

## SARAH SHEPARD

GALLERY & ART ADVISORY

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### *South Goes West*

The Bitter Southerner at Sarah Shepard Gallery

Featuring Rinne Allen, Christy Bush, Micah Cash, Amanda Greene, Ansley West Rivers and Ramell Ross

April 13 - May 10th

Opening: Saturday, April 16th, 2-4pm

Sarah Shepard Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition in collaboration with *The Bitter Southerner*, an arts and literary journal based in Georgia. Promising to be a celebration of culture and a gathering of support for the South on the West Coast, the show is co-curated by Susan Turner, a native of Georgia, and features two works by each of the six photographers included. The artists presented live and work in the South and works were made between 2012 - 2022. The pieces work together to tell their own story of the South and each artist has contributed to *The Bitter Southerner* since the journal was started in 2013.

The Bitter Southerner's aim "is to uncover the American South in all its truth and complexity--and in the process to break stereotypes about the region and its people by pushing out important, difficult, uncomfortable, irreverent, witty, addictive, and always enjoyable stories that turn myths about the South inside out." The photographs in this show aim to add visual touchpoints to this mission.

Supporting the visual and literary journey to cover the modern, changing South, through *The Bitter Southerner* was the starting point for the exhibition and what has followed is a collection of talented artists' who enthusiastically came together to join the effort.

### Artist Bios:

**Amanda Greene** is a commercial and editorial photographer and artist living near Athens, GA. Amanda offers a unique perspective as a working photographer based in rural Georgia. Greene lives with her husband and dog in Danielsville, Ga., a town of roughly 600 people between Atlanta and Greenville, S.C. The moments that make up her personal work — inspired by quiet, often offbeat, yet distinctly Southern moments — are often a short drive away, co-piloted by her dog, riding shotgun. The oft-tricky problem of access is usually easily solved with a simple gesture toward her car's license plate. After working in Los Angeles' entertainment industry for over 12 years, she returned to Georgia and found her perspective sharpened by time away. Today, she photographs the people, items and texture of the place she wants to preserve. Junked American cars, hand-painted signs, the grocery store her grandparents took her to were unchanged after decades.

**Rinne Allen** is a photographer living in Athens, Georgia who documents process as a way to visually demonstrate the effort that goes into creating things. Rinne spends most of her days collaborating with chefs, farmers, artisans, designers, & researchers to document their work and the process that goes into making it, with the hopes that those who view her pictures will learn something from them. Allen helps with the creative direction when working with her collaborators- she enjoys everything from coming up with the feeling of a shoot to sourcing the props & styling to the art direction once the photographs have been made. Rinne has a BFA in Photography from Sewanee: The University Of The South. She works out of her studio in an old house in her hometown of Athens, Georgia and lives with her family in a group of houses that they have rehabilitated over the years. Her family tends to a large garden, and she makes her light drawings there.

Rinne's work has been published in over 15 books and in national & international magazines, as well as shown in galleries and educational institutions. Rinne also has a regular column about harvests with the New York times' T Magazine that focuses on the southern region that she calls home.

### **Christy Bush**

A rebellious punk rock kid from Atlanta, Christy Bush moved to Athens in the early '90s and fell in with a well-known group of creatives and musicians. Those were heady days in Athens, Georgia, and Christy took her camera with her everywhere, snapping pictures, "so she wouldn't forget." She has spent the last 30 years photographing rock 'n' roll, fashion & coming of age in the south. Bush has just published a new book with The Bitter Southerner entitled *Familiar by Christy Bush* / Foreword by Michael Stipe.

### **Micah Cash**

Investigating how land use and social history influence cultural geography, Micah Cash's work uses the visual languages of landscape and architecture to explore narratives of utilization, demarcation, and ownership. Micah exhibits in both solo and group exhibitions and has work included in private collections throughout North America and Europe. He has published two books: *Waffle House Vistas* was published by The Bitter Southerner in 2019 and *Dangerous Waters: A Photo Essay on the Tennessee Valley Authority* was published by University of Tennessee Press in 2017. His work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The Bitter Southerner*, *Fraction Magazine*, *Places Journal*, and *Charlotte Magazine*. Micah received his MFA from the University of Connecticut and his Bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. Micah lives and works in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### **Ansely West Rivers**

Ansely West Rivers is an artist whose photographic practice focuses on the intersection of landscape and humanity. Her work is featured in many public and private collections including the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, The Judge Collection, LaGrange Art Museum and The Mayo Collection. Additionally, West Rivers's work has been shown at the Wattis Institute of Contemporary Art (San Francisco, CA), Sous Les Etoiles Gallery (New York, NY), Burrard Arts Foundation (Vancouver BC), EUQINOM Projects (San Francisco, CA), The Brower Center (Berkeley, CA), Kala Art Institute (Berkeley, CA), Carmel Visual Arts (Carmel, CA), Hathaway Gallery (Atlanta, GA), United Photo Industries (DUMBO, Brooklyn, NY), The Print Center (Philadelphia, PA), The Wiregrass Museum (Dothan, AL), and Laney Contemporary (Savannah, GA). West Rivers has an upcoming solo exhibition of *Seven Rivers* at the Telfair Academy of Art in Savannah, Georgia. She received her BFA from the University of Georgia and MFA from the California College of the Arts. She currently lives with her husband and two children in Victor, Idaho.

**RaMell Ross**

RaMell Ross is a visual artist, filmmaker, writer and liberated documentarian. His work has appeared in places like Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Birmingham Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. He has been awarded an Aaron Siskind Foundation Individual Photographer's Fellowship and was a 2020 USA Artist Fellow. His feature experimental documentary, "Hale County This Morning, This Evening," won a Special Jury Award for Creative Vision at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and 2020 Peabody Award. It was nominated for an Oscar at the 91st Academy Awards and an Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Film. RaMell holds degrees in Sociology and English from Georgetown University and is an associate professor of art in Brown University's Visual Art Department. His work is in various public and private collections, and has been featured in Aperture, ArtForum, The Atlantic, Daily Show, Dissent Magazine, Filmmaker Magazine, IndieWire, New Yorker, NY Times, TIME Magazine, Variety, Village Voice, among others.

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