

# CURRICULUM VITAE

B.J. Lehecka

Environmental Artist & Public Sculptor

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## ARTIST STATEMENT SUMMARY

My artistic practice is driven by an exploration of Nature's narrative, bridging the organic and the digital to challenge perceptions of scale and permanence. My work, which ranges from tree ring documentation to monumental public installations, is unified by a deep commitment to environmental conservation and a visceral sense of wonder for the natural world. I aim to create pieces that serve as an invitation to engage with and protect our environment.

## PUBLIC ART AND COMMISSIONED PROJECTS

*Chronological: Newest to Oldest*

### 2025 | Riverfest 2026: Bloom by the Banks (Poster/Button Design)

- Wichita Riverfest, Wichita, KS. Commercial commission demonstrating ability to blend detailed, organic themes with high-impact graphic appeal for large-scale public promotion.

### 2024 | Glacier Bloom (3-foot Penguin Sculpture, Fundraiser Piece)

- Tanganyika Wildlife Park, Wichita, KS. Public art sculpture symbolizing the resilience and fragility of polar ecosystems through detailed, vibrant acrylic work. *Estimated Budget: \$1,000.*

### 2024 | Sentinel Deer (Two 16-foot tall sculptures)

- Private Installation, Andover, KS. Monumental, self-fabricated sculptures crafted from custom-cut and fitted wood panels, demonstrating mastery of large-scale construction and design. *Estimated Budget: \$600 per sculpture.*

### 2000 | Coleman Pride Mural (12 ft. long, Acrylic on Concrete)

- Coleman Middle School, Wichita, KS. Foundational large-scale public commission demonstrating proficiency in executing a two-dimensional design concept to a permanent, architectural surface. *Estimated Budget: \$150.*

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2024 | Photography Award, Second Place | Kansas Wheat Festival

2023 | First Place, Drone Design Competition | Exploration Place, Wichita, KS

2023 | Award of Excellence in Photography | Kennel Club Magazine

2015 | Artist Highlight Feature (for Ephemeral Light) | The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, KS

## **EXHIBITIONS & RELATED WORK**

### **2021 | Chronology in Wood (Print Donation)**

- Donated Print for Passport to Nature Fundraiser | Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, KS. Work exploring themes of temporal continuity and the record of life embedded in the environment. *Estimated Value: \$250.*

### **2023 | Kansas Royalty (Photography)**

- Digital Archival Pigment Print,  $16^{\prime} \times 20^{\prime}$ \$. Award-winning photograph showcasing skill in arresting composition and lighting in the agricultural landscape.

## **EDUCATION**

PhD | Rocky Mountain University | 2018

DPT | Wichita State University | 2009

BS | Kansas State University | 2006