



BIENNIAL
School of Art, Design
& Creative Industries



Ulrich Museum of Art

The XXIII Faculty Biennial ***It's All Part of the Process***

Artist Statement

Megan St. Clair

In 1908, the physicist Sir Oliver Lodge proposed that hauntings were a “ghostly representation of some long past tragedy.” Seeking to experience this residual energy, I explore places of traumatic occurrence. Abruptly ended souls form hauntings—a sense of physical manifestation or a foggy memory. Hauntings of the BTK killings, Wichita’s own sites of horror, inspired this body of work. Lingering stains of fright and terror permeate the sites with palpable, residual, energetic vibrations. An abandoned lot where a house once sat is forever haunted by emptiness, a chasm of lingering exhale.

In addition to exploring unstable locations, I investigate the abject nature of the serial killer. The possibility of repressed, unspeakable forces that linger inside a person’s psyche. What drives a person to commit such crimes? BTK stated that he was driven to kill by Factor X, a supernatural element. Are these real-life boogymen under some sort of possession to carry out these unspeakable acts of horror?

Grasping for these fleeting encounters and unknown forces, I translate energies using video, screen prints and Polaroid photographs.