

CONTINUUM  
BY CARRIE MCGEE



GOODLETTSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY  
205 RIVERGATE PARKWAY  
GOODLETTSVILLE TN 37072



*Photograph: John Schweikert*

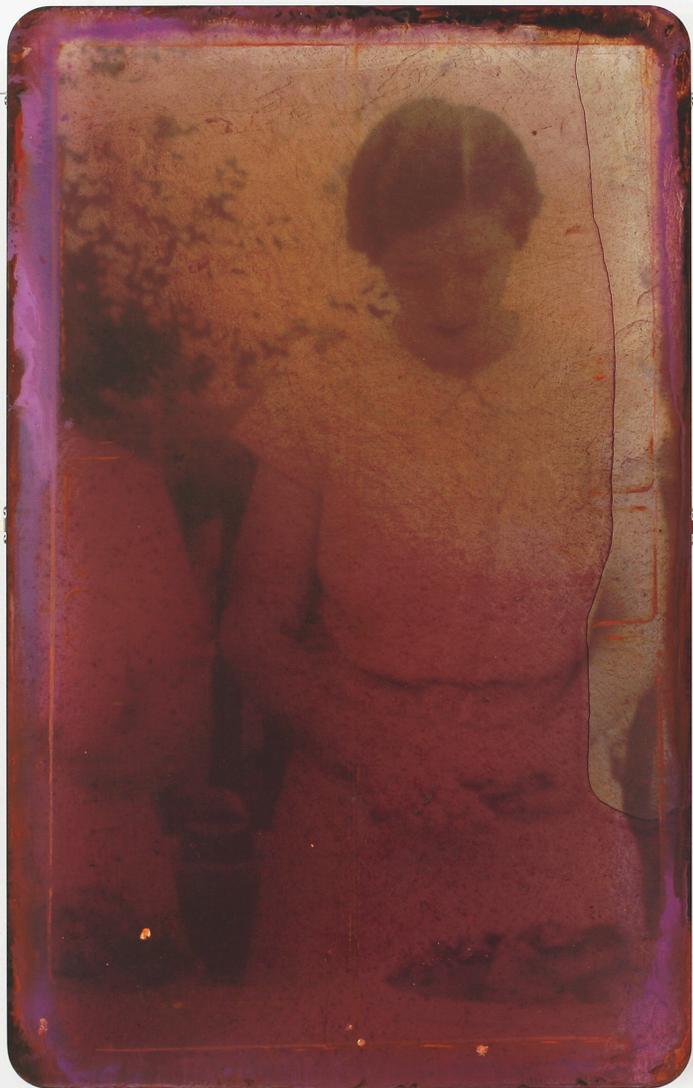
## ABOUT THE WORK

Continuum was created for the Goodlettsville Branch Library in the winter and spring of 2011, as the new library was being constructed.

Suspended above the information desk, Carrie McGee's sculpture draws attention to a central focal point of the library. Consisting of eighteen acrylic tiles arranged in a fourteen-foot-diameter ring, Continuum echoes the circular nature of the surrounding architecture. The work illuminates the library space and enlivens the viewer's imagination by drawing connections between the rich history of Goodlettsville's past and the vibrant community it is today.

The transparent tiles suggest "pages," and resonate with the role of the library as a place to access information. Some tiles include images culled from the history of Goodlettsville; while others contain rust impressions of items sourced locally – a vintage iron or seed plate, for example. Still others are simply expressions of color and light. This booklet is designed to further enhance the experience of Continuum by providing background information about the photographs and objects included in the work.





## WOMEN AT THE FAIR

This block features a detail from an image of women preparing food items for the inaugural National Cooperative Marketing Field Day, which was held in Goodlettsville on July 20, 1935. Field Day was established as a means of honoring those insightful farmers who founded the Goodlettsville Lamb Club in 1877, the first club organized in the South for the purpose of cooperative marketing of farm products. This image is included in a scrapbook compiled by Oscar L. Farris, who served as Davidson County Agricultural Extension Agent from 1920 to 1941. Mr. Farris's scrapbook also letters, speeches, clippings, photographs, and a list of visitors who attended this important community event.

