

## **Laurie Blakeslee**

### 40-Year Garden

The garden is growth and change and that means loss as well as constant new treasures to make up for a few disasters.

– May Sarton, *Journal of a Solitude*, 1973

For more than four decades, my mother-in-law Fritz has been gardening the same plot of land (approximately an 1/8 acre) behind her home in Boise, Idaho. Her children say they can hardly believe she maintained such a huge garden when she worked full time. Despite their protests to scale back the ambitious planting, each year the garden seems to expand. In the tremendous heat of late summer, even Fritz will admit she is overwhelmed by the work. Fortunately, my partner Stephanie shares her mother's love of gardening and works alongside her.

For Fritz, this vegetable garden not only provides food for her family (and her lucky neighbors), it also allows a space for meditation through the ritual of daily maintenance. It is clear that, as Fritz, now in her mid 80s, grows older, this garden provides a way to maintain her vitality.

With the series “40-Year Garden” I am photographing a garden in all its seasons of transformation and the beauty of Fritz with her resilience and determination.

### BIO

Laurie Blakeslee was born in Renton, Washington, but has lived most of her adult life in Idaho. She received a BFA from Boise State University with an emphasis in painting and an MFA in photography from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Laurie is currently an Associate Professor of Art at BSU, where she teaches photography and coordinates the undergraduate Art Foundations program. Her photographs have been exhibited across the United States and most recently at Blue Sky Gallery, Portland, OR.

[laureblakeslee.com](http://laureblakeslee.com)

## **Theresa Henson**

My work is an ever-increasing way of being—even through cycles of decline. Intrinsic patterns generously and infinitely respond to inspire growth. My sculptures combine subtraction and addition. The multiple results of one unique impulse. Always a practice, unfinished, but through endless return, the whole overcomes the fragment, the so-called complex is subsumed by simple gestures, the moment, the swing of the mallet.

These sculptures are already-downed wood, carved by hand with a mallet and gouges. You are welcome to touch them.

### **Bio:**

Theresa Henson attended University of California Santa Barbara and Seattle University. Her sculptures are in both public and private collections. She lives in Cottonwood, Idaho, and is the Director of Creative Services at the Monastery of St. Gertrude.

[theresahenson.net](http://theresahenson.net).

## **Crystal McBrayer**

### **STATEMENT**

The series *Birds, bones, and Other Once-living Things* began while contemplating the natural world around our cabin nestled in the woods of the Ozark mountains. Surrounded by a dense world of overgrown trees, wild and domestic creatures, and rich, rocky earth, the reality of nature's life cycle was ever present. Old bones and animals carcasses are brought like trophies to my front doorstep by our dogs. Crazy poison ivy that stands up on its own like trees overtakes the understory of the forest. Plants from last season's garden decompose under the protection of the trees and remain as shells of the previous season's harvest. Birds crash into my living room windows and fall to the porch. A few escape rattled, but unharmed after gathering their composure in my daughter's gentle hands. Most, however, take their last breath in those hands. All become simple and quiet discussions about life, death, regeneration, and our connection to those cycles. These images are an attempt to capture those moments, to memorialize, understand, and observe this beautifully fragile life lived out in our woods.

### **BIO**

Crystal McBrayer, photographer and educator, grew up in the Appalachian mountains, running through grass with bare feet, being stung by wasps, fishing the narrow creeks with sticks and twine, and digging her hands in the rich, black dirt. She received a BS in photography from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC and an MFA in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, has taught photography at multiple universities and is currently a working artist in Boise, ID, and Director of Creative Services at Boise State University.

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## **Kristin LeVier**

I create minimalist contemporary sculpture inspired by my deep fascination with the natural world. I labor to make innovative work that examines and illuminates the intersection of art and science. The two decades I spent as a research molecular biologist allowed me to explore the depth and complexity of our world. I saw in nature a remarkable, well-ordered system full of solutions essential to our existence, and I continue to view the world through the lens of a scientist.

I began working as a studio artist 13 years ago, and I'm driven to make art that connects us to the extraordinary, strange beauty of the natural world. The structure of a leaf or the movement of a bacterium can be astonishingly lovely, and I sculpt with the aim of shining a light on the unsung allure of the subtle and the tiny.

Through my work I hope to deliver scientific content viscerally and use the human capacity for curiosity to prompt us to look more closely at the tiniest details of the fantastically rich and beautiful world around us.

- I've been passionate about both art and science for as long as I can remember. A look into a microscope at the age of 6 started me on a long pathway toward a career as a molecular biologist, and I studied plants and bacteria in the lab for 20 years before transitioning to studio art full time 12 years ago.
- My pathway to sculpture started nearly 25 years ago with wood furniture: I wanted to live surrounded by beautiful design, but didn't have the money to afford nice furniture. So I learned to make it, and fell in love with woodworking in the process.
- I work in Moscow, Idaho, where I am inspired by nature in all its forms, by snow and ice, and by the beautiful rolling hills that surround me.
- Despite being a friendly, maternal type, I love tentacles, fangs, horns, claws. Fierce creatures fascinate me. I love natural history museums almost as much as I love art museums.

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