



R. J. Kern  
www.rjkern.com  
rj@rjkern.com  
303-474-0983

## EDUCATION

B. 1978, New York, USA

- 2005 MA, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- 2000 BA, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 University of Oklahoma Museum of Art, Stillwater, OK  
Living History Farms, Urbandale, Iowa
- 2022 Burnet Fine Art & Advisory, Wayzata, MN
- 2021 Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
- 2020 Thomson Reuters Main Gallery, Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport, MN  
Watermark Art Center, Bemidji, MN
- 2019 The Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND  
Burnet Fine Art & Advisory, Wayzata, MN
- 2018 The Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA  
Klompching Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
Burnet Fine Art, Wayzata, MN
- 2017 Yixian International Photography Festival, Anhui, China  
Gallery 360, Minneapolis, MN  
The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI  
Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN
- 2015 Ecce Gallery, Fargo, ND  
Kaddatz Gallery, Fergus Falls, MN
- 2014 Sanford Health Roger Maris Cancer Center, Fargo, ND

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2022 Minnesota State Arts Board, Creative Support for Individuals Grant
- 2021 Critical Mass “Top 50”, Photolucida, Portland, OR  
*Communication Arts* Photography Annual 62, Award of Excellence  
American Photography 37, Selected Winner  
*The Royal Photographic Society’s International Photography Exhibition 163*, Shortlisted  
International Photography Awards, Portrait / Landscape Category, First Place  
Helsinki Photo Festival, Open Call Winner  
The Independent Photographer Portrait Award, Editors’ Pick  
Life Framers: Youthhood, Editors’ Pick  
*Life*, Juror Alyssa Coppelman, A Smith Gallery, Director’s Honorable Mention  
Kolga Tbilisi Photo Award 2021, Shortlisted  
International Photography Awards, One Shot - Our Times: Isolation, Honorable Mention

- 110th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, Juror Carla Rodriguez, Honorable Mention
- 2020 Minnesota State Arts Board, Artist Initiative Grant  
American Photography 36, Selected Winner  
Springboard for the Arts, Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund, Recipient  
*109th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, Juror: Buck Holzemer, Honorable Mention
- 2019 Commemorative Artist, 2019 Minnesota State Fair  
*56th Annual Juried Competition Exhibition*, Masur Museum of Art, Juror: Catherine Futter, Honorable Mention  
Critical Mass "Top 200", Photolucida  
McKnight Foundation Scholarship, Americans for the Arts Annual Convention  
*San Francisco Bay International Photography Competition and Exhibition*, First Place  
*Brand 47 Annual National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper*, Juror: Alma Ruiz, Juror's Award  
*6th Open Call*, Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Juror: Aline Smithson, Second Place  
*Red*, A Smith Gallery, Juror: Fran Forman, Director's Honorable Mention
- 2018 Critical Mass "Top 50", Photolucida  
*PDN's 30: New and Emerging Photographers to Watch*  
German Photobook Prize, Bronze  
"The Most Beautiful German Books 2018," by Stiftung Buchkunst  
"Great State of Minnesota Award" by Minnesota Citizens for the Arts  
"First Glance Award," Minnesota State Fair Foundation  
Communication Arts 2018 Photo Annual  
Minnesota State Arts Board, Artist Initiative Grant
- 2017 CENTER Choice Award Winner, Curator's Choice, Juror: Corey Keller, First Place  
Review Santa Fe 100, CENTER, Santa Fe, NM  
Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK, Finalist  
*The Royal Photographic Society's International Photography Exhibition 160*, Silver Award  
*2017 International Juried Exhibition, Center for Photographic Art*, Juror: Philip Brookman, Second Place  
Renaissance Photography Prize 2017, Finalist  
All About Photo Awards 2017: Mind's Eye. Winner and participant in Juror's Merit Gallery  
*106th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, Juror: Areca Roe, St Paul, MN. Honorable Mention  
Arts in Harmony International Juried Art Show, First Place
- 2016 Minnesota State Arts Board, Artist Initiative Grant  
Critical Mass Finalist, Photolucida  
Emerald Art Center, Best in Show  
Cotuit Center for the Arts, Juror Award  
Cultural Center of Cape Cod, MA, Second Place  
Savage Arts Council 10th Annual Juried Art Competition & Show, Honorable Mention
- 2015 Review Santa Fe 100, CENTER, Santa Fe, NM

