

FOR THE TREES

Nature. The Wilderness. The Environment. The words we use to describe the rest of the natural world denote concepts so large as to be nearly inconceivable. By highlighting a moment in the life of a single organism in each of the wool feltings of the “For the Trees” collection, I strive to make specific and personal these sweeping ideas.

Inspired by the words of Dr. Seuss’ Lorax, who declared, “I speak for the trees,” this collection makes subjects of the branches and leaves of trees and plants. By blurring the background and bringing the botanical subjects into sharp focus, I aim to draw attention to the importance of focus and attention in our understanding of the natural world, thereby encouraging curiosity and a deepening sense of place.

The tendency of the autistic neurology to experience the world as a series of distinct details can often lead me to feel overwhelmed in civilization. In contrast, as I explore the wilderness through my neurodivergent lens, I delight in the intricate details that make up the rich tapestry of the environment. “For the Trees” is an expression of the sensory joy I find in the backcountry—the scent of wild sage, the rustle of leaves, the play of light and shadow.

In contrast to my earlier work, which interprets the expansive landscapes of the backcountry, “For the Trees” celebrates the majesty of the natural world on a more intimate scale. Each felting encapsulates a moment in the life of a tree or plant—a quiet narrative that unfolds as we go about our busy lives.

I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of Arts for All Kentucky, which brought this project to life through the Ron Billings Award for Professional Development. In creating this collection, I expanded my visual vocabulary and embraced my artistic voice. I share this project as an invitation for you to join me in discovering the quiet beauty that emerges when we take the time to see the forest “For the Trees.”