

XAVIERA SIMMONS

What has become indispensable to my works is the push to construct my studio practice into one that is spontaneous, experimental and collaborative. I work within the multiple notions of community to construct photographs, installations, performances and videos. These dialogues or happenings are mostly produced either in public or outdoor landscapes, collaboratively with the individual members of “the public” or both. The projects seek to engage various histories, be they political, cultural or art-related.

The works are constructed to delve into terms related to the constructs of identity, landscape, aesthetics and participation. I am working to understand how these ideas translate visually, how to interpret them, what devices keep them loaded and how to engage them in unexpected and surprising ways. A foundation in photographic portraiture, theater and notions of play currently round out my conceptual choices.