*Photo courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives.*



*IRON SEED PLATE from a piece of vintage farm equipment*



*LARGE DRILL BIT*



## OLD STONE BRIDGE

One of the oldest and best known landmarks in Goodlettsville is the Old Stone Bridge. Dating to 1828, the double-arch bridge is one of a pair of stone bridges crossing Mansker Creek. Constructed to facilitate stagecoach service on the Louisville to Nashville Turnpike, its smooth limestone blocks were so expertly cut that no mortar was used in its construction. The bridge relies instead on the precise placement of a keystone to lock the entire structure in place. Nearly two centuries old, the Old Stone Bridge has required only minor maintenance over its life and stands today as a rich reminder of Goodlettsville's transportation history.

*Photo courtesy of Evelyn Kerr Tretter and the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce.*



IRON PIPE HANGER



VINTAGE IRON



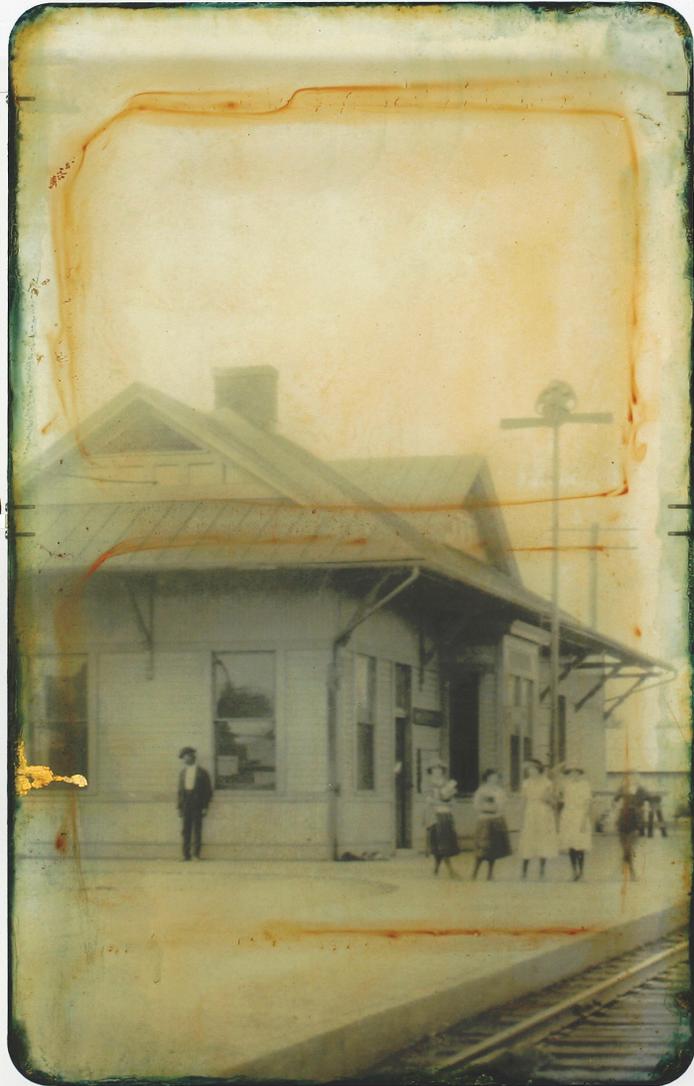


## MEN AT THE FAIR

This block features a detail from an image of three men in attendance at the inaugural National Cooperative Marketing Field Day, which was held in Goodlettsville on July 20, 1935. Field Day was established as a means of honoring those insightful farmers who founded the Goodlettsville Lamb Club in 1877, the first club organized in the South for the purpose of cooperative marketing of farm products. This image is included in a scrapbook compiled by Oscar L. Farris, who served as Davidson County Agricultural Extension Agent from 1920 to 1941. Mr. Farris's scrapbook also letters, speeches, clippings, photographs, and a list of visitors who attended this important community event.

*Photo courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives.*





## GOODLETTSVILLE TRAIN DEPOT

Depicted on this block is the L&N Railroad train depot as it appeared around 1910. Located on Depot Street, the railroad station was utilized until the early 1960s. In addition to providing passengers with convenient transportation to Nashville and points beyond, the rail system was especially important to Goodlettsville's agricultural community. The railroad provided farmers and producers with an effective means of shipping their grain, cattle, sheep, and wool throughout the country. Moreover, the ability to efficiently transport perishable produce opened up many new markets. This historic photograph captures the hint of anticipation one feels while awaiting the arrival of a passenger train, and while the train depot these girls knew is long gone, its historical significance as a hub of commerce and transportation remains.

