

Jane Flynn

Artist Statement

Jane Flynn is a photographer who is deeply interested in documenting those in contemporary American society who may not typically be considered as underrepresented, but are not well - or fairly - represented within art and media today. She has always had an overwhelming curiosity for the United States -- its history, the extremes of its politics, its standing as a land of unbridled capitalism, and those who inhabit a country in one of the four largest continents on earth-- have always seemed appealing. Whether it be from the media's representation, or just plain curiosity, she has always been positively fascinated by the vernacular peculiarities of the American way of life. It is this deep fascination with "the other" that drove her so far from her home country of Scotland in 2013 to pursue an MFA at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and where she first met the Mennonites, who she began documenting in 2014. She is currently working with Southern Illinois University Carbondale to publish a book of the series, with a working title of 'The Quiet in the Land: The Mennonites of Southern Illinois'.

Using her camera to enter into different communities and organizations, she allows her subjects to pose themselves. Documenting what lies before her lens, unaltered by her hand (rearranging or major posing), Flynn uses photography as a record of her experiences as an outsider to America and to her subject matter's grouping. Subject matter and photographer are united on their differences (and some similarities), comparing their lives, upbringings, and hobbies to build a close knit relationship and acceptance of one another. Her projects are not an exhaustive documentation of her subject matter, but rather an outsider's observation on American society from the perspective of a white, non-American, woman.

Jane completed her MFA degree in Media Arts, with a concentration on Photography, at the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois in 2016. In 2013, she earned a BA in Fine Art, with a specialization in photography, from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Dundee, Scotland.