*; selected for the 20/21 The Drawing Center's Viewing Program; and will be shown at the 2022 Prairie Festival at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. Wiersma holds an M.F.A. from the University of Connecticut and is an associate professor of art at Kansas State University.



Birger Sandzen  
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.