*Photo courtesy of Charles Phipps and the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce.*

## L&N RAILROAD TRACKS

Evoking a sense of momentum and boundless horizons, this image of the L&N Railroad tracks in Goodlettsville dates from around 1910. The rail system played a prominent role in the lives of the citizens of Goodlettsville from the antebellum period through the middle of the 20th century. But like the stagecoach before it, train travel was supplanted by other means of transportation. Post-WWII America saw the construction of the vast interstate highway system, linking cities and towns and radically altering the landscape in the process. The construction of Interstate 65 was arguably one of the most transformative events in the history of Goodlettsville, bringing with it phenomenal growth and a shift of the city's retail hub from Main Street to the Rivergate area or along Long Hollow Pike.

*Photo courtesy of Charles Phipps and the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce.*





*"Direct impressions of rusted metal objects appear on many of the tiles. These imprints were made by placing metal objects on the tiles and allowing them to remain in water for a length of time. The metal items were found at Tara's Antique Mall and metal salvage yards in the Nashville area."*



## GIRL WITH HORSE

From the 1940s comes this wonderful image of Marjorie Myers Johnson and her prized Tennessee Walking Horse named Sam. From 1938 to 1976, Goodlettsville was home to one of the finest horse shows in the state. Co-sponsored by the Men's Club and the PTA, the annual horse show regularly saw attendance levels of over 5,000 spectators. The show was held at Lyell Stadium until 1966 when it was moved to Peay Park. Participants brought their champion-winning horses from across the United States to compete in this notable event, which raised funds to improve the community.

*Photo courtesy of Oscar Brooks and the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce.*





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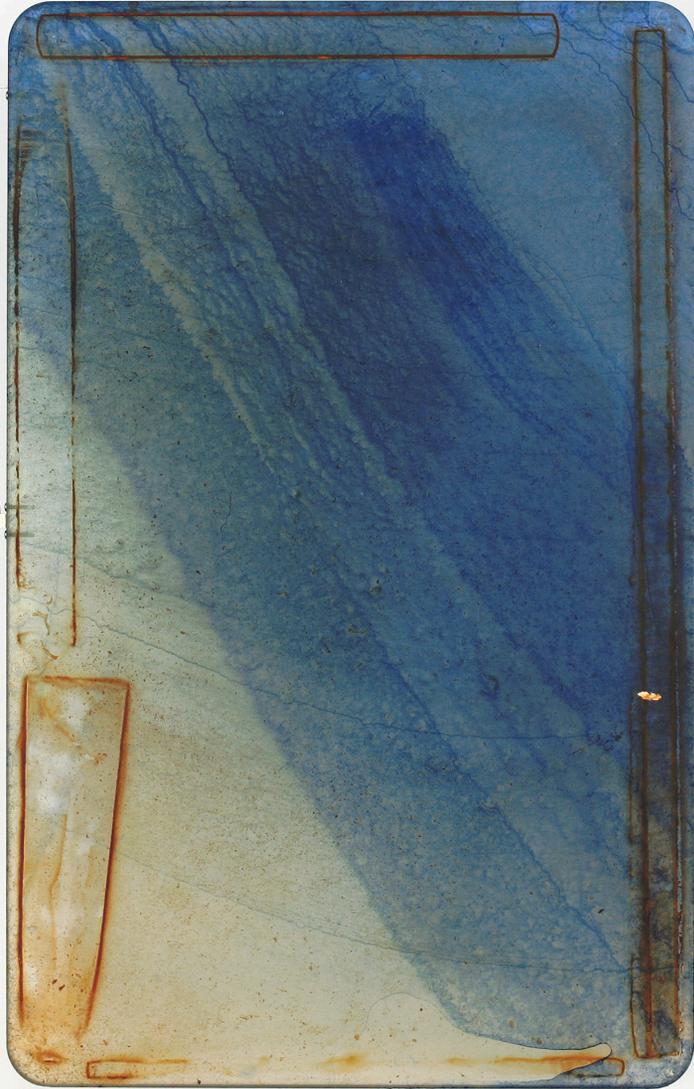
*DRILL BITS and METAL RODS*

## POPLAR TREES

The primeval lands that would later become Goodlettsville were rich in natural resources, featuring dense forests of cedar, hickory, and poplar trees. Salt licks near Mansker Creek attracted deer, buffalo, elk, and black bear. Wild turkey, quail, and fish were also plentiful, providing pioneers with remarkable abundance. Used extensively by the early settlers of this state to construct houses, barns, and other necessary farm buildings, the tulip poplar was designated as the official state tree of Tennessee in 1947.

