

FORMERLY WAS

# Surface Encounters

PAIRING PHOTOGRAPHY AND PAINTING

KIM LLERENA + JEN NOONE

April 9 – May 28, 2022

Washington, DC - Formerly Was is pleased to present *Surface Encounters*, a two-person exhibition featuring photographs by Kim Llerena and paintings by Jen Noone.

Jen Noone's paintings are small in scale, and they are not really paintings. Paint is the subject, and it takes on the form of sculpture in Noone's work. She is interested in the material itself and ideas of materiality, generally. Noone begins her process by collecting leftover latex paint from the hardware store. She takes it home and methodically begins manipulating it. She pours, kneads, scrapes, layers, peels and carves it. She mixes in other water-based paints like craft paint, artist acrylics, and fabric paint. She inks over it. Through a time-based, repetitive, intuitive and inquisitive process, Noone explores what her materials can do when pushed and teased. Her resulting "painting-sculptures" are highly tactile, quirky, and manically particular in their affect.

Kim Llerena's photographic renderings of the American landscape are more directly cerebral. She is drawn to how we construct a relationship to place, particularly through methods of delineating terrain, territory, and private/public space. Llerena sets out in search of marks made by others: marks of past actions, marks of abandoned ideas. She frames what she encounters - fragments of the American experience - and then connects disparate sites through the formal, structural, and conceptual patterns she finds. Together, her images construct a portrait of a country shaped by invisible systems that manifest themselves in the physical landscape. Llerena's work is telling and poetic and, like Noone's, elicits both shared contemplation and an emotional response.

FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA, UVALDE, TEXAS (BLOCKBUSTER), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
8 X 10 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

[INQUIRE](#)

JEN NOONE  
SWEATY BETTY, 2022  
OLD PAINT WATER, LATEX, ACRYLIC,  
AND GLITTER PAINT  
9.5 X 2.25 X 1.25 IN.

INQUIRE



FORMERYWAS.COM

FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA, FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK, NAVAJO NATION, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA, UTAH (NAVAJO TACO), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
15 X 15 IN., EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE



JEN NOONE, HOT BUTTON ISSUE, 2022  
LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.25 IN.

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA  
NORTON, KANSAS (CELEBRATE  
NORTON'S SMALL BUSINESSES EVERY  
DAY), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
16 X 20 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

[INQUIRE](#)



JEN NOONE  
FRET/WERK, 2022  
LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT  
9.25 x 2.75 x 1.25 IN.

[INQUIRE](#)

FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA (CULLIGAN  
WATER, JP SOLAR, DROUGHT), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
20 X 25 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

[INQUIRE](#)



JEN NOONE  
LOOK AT ME, DON'T LOOK AT ME, 2022  
INK, LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT  
7.25 x 4.25 x 1.25 IN.

[INQUIRE](#)



FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA  
JACUMBA, CALIFORNIA (BORDER WALL, GAP), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
20 X 25 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM

JEN NOONE  
FAIREST ONE OF ALL, 2022  
MIRRORS, LATEX, ACRYLIC AND DIMENSIONAL CRAFT  
PAINT  
9 x 6 x 1.25 IN.

INQUIRE





FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLEERENA, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA (REMNANT), 2017, ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT, 30 X 24 IN. EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM



JEN NOONE, STRAPPED IN, 2022, LATEX, ACRYLIC, GLITTER AND MIRROR PAINT ON BOARD, 14 x 11 IN.

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM

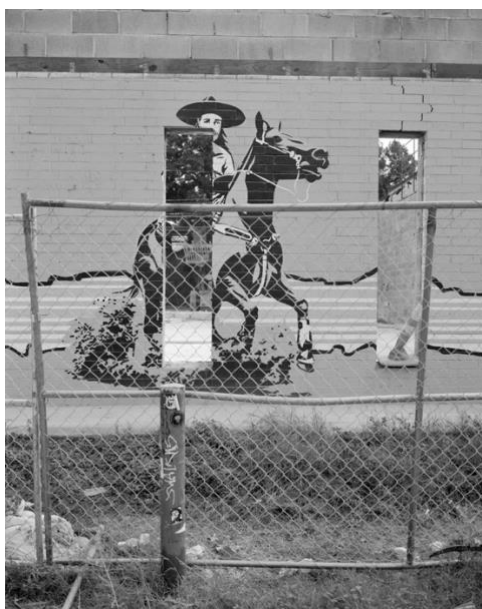


JEN NOONE  
OUTSIDE IN, 2022  
ADHESIVE SEALANT, GEL MEDIUM, LATEX, ACRYLIC AND  
LEATHER PAINT  
4 x 3.75 x 1 IN.

