

***Laundry and Cleaners, Hamburg, Ashley County***

14 x 14 inches

Photograph

Price available upon request

**Sabine Schmidt**

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

Instagram: @sabineschmidt.art



**Bio**

Born and raised in Germany, Sabine Schmidt is a photographer and writer in Arkansas. She holds an MFA in literary translation from the University of Arkansas. Her work has appeared in exhibitions and publications in the U.S. and Germany, including *National Geographic* and *Rolling Stone*. She received a commission from the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute as part of its 2018 Art in its Natural State program, for which she created the walk-in sculpture *(In)Visible House*. Schmidt won an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Arkansas Arts Council and is the recipient of 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 will be published as *Remote Access: Small Public Libraries in Arkansas* (co-authored with Don House) by University of Arkansas Press in November 2021.

**Artist Statement**

As a native German photographer and writer living in the U.S., I get to work in two languages and cultures. My double cultural and linguistic identities inform my photographic approach: how I look for photos, how I create images and what inspires me. I don't feel completely and comfortably at home in either culture, which makes it easier to look at both from an unfamiliar angle. Some photos are influenced by German ideas of what America is like. After many years in the U.S., I still experience a combination of recognition and surprise when I see a small-town motel, a rural church, or an abandoned farm, images I seem to remember from American movies or books I watched and read growing up.

I am interested in the places people create, inhabit and ultimately leave behind. I don't often show faces, but I offer ways to imagine them, to wonder about the places, and to populate them with people and stories. Geometry and color become composition elements the eye can focus on without being distracted by the presence of people. While I do use digital cameras and editing processes, I create most photographs with medium-format, twin-lens reflex cameras and color film. The slower process helps me think carefully about each photo I make.

For my longterm series, *Paper Houses* and my current project, *Rememorials*, I design and construct paper models of buildings which I then photograph in historically or culturally significant locations. For *Rememorials*, the models represent vanished homes, schools and businesses that were places of injustice where Arkansans suffered because of their race and/or gender. Models and photos give a physical shape to the faded knowledge of what happened in those places.