

High Blue Gallery Space features new exhibition with photographers Rita Gienapp and Danelle Oreder

The High Blue Gallery Space is proud to announce a new exhibition featuring the work of photographers Rita Gienapp and Danelle Oreder, now on display through the end of June. The exhibition is sponsored by the Belton Public Arts Committee and highlights two distinct artistic perspectives united by a shared appreciation for nature, observation, and storytelling through the camera lens.

Rita Gienapp

Rita Gienapp's photography is rooted in her love of the creative process and the endless discovery that comes with close observation. Through her work, she seeks to visually explore beyond the obvious, focusing on line, depth, movement, texture, and pattern. Inspired by the natural world, Gienapp often finds striking imagery in everyday subjects such as flowers and leaves, revealing beauty that might otherwise go unnoticed.

"I believe a photograph can illustrate a thought or feeling in a way that words simply cannot," Gienapp says. "I create knowing that there is a difference between 'wanting to' and 'having to.' In that space of wanting to, I continue to enjoy the process of how I see the world."

Gienapp cites Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908–2004) as a significant influence, particularly his strong sense of focus, composition, and geometric balance. Originally trained as a painter, she brings a fine-art foundation to her photographic work.

A resident of Kansas City, Missouri, Gienapp photographs a wide range of subjects including landscapes, portraits, and macro imagery. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing and a master's degree in special education, and previously worked as an Occupational Therapist. Her work has received regional recognition, including being highlighted in an online edition of kcstudio.org on December 9, 2024, reviewing the Members and Friends of All Souls Art Exhibition in Kansas City.

Danelle Oreder

Danelle Oreder is an elementary art teacher at Martin City Elementary in Grandview and a photographer deeply connected to the natural world. A self-described photographer of nature and pollinators, Oreder is also a pollinator advocate who is drawn to the quiet beauty, resilience, and ecological importance of bees, butterflies, and other native species.

Growing up with a single mother and six sisters, Orender spent much of her childhood exploring outdoors, catching frogs, observing insects, and immersing herself in nature. That

early sense of wonder evolved into a lifelong passion for preserving native habitats and celebrating the creatures that play a vital role in sustaining ecosystems.

Through raw, close-up photography captured largely in her expansive flower garden, Orender seeks to elevate the everyday “little miracles” unfolding around us. Her images serve not only as visual moments, but as messages reminding viewers that nature is powerful, fragile, and deeply worthy of care. Her goal is to help others see pollinators with empathy, respect, kindness, and a renewed sense of wonder.

Exhibition Information

The exhibition is free and open to the public and will remain on display at the High Blue Gallery Space through the end of June.

Artist Contact & Artwork Sales

To contact either artist or to inquire about purchasing artwork on display, please contact:

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