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Trees*, Community Art Installation, Center for Creative Photography, Tuscon, AZ  
*Winter Exhibition*, Burnet Fine Art & Advisory, Wayzata, MN  
Made Here Alumni exhibition, Hennepin Theatre Trust, Minneapolis, MN

- Portraits without Borders*, Fotogalerie Friedrichshain, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 *What We Know: Ones To Watch*, Curator: Mary Stanley, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
*High Visibility: On Location in Rural America & Indian Country*, Curator: Matthew Fluharty, Plains Art Museum  
*Time Capsule*, Juror: Shamim M. Momin, Photographic Center Northwest, Seattle, WA  
*Photography: A Sense of Place*, Juror: Jacqui Palumbo, Site: Brooklyn Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Life*, Juror: Alyssa Coppelman, A Smith Gallery, Johnson City, TX  
Head On Photo Festival, Sydney, Australia  
Helsinki Photo Festival, Helsinki, Finland  
*Houston Center of Photography Print Auction 2021 Exhibition*, Houston Center of Photography, Houston, TX  
*Introducing*, Olson-Larsen Galleries, Des Moines, IA  
*Reimagining Hope*, Juror: Samantha Johnston, Month of Photography Denver Festival, Denver, CO  
*Focus Friday*, Curator: Christine Renc-Carter, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, Tarpon Springs, FL  
*110th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, Juror Carla Rodriguez, St. Paul, MN
- 2020 *Foot in the Door 5: The Virtual Exhibition*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
*Bird, Nest, Nature*, Jurors: Jeffrey De Blois and Rebecca Lowery, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA  
*Light Sensitive*, Juror: Brett Abbott, Art Intersection Gallery, Gilbert, AZ  
*Fresh: A Summer Selection*, Burnet Fine Art & Advisory, Wayzata, MN  
*108th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, Juror: Buck Holzemer, St Paul, MN, Honorable Mention  
*PhotoSpiva 2020*, Juror: April M. Watson, Spiva Center for the Arts, Joplin, MO  
*Brand 48 National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper*, Juror: Dan McCleary, Brand Art Center, Glendale, CA  
*Spring Affair*, Curator: Ruben Natal-San Miguel, Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY  
*In One's Own Skin*, The 60th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition, The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN  
*Love, Minnesota*, Kristi Abbott Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *56th Annual Juried Competition Exhibition*, Juror: Catherine Futter, Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA  
*2019 International Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Paula Tongarelli, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA.  
*San Francisco Bay International Photography Competition Exhibition*, ACCI Gallery, Berkeley, CA  
*Brand 47 National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper*, Juror: Alma Ruiz, Brand Art Center, Glendale, CA  
*States of Becoming, Ninth Annual International Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Carrie Dedon, Gallery 110, Seattle, WA  
*Red*, Juror: Fran Forman, A Smith Gallery, Johnson City, TX.  
*Photowork 2019*, Juror: James A. Ganz, Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY.  
*6th Open Call*, Juror: Aline Smithson, Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Providence, RI  
*Zeitgeist*, The 60th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition, The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN  
*Triangulate*, Curators: Nathan Beard, Eivind Natvig, Kirk Ke Wang, Lofoten International Photo Festival, Norway  
*Let's Go 2*, Burnet Fine Art & Advisory, Wayzata, MN  
*Houston Center of Photography Print Auction 2019 Exhibition*, Houston Center of Photography, Houston, TX  
*Arts North*, Juror: Curt Pederson, The American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 *Yixian International Photography Festival*, Curator: Guo Jing, Anhui, China  
*Rokko Photographic Garden*, Curator: Takeki Sugiyama, Kobe, Japan  
*Triangulate*, Curators: Nathan Beard, Eivind Natvig, and Kirk Ke Wang. Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL  
*First Annual Photobook Juried Exhibition*, Horse & Buggy Press and Friends, Durham, NC  
*PDN'S 30 2018*, container exhibition, Photoville, Brooklyn, NY  
*107th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, Juror: Mark Jensen, St Paul, MN

