

JEAN ALBUS | Artist Statement

I live in the high desert of southern Montana, within driving distance of the Clarks Fork river valley. I wander between those landscapes nearly every day. The landscape has become my inspiration and teacher and my true home. The reason for my art is to share my thoughts in a concrete way, through photography and installation art. Over the last couple of years, my eyes have been to the ground. First, it was to make sure the random step didn't disturb a rattlesnake. Gradually, I was drawn to the beauty of everything you can see on the ground. It has more purpose than just a place to walk. Things are constantly changing on the ground. Things change from one form to another, a state of transformation that is beautiful. So much of it is about death. One day down in a canyon, I sat down to watch my dog dig in the dirt and huff and snort as he inhaled the smells he stirred up. I thought I'd get some of the dirt from the hole and take a smell myself. It was so intense and delicious! Years of needles, bones, fur and feathers and plant life all transformed into this rich substance that knocked my socks off! So my connection to the land has become about more than one kind of vast beauty, that of sky, water, and vista. It's deepened to include the vast beauty of the ground and all its delights. Time changes us all. My recent work has become an homage to the ineffable force that erodes all living beings, that returns me to the ground.