

DAVIS AND SKEES EXHIBITION

Bill Davis: No Dark in Sight and Kristin Skees: Close Knit



Kristin Skees: *Cozy Portraits*

My work combines traditional portraiture, conceptual knitting, and a love of the unexpected and absurd. Like an ill-fitting handmade sweater, the cozies are about the claustrophobia of relationships. They represent the ways in which our closest relationships can often walk the fine line between loving and smothering. In the *Cozy Portrait* series I create a custom cozy for each person in the project – often my close friends and family, identified by the portrait title. Some of the portraits take a week to complete, and some take a year. From beginning to end, the piece is defined by my relationship, dialog, and collaboration with the person being cozied. The process and the resulting portraits are very specific to each person. But by covering the majority of a person's identifiable features, they also become abstract and universal. While the final form is a photographic portrait, for me, the piece begins with the first conversation, and the first question: "Can I cozy you?"

Bill Davis: *No Dark in Sight*

Robert Frank said the photograph must contain the humanity of the moment and convey a vision.

I exhibit humanity's vision for itself. *No Dark in Sight* is funded to convey how artificial light occupies the night– as a dystopian condition rewriting our connection to night. Photography means to "write with light", which is why the camera so perfectly narrates the story of our desultory nights.

When night looks like day, we have a problem. Using the Bortle Night Brightness Scale, I travel to make images in overly lit terrestrial sites. Focused on sustainable practice, I now realize we live in the false promise of a post-industrial revolution– immersed by inventions that dismantle the biosphere. Trained to see light as an ally, I now call it a frenemy. That may sound abstract but is not absurd. It's okay to be afraid of the dark but less so to be unafraid of its absence. Light is not a hero and darkness no enemy.

Quality of light affects quality of life. Darkness is disenfranchised by light pollution. My dye sublimation aluminum prints explore why. Buildings disappear into an orange abyss, flora contort, food chains break, swarming insects collapse, industry spikes commercial lighting, and civilizations bask in the glow of electrified candles. Our diminishing biosphere cannot sustain consumer appetite for synthetic light. Secondhand light is a cultural and medical issue– not unlike secondhand smoke. Excessive light is a threat to wellbeing. We should not have a net opposition to engineered light, but rather an employment of its functionality to wise applications.

Let there be (less) light. Humans embrace light's defeat of darkness– but darkness is not the enemy. Institutionally, religiously, psychologically, and industrially, societies uniquely define light as a prerequisite for triumph over darkness. Fear of the dark is understandable but fake light is no savior.

Manufactured light is oppressive. It is concentrated in oppressed communities– thus it compromises already underserved and disenfranchised populations. Let us not overlook the historical value of natural darkness to American slaves who used stars to navigate towards freedom.

Less natural is the new normal. Night has an identity crisis. Engineered light explains why. *No Dark in Sight* implores viewers to consider this unsustainable "sky culture".

This is a personal story about a public crisis. *No Dark in Sight* unfolds the slow-motion emergency of a pretty poison that charms us to digest this consumer convenience. To make these nocturne images I taste that poison– all to better contextualize the perceived normalcy of colonizing life at night with such grotesque and jaundiced auburn haze. It is a disquieting condition pathologizing our desire to regret an unwillingness to change– a zest to fail.

When night looks like night, we can embrace its lifeforce. *No Dark in Sight* exhibits why and how that matters by inviting populations to adopt foresight intelligence, employ reason, and manage their communities in less artificial ways.

No Dark in Sight coincidentally reimagines the critique and discussion about art. Future conversations must employ the foresight intelligence needed to sustain wellbeing for all. Environmental, economic, and social topics must drive future discourse.

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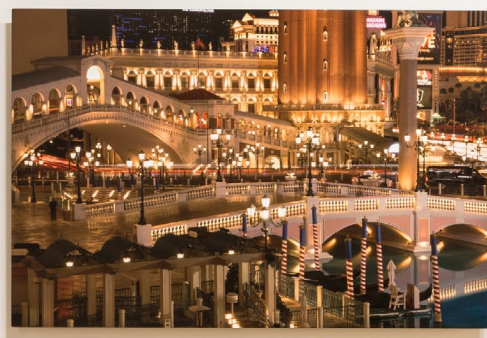
Ryan Schulz, Gallery and Studio Operations Director at rschulz@ju.edu

Kristin Skees
Alan (Gradient #1)
24" x 36"
2016



Kristin Skees
Close up of *The Musgraves*
16" x 24", 27" x 19"
2019





William Davis
Electric Candleland
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Screen Time
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Safe Space
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2016



William Davis
Basswood
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Holiday Wrapping
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2016



Kristin Skees
The Wynnes
24" x 36"
2016



Kristin Skees
The Musgraves
16" x 24", 27" x 19"
2019



William Davis
Free Light
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Arch
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Oil and Water
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Flood Light
Metal Print
30" x 14"
2018



Kristin Skees
Jess and Dave
24" x 36"
2015



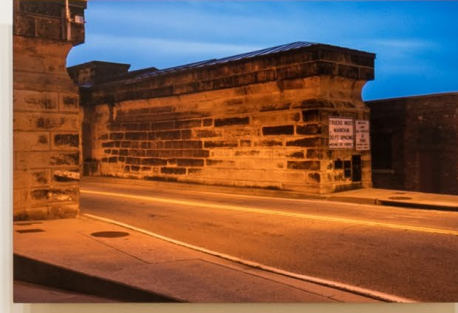
Kristin Skees
Eliza June
16" x 24", 27" x 19"
2019



William Davis
Sky Glow I
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Unreal Estate
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2016



William Davis
Burning Bridge
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Sky Glow II
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2017



Kristin Skees
Ashley (London)
16" x 24", 27" x 19"
2020



Kristin Skees
Close up of *Audie and Michelle*
24" x 36"
2015



Kristin Skees
Brett and Mindi (ICEE)
22" x 36"
2010



Kristin Skees
Julie
16" x 24"
2010



William Davis
Atop Potosi
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Novus Ordo Seclorum
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2016



Kristin Skees
Alan (with Ruby)
24 x 36
2011



Kristin Skees
Kristen
16" x 24"
2010



Kristin Skees
Angela and Steve
24" x 36"
2011



Kristin Skees
Greg Henry
24" x 36"
2016



William Davis
Glow
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
No One Home
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2017



William Davis
40 Billion Candles
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



William Davis
Viracocha
Metal Print
30" x 20"
2018



Kristin Skees
Amy
16" x 24"
2013

Kristin Skees
Audie and Michelle
24" x 36"
2015

Kristin Skees
Bill the Librarian
16" x 24"
2010

Kristin Skees
Levi (Natural Arch, Yosemite)
16" x 24", 27" x 19"
2019

Kristin Skees
Gina
24" x 36"
2009

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Friday, September 10 at 7:30 PM
Terry Concert Hall

Lunch Music: Scott Watkins, piano

Tuesday, September 14 at 12:30 PM
Terry Concert Hall

Constitution Day

Jacksonville University Philosophy Slam
Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 PM
River House

Orchestra Fanfare Concert

Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30 PM
Terry Concert Hall

Aquarian Release Party

Thursday, September 23 at 7:30 PM
River House

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