- Love*, Helsinki Photo Festival. Helsinki, Finland
- Camelot*, The 59th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition, Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN
- Allegany National Photographic Exhibition*, Juror: Karen Irvine, Saville and Schwab Galleries, Cumberland, MD
- McNeese National Works on Paper Exhibition*, Juror: Benjamin Hickey, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA
- Classic Photographs Los Angeles Art Fair*, Bergamot Arts Center, Klompching Gallery Booth, Santa Monica, CA
- 2017 *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2017 exhibition*, National Portrait Gallery, London, England
- The Royal Photographic Society's International Photography Exhibition 160*, PHOTOBLOCK, London, England.
- Renaissance Photography Prize 2017 exhibition*, Getty Images Gallery, London, England
- The FENCE: A Public Photography Exhibition Series*, United Photo Industries (traveling)
- CENTER's 2017 International Photographic Award Winners*, Marion Center for Photographic Arts, Santa Fe, NM
- 2017 International Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Philip Brookman, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA
- Americana*, Juror: Darren Ching, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Denver, CO
- Wild Beasts, Sheep & Crocodiles*, Curator: Tina Schelhorn, Museum of Modern Art, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Galerie Lichtblick*, selected works, Cologne, Germany
- 105th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition*, juried by Areca Roe, St Paul, MN. Honorable Mention
- Roots and Wings*, Juror: Eric William Carroll, Silverwood Park Gallery, St. Anthony, MN
- Revolution*, The 58th Midwestern Invitational Exhibition, Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN
- The Art of Giving*, Curator: Jason Restamayer, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND
- Mind's Eye, Daylighted digital exhibition*, All About Photo Awards 2017, Phoenix Hotel, San Francisco, CA
- Arts North*, Juror: Curt Pederson, The American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN
- Arts in Harmony International Juried Art Show*, Juror: Curt Pederson, Elk River Area Arts Alliance, Blaine, MN
- Newvember*, Ecce Gallery, Fargo, ND
- 2016 *The FENCE: A Public Photography Exhibition Series*, United Photo Industries (traveling)
- Open Door Twelve*, Juror: Andrea Carlson, Rosalux Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 International Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Linde B. Lehtinen, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA
- PhotoMidwest 2016 Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Larry Fink, The Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI
- National Juried Photography Competition and Exhibition*, Emerald Art Center, Springfield, OR
- Spirit: Made Here*, Hennepin Theater Trust, Minneapolis, MN
- A Point of View: Contemporary Photography*, Juror: Mitra Abbaspour, Site: Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY
- Paramount Juried Statewide Art Exhibition*, Juror: Rachel Daly, Paramount Center for the Arts, St. Cloud, MN
- Apertures*, Juror: Amy Neill, Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth, MA
- Fun House: Art of the Surreal, Fantastic and Bizarre*, Juror: Eve Biddle, Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Tripping the Light Fantastic*, Juror: Rowland Scherman, Cotuit Center for the Arts, Cotuit, MA
- 22nd Juried Show*, Jurors: Paula Tognarelli and Iaritza Menjivar, Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA
- ONWARD Compé '16*, Juror: Richard Renaldi, Project Basho Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- Smörgåsbord*, The New Bohemian Gallery at the Franklin Arts Center, Brainerd, MN
- Menagerie: Animals in Art*, Juror: Robert Bowman, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Wayzata, MN
- Savage Arts Council 10th Annual Juried Art Show*, Savage, MN
- 2015 *Gallery 360*, selected works, Minneapolis, MN
- Newvember*, Ecce Gallery, Fargo, ND
- Photo Op*, Juror: Robert Bowman, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Wayzata, MN
- The Art of Giving*, Curator: Jason Restamayer, Altru Medical Center, Grand Forks, ND

104th Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, Juror: Steve Ozone, St Paul, MN  
2014 *Newvember*, Ecce Gallery in Fargo, ND

## PUBLICATIONS & MONOGRAPHS

2021 *The Unchosen Ones: Portraits of an American Pastoral*, R. J. Kern, Essay by Alison Nordström, MW Editions: New York  
2020 *The Best of the Best: A Virtual Artist Book*, by R. J. Kern and collaborators.  
2019 *The Best of the Best*, R. J. Kern, Essays: Anjuli J. Lebowitz and Eric Kunsman. Author: Minneapolis  
2018 *The Sheep and the Goats*, R. J. Kern, Essays: Lisa Volpe, George Slade, Stuart Klipper. Kehrer Verlag: Heidelberg  
*The Unchosen Ones*, R. J. Kern Essays: Alison Nordström and Joe Scapanski. Author: Minneapolis, USA  
2017 "The Unchosen," Photographs and text by R. J. Kern, *National Geographic*, November