*Photo courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives.*





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*IRON SPLITTING WEDGE used for chopping wood*



*SCRAP CORNER*

## MANUFACTURING

The postwar economic boom of mid-twentieth century America fueled an ever-increasing demand for goods and services. Factories were humming, and Goodlettsville proved no exception. On the job at Quality Aluminum Manufacturing, pictured here in 1962, are three young members of the Goodlettsville workforce. Attired in durable machinists' uniforms, these young men were part of a manufacturing workforce in Tennessee that represented well over one-third of all jobs in the state by 1965.

*Photo courtesy of Doug Richardson and the Goodlettsville Chamber of Commerce.*





METAL ROD, IRON FILE,  
and IRON HINGE

*"The primary color washes were created by soaking tiles in baths of diluted acrylic paint. As the mixture evaporated organic layers of pigment and texture were left behind. Additional layers of oil color were applied by hand."*

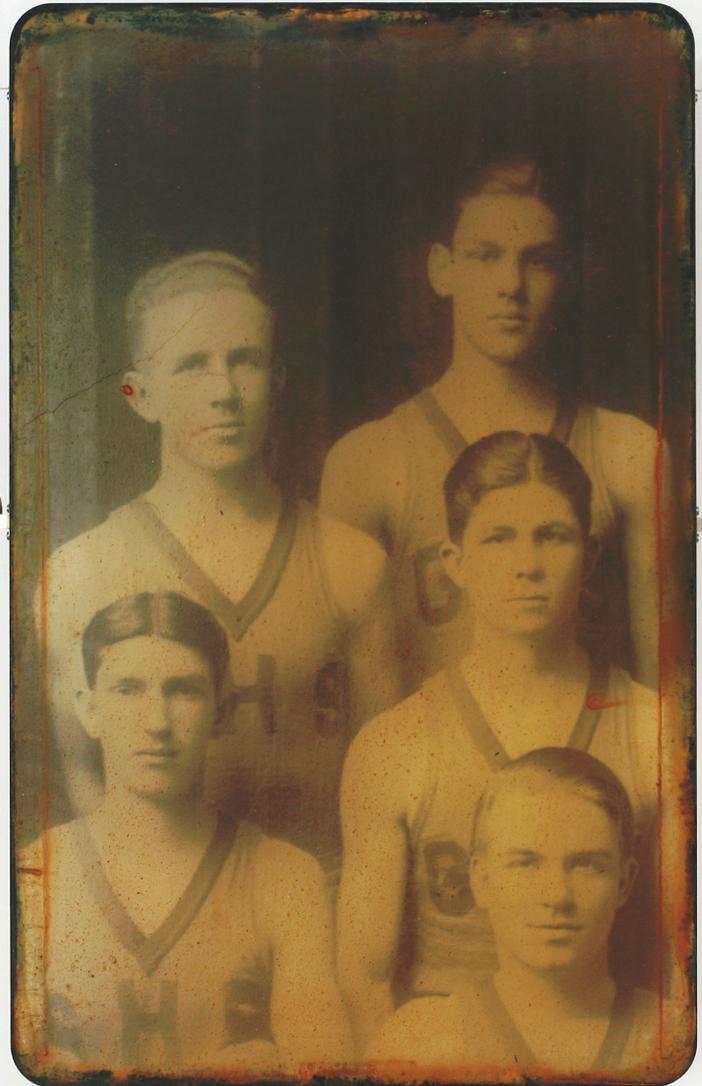




## GOODLETTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM (1924)

Goodlettsville's student-athletes have long played an important role in the civic life of their community. This image, featuring members of the 1924 Goodlettsville High School basketball team, touches on the palpable sense of continuity linking generations of sports fans. Through an abiding sense of determination and talent, today's young men and women continue to inspire their fellow students, family members, and fans, distinguishing themselves as true champions of whom we all can be proud.

