

# ARTIST STATEMENT

Artist: Kim Kitchen

## Able to Disabled: My Changing Landscape

Through the art of shaping sound and weaving varied components of production and design to facilitate a compelling story, Kim Kitchen shares her process and insights of these life changing years. Tracing the moments from the debilitating arrival of Rheumatoid Disease, *Able Body to Disabled: New Means of Production* conveys insurmountable moments of grief, loss and transformation amid testable adaptability and embrace.

Anchored in her reality, the narrative emerges, depicting a vivid story and complexity within the composition.

At it's core, *Able Body to Disabled: New Means of Production* recounts a personal process of transformation, re-configuration of identity and the work of *letting go to let in*.

## BIO

Kim Kitchen is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in North Bay, Ontario. In 2003, Kim was graduated from White Mountain Academy of the Arts in Elliot Lake. Prior to her art education, she worked for years on the front lines of anti-violence prevention throughout Canada. Kim's experience of serving women and children in shelters and rape crisis Centres; facilitating public education, as well as her international freelance consultancy work, all have greatly informed and propelled her artistic practice.

Kim explores the collective cultural understandings at the intersections of the female body as it finds itself in nature. Her community activism is inclusive, celebratory, and exuberant. In contrast, her artistic work is introspective, thoughtful, and prompts quiet reflection.

Until a live-changing challenge to her mobility in 2014 due to Rheumatoid Disease, Kim's practice was largely tactile focusing on painting, sculpture, and installation. Kim was bedridden for much of the following three years. Her search for treatment resulted in positive outcomes and she returned with a practice that adapted and flourished under new circumstances.

Sound art lends itself perfectly to her practice of critical inquiry of body-land relations, and the self-reflexive relationship between ability and artistic and cultural production, as seen through collaboration and community engagement. This new visceral medium enables Kim to return to her beautiful connection to the land, adding the layer of vision provided by her new “listening.”



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