

June 18 through August 6, 2023

Folkways

mixed media works by
Kelly Yarbrough
of Manhattan, Kansas

Artist Statement

My work is rooted in the prairie ecosystem and presenting views of place through an ever-expanding library of my lived experiences. The tallgrass prairie is called the most altered landscape on the planet, yet grasslands tell incredible stories of human history and their re-establishment can offer hope for the future of life in the Great Plains. I want to contribute to the growing body of knowledge and research seeking hopeful solutions to issues of climate crisis and rural depopulation in the places I call home.



Spider Stick by Kelly Yarbrough

The work in "Folkways" is new and a detour from the largely abstracted style that I've been working with for the past ten years. I wanted to more directly (but playfully) represent people, actions, and traditions that I've encountered along the way while living in Kansas. Folkways are defined as learned behaviors, shared by a social group, built up without conscious design but serving as compelling guides of conduct.

Biography

Kelly Yarbrough (b. Plano, TX) is an artist based in Manhattan, Kansas. Her practice is rooted in an ecosystem that includes mixed media drawing, arts administration and creating meaningful opportunities for humans to engage with their environment. She enjoys unexpected collaborations, transdisciplinary conversations, and continual learning. Kelly holds an MFA from Kansas State University, and founded the Tallgrass Artist Residency in 2016. She is a Regional Field Representative and Art & Environment specialist for the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, a facilitator for Artist INC, a trained Konza Prairie docent, and a 2021TEDx Austin College speaker.



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