



Art Environment Sustainability 2022

Elsewhere Studios, Paonia, CO
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
Western Colorado University, Gunnison, CO

Carol Flueckiger, MFA
Associate Professor Art
Texas Tech University



Brooke Tuma
Photo Credit: Brenda Lanphear

Art, Environment, Sustainability

During the month of June, Carol Flueckiger, Associate Professor of Art, Texas Tech University, facilitates a residency about art, environment and sustainability with Elsewhere Studios and Western Colorado University. This June she partnered with Melanie Armstrong, Interim Dean of Clark Family School of Environment and Sustainability, Western Colorado University, to select students to participate. Flueckiger and Armstrong organized a short “mini-film festival” program for the students and community that entailed viewing and discussing resources at the intersection of art, environment and sustainability.

Brooke Tuma, a Texas Tech graduate student in art, was one of the students chosen for the residence. She worked on a book art project to create a “road map” out of discarded liter on the scenic byway. Her project questions the impact of tourism on the landscape and will be featured in a touring exhibition that prompts discussion about climate change. Tuma was joined by Western Colorado nature writer Brenda Lanphear, who is working on a novel titled *Rock Shop Amber*, the story of a young woman on a road trip running away, toward, through and over the beautiful tangled adventure of adolescence.

Many thanks for Elsewhere Studios Executive Director Mitchell Oliver, Elsewhere Studios Board of Directors, Texas Tech Creating Livable Futures and the Texas Tech Honors College for helping facilitate this program.

Mini-Film Festival

Paonia Library, June 15 & 17, 2022

Colors of Change

Pongo Media

“Colors of Change,” a film by Jenny Nichols about the intersection of art, science and culture.

Rachel Sussman: The World’s Oldest Living Things

Ted Talk

Sussman travels the world to photograph continuously living organisms 2,000 years old and older.

Bears Ears National Monument

Western’s Center for Public Lands, with funding from the National Geographic Explorers program, is developing an online curriculum about co-management of Ancestral public lands. Bernadette Salem, film faculty at Western, shared a works-in-progress film about the project, filmed during a field school at Bears Ears National Monument.

Brenda Lanphear

Western Colorado University, Nature Writing Program

As a first-time novelist, I was thankful to have the time and space to deepen the first section of my book. I have tremendous gratitude for Mitchell Oliver who introduced me to area farmers and foodies working to ensure equitable food security for Coloradans. I was fortunate enough to join a cherry glean and proudly plucked almost twelve pounds of cherries and labeled many bags of fruit that otherwise would have rotted on the trees. Check out the good work being done at Uproot, an organization that values farmers and thinks redistributing local food with nutritional value aids hunger-relief efforts statewide.

My favorite memory— other than sharing a month of time & space with three incredible artists—was heading over to Hotchkiss to learn from master potter David Strong. Mr. Strong patiently explained the types of pottery and listened to my novice ideas on the art I wanted my main character to create; she uses found natural objects (mud, sticks, petals, leaves, and more nature debris) in combination with original poetry to create a held story—a handmade pot. I learned everything I could, made my own pot, and had deep conversations on sustainability and art at The Creamery Arts Center. I will use everything I learned in my writing.





Photo Credit: Brenda Lanphear

Brooke Tuma

Texas Tech University, Art
**ART 5304, Grad Studio 2D, Independent Study
Summer I**

My artwork is about the inauthentic connection between people, images, and the ever-changing landscape. After reading *Assuming the Ecosexual Position: The Earth as Lover* by Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens, I was inspired to think about photographic impacts on the earth. For example, instead of digitizing images that remain on a social media site such as Instagram and Google Maps, I question authenticity by creating site-specific art that critiques the image culture around us. For example, in one site specific project, I create hand-made paper out of discarded trash on a scenic byway. This is the overlooked unsightly effect of a beautiful landscape that is over run by tourists. It is undeniable, that a site of natural beauty will quickly degrade into a crowd of tourists once it is posted on the platform as a beautiful image. The herd instinct kicks in, and other users who also want to be photographed in those same lovely landscapes will converge with their own cameras, Instagram accounts, and followers. All of this traffic results in trash, which I transform into a alternative road map.





Brooke Tuma
Photo Credit: Brenda Lanphear



Elsewhere Studios is an artist residency program in Paonia CO, hosting artists from around the world to have time and space to focus on their work in a unique and supportive environment. Elsewhere is a choose-your-own-adventure style residency, providing residents with the opportunity to connect with the community ... or just time to focus on work. Time spans are individually based- 1 to 6 months, accommodating 4 to 6 artists at a time. Since its inception in 2011, the Elsewhere Studios Residency Program has hosted over 189 artists from 28 states and 14 countries (Argentina, Iran, Columbia, Mexico, Canada, England, Japan, Switzerland, Bangladesh, India, Ireland, Netherlands, and Finland). The program is open to visual artists, writers, composers, and performing artists at any stage or their career as well as scientists, activists, teachers, students, or any kind of creative thinker interested in exploring and expanding their work. Artists are supported in the creation of new work and new ideas through dedicated time, a space conducive to focused work, and an environment that is both stimulating and nurturing. The artists are selected through a competitive application process. The residency program includes housing, studio space, and utilities. The staff is dedicated to making this a positive experience and to finding resources and networking with the local community and resources as needed. The multidisciplinary resident artists interact, share, and often collaborate with each other.