

Claire Seidl

Artist Statement

My photographs are deeply rooted in the real world and filled with the specifics of people, place and natural phenomena – and their ephemeral nature.

I began photographing in Rangeley twenty years ago because I wanted to make art there, in nature. I shot at night, using long exposures, fascinated with the light and darkness, the woods and lake, the old camp, the inhabitants who entered and left the frame.

Soon, I steered the camera onto the porch and inside, and became interested in making portraits. I would still open the lens and walk away. Little or no attention is paid to the camera on its tripod, standing there by itself. When people stay put, their expressions grow inward as they stare into space. When they move, they become blurred and ghostlike while their surroundings appear permanent.



Kennebago is a portrait of a friend who was building a home for a family in Kennebago. He is Vietnam Vet, cook, teacher, carpenter, boat builder and artist.



Dinner includes members from three generations of family who have many occupations including papermill worker, doctor, construction worker, painter, photographer, teacher, ambulance driver, emergency medical technician, weaver, ceramist, small business owner, farmer, designer, teacher and writer.