



ICEHOUSE Project Space

Baggage

The idea for “Baggage” emerged from friendly conversations Janis Stemmermann, Russell Steinert and I had about what it is like to leave New York and set up new lives and studios elsewhere, in our cases, the trajectory was Brooklyn, NY to Sharon, CT. With the resulting parallax view on ourselves and our lives, came uncertainty, new questions of identity, new experiences in new landscapes punctuated by returns to the urban ones — all in all, fresh insights borne of travel and change. We also realized that with the project space Janis and Russell run in Williamsburg (Russell Janis) and the one I run in Sharon (ICEHOUSE Project Space), we had a unique opportunity to investigate this diaspora in which so many artists have taken part.

The reasons for this diaspora vary. For some it was financial; for some, it was pandemic-driven; for some, it was time for a change. Here is what we think are the salient questions — how is your experience as an individual and an artist affected by the duality of place? What is it like to leave a known community and strike out on your own? What impact does the change in environment have on your work?

The concept of “Baggage” is as follows: 18 artists who have experienced leaving New York for elsewhere have been invited to reflect on their experiences. Each has been supplied with a custom-made “suitcase box” to use as a container for these reflections in whatever way they choose. The resulting art pieces are displayed here for your enjoyment.

Artists: Natalie Baxter, Dan Devine, Ellen Driscoll, Jonathan Fabricant, Ryan Frank, Ghost of a Dream, Theresa Hackett, Sharon Horvath, Kristin Jones, Henry Klimowics, KK Kozik, Kathleen Kucka, Colin Ocon, Marilla Palmer, Courtney Puckett, Russell Steinert, Lawre Stone, Stephen Westfall

— KK Kozik