

EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKER TO PRESENT SCREENING WITH ACCOMPANYING DISCUSSION AT OU

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NORMAN, OKLA. (Jan. 19) – Erin Espelie, notable filmmaker, writer, editor and associate professor in the Department of Cinema Studies and Moving Image Arts and the Department of Critical Media Practices at the University of Colorado, Boulder, will deliver a public screening and accompanying discussion titled *Documentary Solitaire: Experimental Filmmaking Amid Fire, Flood and Shrinking Habitat in the American West* at **6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Ave.,** on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus.

The screening and accompanying discussion is open to the public with no admission charge. Espelie's visit is presented by the OU School of Visual Arts' Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West as part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series.

Espelie has a degree in molecular and cell biology from Cornell University and a master of fine arts degree in experimental and documentary arts from Duke University. Her films have shown at a variety of venues, including the New York Film Festival, the British Film Institute's London Film Festival, the Natural History Museum of London, Whitechapel Gallery, San Francisco Cinematheque's Crossroads, the Rotterdam International Film Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the *FullFrame* Documentary Festival, and the CPH: DOX Documentary Film Festival. Additionally, Espelie has served as an editor for *Natural History* magazine for the past 14 years, including her current role as editor-in-chief, and she co-directs the NEST (Nature, Environment, Science & Technology) Studio for the Arts.

Espelie has been making films in the Rocky Mountains since 2009, with a focus on wildlife and the changing environment. While living in the Mountain West, she has first-hand experience of drought, mining waste, wildfires, floods and requisite evacuations, which have impacted her approach to making moving-image art, specifically in conversation with science. She will screen several films that question the ethics of wielding a camera amid growing climate crises in the West.

Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for the art of the American West. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit art.ou.edu. For accommodations, call (405) 325-5939.

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Editors: Please find attached accompanying image with the following credit information:
Erin Espelie. *Automorphic*, Mountain Pass Mine, California