Artist Statement

Lorna Medley

My artistic practice is centered on exploring the shared spiritual experiences that shape our collective culture. I delve into how personal and spiritual experiences are formed, interpreted, and communicated, and how these individual narratives contribute to meaningful conversations within society.

Currently, my work focuses on recovery from alcoholism, specifically its connection to spirituality and the concept of a higher power. Through researching how Alcoholics Anonymous uses a spiritual framework of self-reflection, I examine the role of the serenity prayer as a foundational element for its members.

The artwork that emerges from this exploration reflects a journey of transcendence, solace, and the personal experience of spirituality in its many forms, all while considering its impact on physical and mental well-being.

In my practice, I approach the subject of the twelve-step program through photography and film with empathy, free from judgment or preconceived notions about alcoholism. I listen to each individual’s story and aim to capture the essence of their journey to sobriety. The cyanotype process, with its slow and unpredictable development, mirrors the gradual and often uncertain path of personal growth. The varied results from cyanotype prints to film emphasize the different stages of recovery.

My work seeks to bridge the gap between science and spirituality, acknowledging the complexity of human existence—the noise, the chaos, and the quiet moments of understanding. I invite viewers to engage with my work in a way that prompts reflection on the nature of alcohol and recovery, encouraging them to consider the shared experiences and cultural ground that connect us all. In doing so, I explore the role and responsibility of the artist working in this space, aiming to provoke thought and conversation.