*Photo courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives, Robert Polk Thomson Collection.*



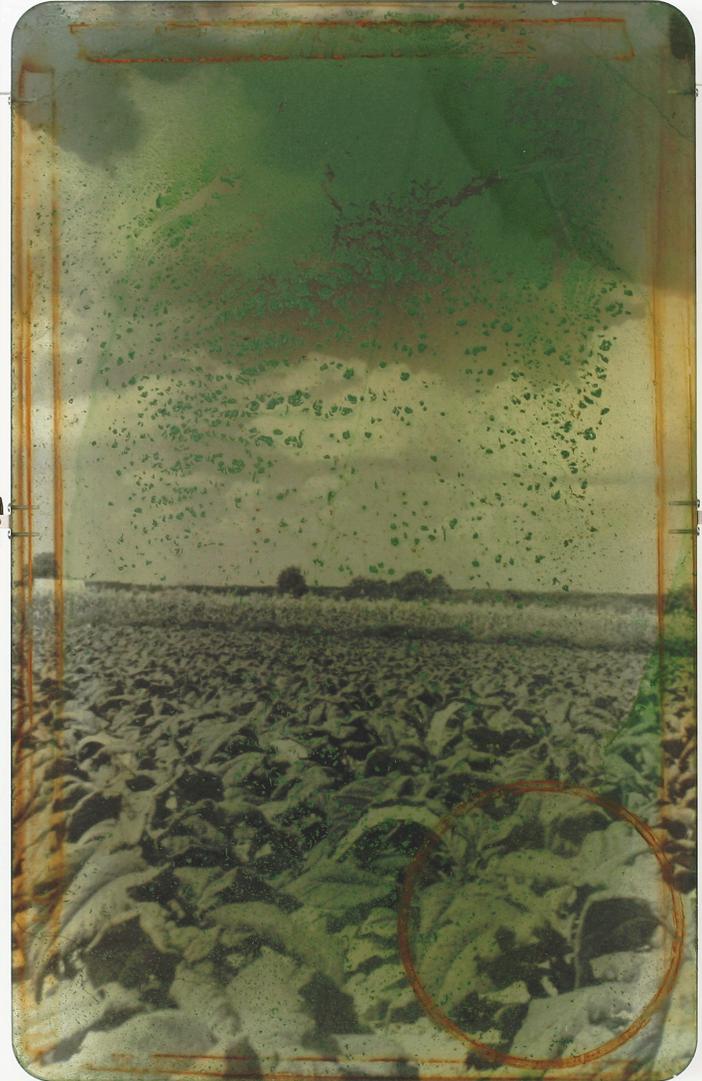


METAL PIPE

## TOBACCO FIELD

Tobacco seeds arrived in Tennessee with the first settlers. Its cultivation spread rapidly from East Tennessee to the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee and became the livelihood for thousands of Tennessee farm families. Tobacco cultivation created jobs in manufacturing, processing, and a multitude of other tobacco-related industries. Its history and development have had a major economic and political impact upon the state. And while the future of tobacco farming in Tennessee remains uncertain, researchers are studying new ways to use tobacco, including possible derivatives from the plant that could aid in the production of vaccines or beneficial food additives.

*Photo courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of Conservation Photo Collection.*





*Photograph: Jerry Siegel*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Carrie McGee's mixed media constructions explore emotional tone within repeated form. Utilizing transparent plastics as a ground, she experiments with natural and chemical processes, such as rust and oxidation, to create luminous works that emanate a meditative pulse.

McGee's investigations developed on the periphery of her work as an abstract painter. In the midst of a studio move, she discovered a sheet of vinyl containing a multi-layered pattern of rust spheres, the result of a slow ceiling leak. The illuminated metal impressions were unexpectedly beautiful, and possessed a combination of organic and industrial qualities McGee sought in her paintings. Initially experienced as playful experimentation, this work became the central focus of McGee's efforts, and soon evolved from ephemeral to lasting and architectural in scope.

McGee has lived in many parts of the United States, having migrated from Cincinnati to Los Angeles, New York, and finally Nashville. Her paintings and constructions have been exhibited for the past twenty years.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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John Schweikert

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For more information about the artist  
visit [carriemcgee.com](http://carriemcgee.com)