

Lily Massee

I have always been interested in the ways in which landscape and memory interact with one another. A quote that serves as a driving force for my work is one by Simon Schama from his book titled *Landscape and Memory*: “landscape is a work of the mind, its scenery is built up as much from strata of memory as from layers of rock”. I believe the inverse is also true: landscapes, more specifically our connections to the land, are what make up our individual psyches. My art examines and transforms the landscapes that occupy my own memory. When making art my first instinct is to explore the physical characteristics of significant spaces. I collect natural remnants of the environment, like rocks, sticks, or leaves, document the spaces with photographs, and record the specificity of each place. These souvenirs are evidence of their original locale. However, in an effort to realize Schumacher’s sentiment, I break, shape, assemble, pigment, and conflate these fragments so that they come to embody an amalgam of the environment and myself. Over the past two years I have been making image transfers, a process that allows me to imprint my photographs onto found objects and materials. When I recall a memory not only can I perceive that moment in time, but I can also feel it. I fuse the pictorial and tactile nature of memory through the direct convergence of photography and sculpture. The objects I transfer my photos directly onto are a physical extension of the image. In this process I distill new meaning out of the photographs through the materials I choose to conflate them with. Take “Limbs that Feel Like Boulders” for instance; the dense and rough physicality of the rocks both articulate my attitude towards my body and push my limbs into a geographical realm. Or “Laurel Canyon: January 5, 1999-July 3, 2018”, in which the domestic quality of the window and the translucency of the glass places the images in a familiar yet timeless space. My overall intention with my art is to emphasize the interconnections between the environment and ourselves, so that hopefully we all feel more compelled to take care of it.