

GALLERY GUIDE

SEAN WILKINSON: *FLORA*

SEPTEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 21, 2024

Nature is what we see

"Nature" is what we see—
The Hill—the Afternoon—
Squirrel—Eclipse—the Bumble bee—
Nay—Nature is Heaven—
Nature is what we hear—
The Bobolink—the Sea—
Thunder—the Cricket—
Nay—Nature is Harmony—
Nature is what we know—
Yet have no art to say—
So impotent Our Wisdom is
To her Simplicity.

—Emily Dickinson

Flora

Nature is not a separate entity, a place, a landscape. It is not an environment or an eco-system. It is not a thing apart. It is not a thing. It is not paradise or an escape. It is not a commodity or a resource. It is a force, a will, an intelligence. It is fundamental and elemental. It is life itself, full stop.

The plants I photograph in making the Flora work are, of course, marvelous in their own right, every single one of them. But pictures are not the things pictured, and in the end, as far as I am concerned here, it is the pictures that matter most. The Flora photographs are formal responses to the forms of plants. Surface and depth, near and far, figure and ground, line and space, color, clarity, and diffusion are the central concerns, which arise from the endlessly fascinating, remarkably beautiful, and infinitely varied plants themselves. My goal is to make pictures that respond to their exuberant vitality, their thrusting and thriving, their boundless energy and raw power, their elegance and grace, and their utter disregard for anything to do with the human world.

—Sean Wilkinson

Backstories

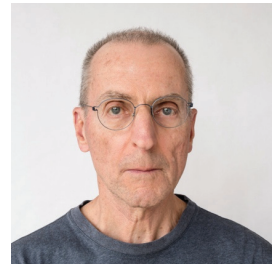
The 2024 FotoFocus Biennial: *Backstories*, now in its seventh iteration, activates over 100 projects at museums, galleries, universities, and public spaces throughout Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton and Columbus, Ohio.

The 2024 FotoFocus Biennial theme, *Backstories*, focuses on stories that are not evident at first glance. They offer context for what happened previously or out of view, providing narratives not yet told or presented from a new perspective. Once told, they shed light on current circumstances and events.

ARTIST BIO

Sean Wilkinson earned his B.A. from Antioch College and his M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design. He studied with Minor White, Harry Callahan, and Aaron Siskind. He taught at Harvard University before becoming a member of the faculty at the University of Dayton, where he established B.A. and B.F.A. programs that have earned national reputations.

Wilkinson is a Distinguished Service Professor and Professor Emeritus at the University of Dayton, where he served as chair of the Department of Visual Arts and as the Graul Endowed Chair in Arts and Languages. He is the recipient of several Ohio Arts Council and Montgomery County Fellowships among many other awards and prizes. His work has been widely exhibited and housed in over twenty-five significant collections. His photographs have been seen in more than ninety gallery and museum exhibitions across the USA and internationally, and they are included in more than twenty-five significant collections here and abroad. To see an extensive selection of portfolios, including *Flora*, see: seanwilkinson.net.



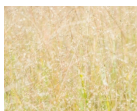
Sean Wilkinson

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

All works: *Flora*, 2024, unglazed inkjet prints, 16 x 20 in. Price list available at welcome desk



Part One, #1



Part One, #5



Part One, #6



Part One, #9



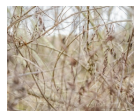
Part One, #10



Part One, #13



Part One, #16



Part One, #17



Part One, #21



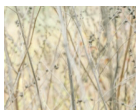
Part Two, #1



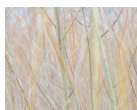
Part Two, #2



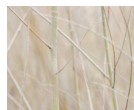
Part Two, #3



Part Two, #4



Part Two, #5



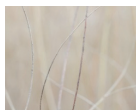
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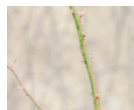
Part Two, #7



Part Two, #8



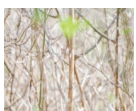
Part Two, #9



Part Three, #3



Part Three, #4



Part Three, #8



Part Three, #8



Part Three, #10



Part Four, #1



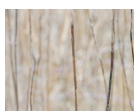
Part Four, #4



Part Four, #5



Part Four, #7



Part Four, #9

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