

# OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

## *School, Charleston, Franklin County*

14 x 14 inches

Medium-format film photography

\$900



## Sabine Schmidt

[www.schmidtphotography.org](http://www.schmidtphotography.org)

[@sabineschmidt.art](https://twitter.com/sabineschmidt.art)

### Bio

Photographer and writer Sabine Schmidt was born and raised in Germany and lives in the Ozarks. She holds an MFA in literary translation from the University of Arkansas. Her work has appeared in exhibitions and publications both in the United States and in Germany, including *National Geographic* and *Rolling Stone*. Commissioned by the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute as part of its 2018 Art in Its Natural State program, she created the walk-in sculpture *(In)Visible House*, which explored themes of home and memory. Schmidt won an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Arkansas Arts Council and received the 2021 Artist Award from the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. A three-year photography and writing project about libraries serving under-resourced areas was published as *Remote Access: Small Public Libraries in Arkansas* (co-authored with Don House) by the University of Arkansas Press in December 2021.

### Artist Statement

As a native German photographer and writer in the U.S., I work in two languages and cultures. My double identities inform how I create and what inspires me. Not feeling comfortably at home in either culture makes it easier to look at each from unfamiliar angles. I am interested in places people make, inhabit, and ultimately leave behind. In my photos, geometry and color become composition elements the eye can focus on. I mostly photograph using medium-format, twin-lens reflex cameras and color film. The slow process helps me think carefully about what I create.

For my photography and writing series *Rememorials*, I construct paper models of Arkansas farm houses, schools, and businesses that were sites of racial injustice. Based on extensive historical research, they give physical shape to the fading knowledge of what happened in those places. I photograph the models at or near the original sites: a 19th-century rural cemetery for enslavers and enslaved people; the field where a Black community's school used to be until it was closed after desegregation; and many others. The project is inspired by the German community art movement *Stolpersteine* ("stumbling stones") that honors individual Holocaust victims.