## PRESS

2022 "R. J. Kern – The Unchosen Ones," by Gerhard Clausing, *PhotoBook Journal*, Jan 19  
"Don't Miss: 'The Unchosen Ones,' by R.J. Kern," by Alicia Eler, *Star Tribune*, Jan 21  
2021 "Future farmers in the American heartlands – in pictures," *The Guardian*, Dec 23  
"R. J. Kern's The Unchosen Ones" by Abby Ferguson, *Luminous Landscape*, December 17  
"R. J. Kern: The Unchosen Ones," by Aline Smithson, *Lenscratch*, December 4  
"The Unchosen Ones," by Kelli Hanson & Megan Newquist, Minnesota Live, KSTP/ABC, Original Air Date: Dec 1  
"Our Favorite Photobooks of 2021, by Elin Spring & Suzanne Révy, *What You Will Remember*, Nov 30  
"New photo book highlights humanity of Minnesota's 4-H members," by Noah Fish, *Ag Week*, Nov. 28  
"New book celebrates Minnesota kids who didn't win at the county fair," by Jennifer Brooks, *Star Tribune*, Nov. 27  
"New Book Looks At Those Who Miss Out On Blue Ribbons", Jason DeRusha & Heather Brown, WCCO  
MidMorning / CBS Minnesota. Original Air Date: Nov. 26  
"5 Tips for Emerging Fine Art Photographers," by Abby Ferguson, *Fstoppers*, November 21  
"Visiting artist program 2021: R. J. Kern," by David Lindgren, *The Concordian*, September 23  
*Analog Forever Magazine*, Edition 4 , Summer 2021  
Haley Berkman Karren, "Vaunted Photography Print Auction Celebrates 40 Years," *PaperCity*, February 8  
2020 "Virtual artists' books," *Continuum*, University of Minnesota libraries, September 24  
Alicia Eler, "While State Fair was canceled, the show goes on at its Fine Arts hall", *Star Tribune*, August 28  
Pamela Espeland, "State Fair fine arts 2020: immediate, urgent, of-the-moment," *MinnPost*, August 28  
"12th Anniversary Group Exhibition," *Fraction*, Issue 134, May  
Aline Smithson and Brandi Hamilton, "FotoFest Reviews 2020," *Lenscratch*, April 25  
"Photographer RJ Kern: The Unchosen Ones," radio interview by Katie Carter, et al, *KAXE* radio station, April 3  
Elliot Linden, "R. J. Kern," *Aint Bad*, March 19  
Grant Scott, *A Photographic Life*, podcast, Jan 8  
2019 Elyssa Goodman, "No One Shoots an Animal Quite Like Photographer R. J. Kern," *InsideHook*, December 6  
Jeff Moorfoot, "R. J. Kern," *BETA Developments in Photography*, Issue 33, Oct 6  
Tim Nelson, "Say cheese curds! State Fair champion animals celebrated w/ fine art photograph," *MPR News*, August 30  
"Crimson-hued Champions," Photo the Day, *PDN*, August 21  
Alicia Eler, "R. J. Kern photographs 'best' animals for Minnesota State Fair," *Star Tribune*, August 18  
Katy Read, "Portrait of champion livestock is this year's Minnesota State Fair highlighted art," *Star Tribune*, June 9  
Pamela Espeland, "Behind the scenes of the 2019 Minnesota State Fair commemorative art," *MinnPost*, June 7  
"Goat Workship" feature, photographs by R. J. Kern, *Revolver*, April/ May

