

Lee Deigaard



Detail, To an Imagined Eye on Behalf of Another, drawing of 1941AIDA by Lee Deigaard, with collaborative text written by Mandy-Suzanne Wong, 2023



Installation view, To an Imagined Eye on Behalf of Another, cyanotypes by Lee Deigaard, with collaborative text written by Mandy-Suzanne Wong, 2022-3



Composite of installation views from two sides of the creek and paper model of 1941AIDA, Lee Deigaard, plywood, 60" x 180", 2022



Across the Creek, Aida and her calf, photograph through artist's window, Lee Deigaard, 2022

1941/AIDA is the story of a cow who left home a number and returned a legend. A multimedia art and research project comprises text and poems, site-specific sculptures, cyanotypes, photographs, videos, interdisciplinary collaborations with other writers, and drawings. It looks closely in tribute and in empathetic forensic detail at the decisions a singular cow makes under duress in support of her own agency: how she "makes her point strong" in the words of the farmer (who does not own the cow but is responsible for her) and even upon her return "home" from her liberty-defining escape (across a flooded creek to where the artist lives), continues her insistence on choice hunkered in defiance where and when she can. Who she is changes and amplifies those who encounter her. She defines her community and explores where she belongs by placement and where by choice and claim.

Biography

Lee Deigaard explores the topographies where one consciousness encounters another, describing a landscape given shape and substance by its animal protagonists, their sensory and imaginative worlds and their autonomy. With language, photography/video, installation, event, and drawing, her work approaches the animal from positions of equality, collaboration, and mutual curiosity and looks at multi-species empathy, animal cognition and personality, sensory processes of memory and grief, and the nature of intimacy. As an independent artist and researcher based in urban Louisiana and rural Georgia, she has exhibited and presented her work internationally.

ARTIST LIST