INQUIRE

KIM LLERENA  
AUSTIN, TEXAS (COWBOY), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
15 X 12 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE



FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLERENA  
ST. BERNARD PARISH BORDERING  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA (FLOOD  
WALL, GAP), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
20 X 25 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE



KIM LLERENA  
WINSLOW, ARIZONA (FREE PARKING, OPEN TONITE), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
18 X 12 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE



KIM LLEREENA  
RT. 41 SOUTH NEAR UTE MOUNTAIN UTE INDIAN RESERVATION,  
COLORADO (BULLET HOLES), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
15 X 15 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM



JEN NOONE  
SQUEEZE, 2022  
GEL MEDIUM, LATEX, ACRYLIC, FLEXIBLE ACRYLIC AND  
MIRROR PAINT  
7.5 x 1.25 x 0.75 IN.

[INQUIRE](#)

JEN NOONE  
ALL I DO IS TRY, TRY, TRY, 2022  
MIRRORS, GRAPHITE, LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT  
6.5 x 3.5 x 3.25 IN.

[INQUIRE](#)





FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLEREENA  
RT. 93 EAST, NEVADA (SHOOTING RANGE), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
18 X 12 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM



JEN NOONE  
SO PUT TOGETHER, 2022  
GROMMETS, GEL MEDIUM, LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT  
13.5 x 9 IN.

INQUIRE

FORMERYWAS.COM



KIM LLEREENA  
ROBERT E. LEE MONUMENT, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA (DISMANTLED, PLINTH), 2017  
ARCHIVAL PIGMENT PRINT  
30 X 24 IN.  
EDITION OF 3

[INQUIRE](#)

FORMERYWAS.COM

JEN NOONE  
LACED UP, 2022  
LATEX, MODELING PASTE, FLEXIBLE ACRYLIC AND  
INTERFERENCE PAINT ON BOARD  
16 x 12 IN.

INQUIRE



JEN NOONE  
I PUT MY THING DOWN, FLIP IT AND REVERSE IT, 2022  
INK, LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT ON BOARD  
12 x 9 IN.

INQUIRE

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### KIM LLERENA

Kim Llerena is a photographic artist currently based in Miami, Florida. She holds an MFA in Photographic & Electronic Media from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and a BA in Journalism from New York University (NYU). She exhibits nationally in addition to serving as full-time faculty at the University of Miami. Her work investigates our constructed relationship to place, particularly our methods of delineating terrain, territory, and private/public space. She is also particularly interested in the various dualities that characterize the photographic medium, including memory and aspiration, translation and description, and art and snapshot.

Llerena was a D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities Fellowship Program grantee in 2021, a Flash Forward Competition top 100 winner selected by The Magenta Foundation in 2019, one of 100 photographers invited to participate in CENTER's Review Santa Fe in 2019, and a semifinalist in The Print Center's 90<sup>th</sup> Annual International Competition in 2016. She has been featured in LensCulture, Fraction Magazine, and The Washington Post, among others. Recent exhibitions include The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.; Candela Gallery, Richmond, Virginia; Academy Art Museum, Easton, Maryland; 621 Gallery, Tallahassee, Florida; Photographic Resource Center, Boston, Massachusetts; and Photographic Center Northwest, Seattle, Washington. Her work is included in the permanent collection of The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

### JEN NOONE

Jen Noone is a mixed media artist with a primary interest in materiality. Noone was born and raised in Harrisburg, PA and is currently based in North Jersey. She received an MFA in studio art from American University and a BA in art education from Saint Joseph's University. Noone investigates products and phenomena familiar to the contemporary consumer in order to better understand herself and her surrounding world. Underlying poetics and politics are revealed through the processing and contemplation of her materials and cultural references.

Noone has held residencies at Pink Noise Projects in Philadelphia, PA and the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, VA. Her work has been reviewed in The Washington Post and featured in Interview Magazine. In 2017 she was a Trawick Prize Contemporary Art Award semi-finalist. Her work has been exhibited at Ruby Projects, Fairfax, VA; But/Also, Washington, D.C.; BWAC, Brooklyn, NY; Terrault Contemporary, Baltimore, MD; Ejecta Projects, Carlisle, PA; Arlington Arts Center, Arlington, VA; Site:Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY; Katzen Museum, Washington, D.C.; and Connersmith, Washington, D.C.

## ABOUT THE GALLERY

FORMERLY WAS is an independent gallery. Established in 2017 it organizes two or three exhibitions a year featuring contemporary, conceptually and visually stimulating, engaging and timely artwork by artists who live and work in the Washington, DC metro area and beyond. The gallery shows artwork in a range of media with a primary focus on painting, works on paper, and photography. Since its inception, the gallery has collaborated with artists and curators and placed artwork in both private and public collections. When it re-located from Bethesda, MD to Washington, DC due to the imminent demolition of the building that housed it, the gallery formerly known as "Was gallery" re-branded in DC as "Formerly Was".

## GALLERY CONTACT INFORMATION

4936 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016 / Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 6pm  
202.361.5223 / [formerlywas@gmail.com](mailto:formerlywas@gmail.com) / [www.formerlywas.com](http://www.formerlywas.com)