



SHAWN SKABELUND &
ERIC O'CONNELL

Remnants

Photographs and Drawings of found
worker's gloves

Separately, we have been collecting used work gloves in our individual artwork. Eric started photographing them in 2008, while Shawn has been drawing them and incorporating them in sculptures since 1988. Each of them first began picking the gloves up off the road, but now gloves are given to them by carpenters, loggers, ranchers, or wildfire fighters.

Eric collects them and keeps them as intact as possible. They are

carefully transported to his studio and photographed as they were originally found, including any dirt, rocks and other debris. The photos are then mounted and preserved with a resin, creating a similar metaphorical effect to found insects preserved - in-situ - in amber.

For both of us, the gloves exude a sense of longing, portraying a stilled-life, a *memento mori*. There is also a sense of animism in each found glove, and if it is made

of leather, in the animal whose body it came from. And there is a longing that permeates the wearer who lost it. Who wore it? What was their trade or craft? What did they feel when they discovered their loss?

Shawn Skabelund is a site-specific, place-based installation artist and curator working with and in landscapes revealing their complex issues, ecologies and cultural histories. For nearly three decades, his work has been

exhibited in venues throughout the United States, exploring what Wendell Berry calls the “unsettling of America.”

Eric O'Connell is a professor of photography and photojournalism at NAU, and a trained anthropologist, specializing in visual anthropology. His work is collected by the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University.