

Pairs with Marie Watt, *Shared Horizon (Keepers of the Western Door)*, 2023

[[Optional Description Copy]] Image Specialist Kam Herndon hears a call to action in Marie Watt's sculpture.

[[Transcript]]

My name is Kam Herndon. I am the Image Specialist—slash—Staff Photographer for the Walker Art Center. And I've been working here for about two years. So what we're looking at is Marie Watt, Shared Horizon: Keepers of the Western Door. And in this work, we're seeing a lot of neons, a lot of blues, yellows, pinks, a lot of nice soft pastels of different creatures around or things that remind the artist of the Western landscape of the United States.

I think the color is really what drew me in right off the bat. That's what I like to shoot when I photograph, you know, something that is very vibrant, very bright, very saturated, very rich. And of course, the subject matter of the words: the animals, the iconic landmarks of Western nature. I'm a big fan of Western America. It's very beautiful, and a lot of wilderness. I do enjoy my off-time traveling "Up North" Minnesota. Then, Colorado, everywhere around that side of the world.

I think in our day-to-day life we get so caught up in our regular work, our schooling, our family life, stuff in the immediate that we have to take care of... We don't always get the chance to really think about the natural world and how important it is. And it's an honestly fleeting resource. I think this is a good chance to just really soak in what the wilderness in this country has to offer. Because everything in here is part of our natural world. Our true home as humans, that we've sort of put to the side, building our cities and our urban sprawls. I think this is a nice way to take a little time to regroup ourselves. This isn't stuff that you find on a safari or some other country. This is right in our back door. Like you could find bears three hours north—or, well, maybe five hours north, to Superior National Forest. But all these things are like in our home, right outside our back doors, essentially. I think it's important that we take a little step back and try to enjoy that.