MATTHEW JESSIE

Its Hills and Valleys
Photography Exhibit
September 25-October 27
Gallery Hours (TBA)

Matthew Jessie is a large format photographer from the small town of Rogersville, Tennessee. He currently lives in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he received the BFA in Studio Art from East Tennessee State University, but he now resides in Tempe, Arizona, to pursue an MFA at Arizona State University. Matthew’s ongoing body of work Its Hills and Valleys presents images of his native East Tennessee and has been featured by publications including Oxford American’s Eyes on the South, Ain’t Bad Magazine, The Heavy Collective, and others.

Its Hills and Valleys is an ongoing series of large format photographs that portray realities of the East Tennessee region alternate to the history of representation that has defined it for generations. Through observational images, the contemporary state of a land most understood by its stereotypes is depicted from the perspective and understanding of a native. Portraits, landscapes, objects, and other cultural elements describe (through photographs) the ups and downs of such an enigmatic sub-region of Appalachia.

KIM DELOZIER

Bear in the Backseat: Adventures of a Wildlife Ranger in the Great Smokies National Park
Monday, Oct. 2
7:00 p.m.
Appalachian Cultural Center

Kim Delozier grew up living and working on his family’s farm in Sevier County, Tennessee, raising cattle, hogs, tobacco, hay, and chickens. Since his childhood, he always loved the outdoors and animals. Kim graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. He began his career with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1978 working as a wild boar hunter and later served as the Park’s Wildlife Biologist. Kim retired in 2010 after of 32 rewarding years of service. During his career, Kim’s involvement primarily focused on black bear management, wild boar control, white-tailed deer management, small (skunks, raccoons, bats) animal management, and re-introduction efforts for elk, river otters, peregrine falcons, and red wolves. Currently, Kim works for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation focusing on elk restoration throughout the eastern US and is an instructor of “Chemical Immobilization” classes for Safe-Capture International. He recently co-authored two books, Bear In The Back Seat I & II. The first book made #9 on the Wall Street Journal Best-Sellers List.
Praise for Delozier:

“Kim Delozier, wildlife ranger in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for 32 years and Park Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, has seen just about everything when it comes to bear antics! Bear in the Back Seat is packed with amazing stories that the whole family will enjoy. And, you’ll learn a ton of great pointers about how to safely view animals in the wild.”

--Jack Hanna (Director Emeritus, Columbus Zoo, and Television Host, Into the Wild)

“Kim is a modern day Daniel Boone whose experiences with wild bears, wild hogs, people, and other critters demonstrate that untamed frontiers still exist in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. Kim spent over 30 years as a wildlife ranger with a wild spirit and a deep love of nature.”

--Stephen Herrero (author of Bear Attacks, Their Causes and Avoidance)

ANYA SILVER
The Ninth Annual Henrietta Jenkins Memorial Homecoming Poetry Reading
Friday, Oct. 20, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Appalachian Cultural Center

Any Krugovoy Silver is a poet living in Macon, Georgia. She is the author of three books of poetry, The Ninety-Third Name of God (2010), I Watched You Disappear (2014), and From Nothing (2016), all published by the Louisiana State University Press. Her fourth book, Second Bloom, is forthcoming as part of the Poiema Series of poetry by Cascade Press. Her work has been published in many literary magazines, including Image, The Harvard Review, The Georgia Review, Five Points, Crazyhorse, New Ohio Review, Witness, The Christian Century, Poet Lore, Prairie Schooner, Southern Poetry Review, Shenandoah, and many others. Her work is included in Best American Poetry 2016. Her poems have been featured on Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac," in Ted Kooser's syndicated column, "American Life in Poetry," as an Academy of American Poets' poem of the day, and on Poetry Daily. Her poems have been anthologized in several books, including The Turning Aside: The Kingdom Book of Contemporary Christian Poetry (Cascade), Poetry in Medicine (Persea), From Midnight to Dawn (Paraclete) and How to Write a Poem (T.S. Poetry Press), among others. She was named Georgia Author of the Year/Poetry for 2015.

She currently teaches in the English Department at Mercer University. She shares her life with her husband and son. Since 2004, she has been living and thriving with inflammatory breast cancer, a journey she shares poignantly through her poetry.

Praise for Silver’s work:

“The Ninety-Third Name of God is an extraordinarily beautiful book, passionate and intense; it reveres life in all its forms and language in all its grace. Her poems breathe the light of God’s name.” --Kelly Cherry

“In her stunning collection, From Nothing, Silver remembers the dead, mourns the dying, and declares her fierce love for our lush, troubled world. These poems ask hard questions about suffering, just as they show us fairy tales, gardens of roses, a marriage bed, a beloved son. . . .
There is deep grief in the world of this book, and yet there is so much beauty. This is an absolutely gorgeous book.” –Nicole Cooley (author of *Breach* and *The Afflicted Girls*)

“Rarely have I read a poet whose work speaks as honestly and emphatically from the raw necessities of the heart. . . . It sounds a little trite to say that these poems [in *I Watched You Disappear*] are courageous, and yet I can think of no better word. Part of the magic of poetry is finding beauty and meaning in the brutal landscape of our lives, and I am simply astonished by the strength and beauty of this work. These are poems that had to be written, poems where faith confronts silence and remains steadfast in its search for meaning. Anya Silver is one of the most compelling voices to enter American poetry in my memory.”

–David Bottoms (poet, *Vagrant Grace, Waltzing through the Endtime*, and *We Almost Disappear*)

A SENSE OF PLACE IN APPALACHIA
Readings by Carson-Newman International Students
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Appalachian Cultural Center

What can join the cultures of Appalachia, Spain, Portugal, South Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, China, Germany, Venezuela, Japan, Russia, among so many others? The power of the well-written, well-spoken word. Please join us as Carson-Newman’s international students share poetry and readings in their native languages and discuss their “sense of place” as current residents in Appalachia. We hope you will come celebrate and honor our international community and the integral part they play in our campus life.