

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Becky Alley**

Becky Alley is an artist, curator, creative collaborator and educator. Her artwork is process and materials focused, often manifesting itself in private or intimate performance elements and installations that are never really finished. Themes of enduring interest are ritual, memorial, empathy, decay, and the sacred. She loves collaboration and, through her creative work, is particularly interested in expanding the roles of self-reflection and meaning in everyday life. Becky earned her BFA in Printmaking/Drawing from Washington University (2000) and her MFA in Studio Art from the University of Kansas (2005). Since completing her studies, she has worked as a gallery/exhibitions director in both university and non-profit galleries and has taught courses including drawing, professional practices, exhibition practicum, and gallery/curatorial studies. She has curated dozens of exhibitions, designed and implemented a variety of community based arts programming, and led a number of public lectures and discussions regarding art and art-making. Through both team and solo projects, Becky has been awarded numerous grants including two consecutive Community Arts Development Grants from LexArts. She is a founding member of the Imaginarium of the Bluegrass, an interdisciplinary creative collaborative, and is currently the Bolivar Gallery Director at the University of Kentucky.

[www.beckyalley.com](http://www.beckyalley.com)

### **Melissa Vandenberg**

Born and educated in Detroit, Melissa is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and curator living in eastern Kentucky. Her studio practice explores the political landscape using national identity, folk art, ancestry, immigration and the perception of a homeland as points of departure. She gravitates to everyday materials like matches, fabric, stickers, wood, temporary tattoos and found objects. Her work has been exhibited in Canada, Germany, Luxembourg and throughout the United States. Melissa received a BFA from College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan (1999) and a MFA in Sculpture from Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, Illinois (2005). She has been the recipient of numerous grants including a Kentucky Foundation for Women Artist Enrichment Grant, the Al Smith Fellowship and was recently nominated for the Luxembourg Art Prize. She is currently an Associate Professor of Art at Eastern Kentucky University. Melissa is represented by Maus Contemporary in Birmingham, Al.

[www.melissavandenberg.com](http://www.melissavandenberg.com)

[www.mauscontemporary.com](http://www.mauscontemporary.com)