

# ANNETTE LeMAY BURKE

## Memory Building

My parents died within a few months of each other. They lived in the same house for 60 years, from the day they were married until their deaths. Once they were gone, I was left with my grief, memories of our lives together, and all their possessions, including a well-organized archive of family photos.

In my series, *Memory Building*, I physically projected those vernacular photographs onto the surfaces of my childhood home in the same locations that they were originally made and rephotographed the scene. By fusing photos from the past onto the present-day walls, I unearthed six decades of engrained memories and captured my family's vanishing presence that once permeated our mid-century suburban home—the container for so much of my personal history.

Constructing the projected tableaux made the memories more substantive for me, provided solace for my grieving and created a new family pictorial legacy for future generations. With so many formative experiences rooted and intertwined within this building, saying goodbye to it was also saying goodbye to my parents. Even as the rooms were literally whitewashed in preparation for new owners, my memories continued to resonate within the walls.

## Bio

Annette LeMay Burke is a photographic artist and Northern California native who lives in the heart of Silicon Valley. A longtime observer of the evolution of the western landscape, Burke's work is about connection, especially in relationship to the land and place. She is interested in how our environment changes over time and the telltale artifacts — both tangible and temporal — that are left behind. She explores metaphorical clues in the landscape as well as her personal connections to the west. She also examines how technology links us to each other via its idiosyncratic presence in the landscape. Burke received a BA in Geology from the University of California at Berkeley. After a decade long career in high-tech, she now focuses on her artistic practice.

In 2022, Burke was selected for Photolucida's *Critical Mass Top 50* and the LensCulture *Critics' Choice 22*. In 2021, she was awarded first place in the LENS CRATCH Vernacular Photography Exhibition, won the Imago Lisboa Photography Festival in Portugal, and was a semi-finalist for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's *The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today* in Washington DC.

Burke's work is exhibited widely throughout the US and internationally at institutions such as Center for Photographic Art in Carmel, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Candela Gallery in Virginia, Griffin Museum of Photography in Massachusetts, Los Angeles Center for Photography, Oceanside Museum of Art in California, Dallas Center for Photography, Association of Photographers in London, and Hellerau Photography Award in Dresden, Germany. Her images have been featured in The New York Times, L.A. Times, Hyperallergic, Sierra Club Magazine, Newsweek Japan, Fraction, All About Photo, KATALOG, Dezeen and The Riv Magazine. Her work is held in public and private collections including the Wieland Collection in Atlanta.

Burke's monograph, *Fauxliage: Disguised Cell Phone Towers of the American West*, was published by Daylight Books in 2021. Ann M. Jastrab, Executive Director of the Center for Photographic Art in Carmel, California, contributed the forward.