- “The Unchosen Ones and Divine Animals,” *ČILICHILI* (Czechoslovakia), March
- Eli Dreyfuss, “How Photographer R. J. Kern Shot This Heartwarming Photo Series,” *Fstoppers*, March 19
- 2018 Mark Feeney, “At the Griffin, Photo Shows that Visit the Animal Kingdom,” *The Boston Globe*, November 15
- “The Unchosen Ones,” feature and interview, *Mono Chroma Magazine*, Issue 003, November/December, 35 - 47
- Elin Spring, “Exalting the Ordinary,” *What Will You Remember*, October 30
- “From Fair to Field,” with photographs by R. J. Kern, *Culture*, Winter
- “Photography Annual 59,” *Communication Arts*, July / August, 100-101
- Pamela Espeland, “The Minnesota State Fair’s Fine Arts Exhibition celebrates the art of the state,” *MinnPost*, August 29
- Jason Jenkins, “R. J. Kern photo exhibition in Wayzata finds ‘beauty in the common,’” *Sun Sailor*, July 19
- Virginia Johnson, “On the Town: ‘Triangulate’ Exhibit Debuts at Dunedin Fine Art Center,” *Bay News 9*, June 19
- PDN Photo of the Day, “Three Series by R. J. Kern Show Bonds Between Livestock, Humans and the Land,” May 23
- Coralie Kraft, “We Tamed Animals—But How Have They Shaped Us?” *Lensculture*, May 10
- Aline Smithson, “R. J. Kern: The Unchosen Ones,” book review and interview, *Lenscratch*, April 27
- David Walker, PDN’s 30 2018 New and Emerging Photographers to Watch, *PDN*, April, 43
- Suzanne Révy, “The Animal Whisperers,” *What Will You Remember*, March 27
- David Walker, “R. J. Kern segues from Weddings to Fine Art,” *PDN*, January. 10-12
- 2017 Aline Smithson, “R. J. Kern: The Sheep and the Goats,” *Lenscratch*, November 22
- “The Sheep and the Goats,” Photo of the Day, *PDN*, November 7
- BBC*, “The 2017 Royal Photographic Society competition” October 4
- Hettie Judah, “Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2017,” *The Telegraph*, November 14
- Alicia Eler, “No blue ribbon, but they still found fame,” *Star Tribune*, May 28, 2017. E1
- Alicia Eler, “A photographer captures goat losers at Minnesota county fairs,” *Star Tribune*, May 22
- Geoffrey Koslov, “Innovation from Photo Lucida 2017,” *Foto Relevance*, May 6
- Elin Spring, “The Human Landscape Photolucida 2017,” *What Will You Remember*, April 27
- 2016 MN Original / Twin Cities PBS, “Artist Day Jobs: R. J. Kern,” *PBS Newshour*, August 16
- Gregory Scott, “Don’t miss one of the year’s best art exhibits, ‘Open Door’ at Rosalux,” *Star Tribune*, December 22
- Elly Thomas, “Divine Animals: The Bovidae by R. J. Kern,” World Photography Organisation, November 19
- Elizabeth Sulis Gear, “Mythology and the everyday collide in these images of bovidae,” *FeatureShoot*, November 10
- 2015 Mary Abbe, “Art of the state: Minnesota State Fair celebrates a host of talented artists,” *Star Tribune*, September 8
- John Lamb, “Photographer makes portraits in the fields,” *Fargo Forum*, July 23

## GUEST LECTURES, ARTIST TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS

- 2022 Artist Talk, The Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA (virtual)
- Artist Talk and Workshop, B&H Photo Video, New York, NY (virtual, four-part series)
- Guest Speaker, “Editing the Visual Narrative Workshop” with Sarah Leen and Bill Marr (virtual)
- 2021 Artist Talk and Workshop, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
- 6-Foot Apart Photographer’s Presentation (virtual)
- Artist Talk, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art (virtual)
- Guest Speaker, “Editing the Visual Narrative Workshop” with Sarah Leen and Bill Marr (virtual)
- 2020 Artist Talk, Watermark Art Center, Bemidji, MN (virtual)
- Artist Talk & Workshop, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- Artist Talk, Olson-Larsen Galleries, West Des Moines, IA (virtual)

- 2019 Artist Talk & Community Workshop, Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND  
 Artist Talk, Burnet Fine Art and Advisory, Wayzata, MN
- 2018 Artist Talk, Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA  
 Artist Talk, Emerson College, Boston, MA  
 Panelist, Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Access Grant, St. Paul, MN  
 Artist Talk, Burnet Fine Art and Advisory, Wayzata, MN  
 Artist Talk, Scott County Historical Society, Minneapolis, MN  
 Artist Talk, PhaseOne Event, Miami, FL
- 2017 Artist Talk, CENTER, Santa Fe, NM  
 Artist Talk, Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN  
 Substitute Art Teacher, The Breck School, Golden Valley, MN
- 2016 Panelist, Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant, St. Paul, MN  
 Guest Lecturer, Valor High School, Littleton, CO  
 Portfolio Reviewer, Art Institutes International MN, Minneapolis, MN

## COLLECTIONS

Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ  
 Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY  
 Fidelity Corporate Art Collection, Boston, MA  
 General Mills Corporate Art Collection, Minneapolis, MN  
 Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA  
 Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, Tarpon Springs, FL  
 Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA  
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN  
 Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN  
 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
 Museum of Fine Arts, St Petersburg, FL  
 Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND  
 University of Minnesota Library, Francis V. Gorman Rare Art Book Collection, St. Paul, MN

## REPRESENTATION

Burnet Fine Art & Advisory  
 Olson-Larsen Galleries