

Teacher Guide

Will Boone: The Highway Hex

November 9, 2019–February 16, 2020



Lazy X, 2019. Resin, enamel, acrylic, and found material on canvas. 75 x 150 inches. Image and work courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.

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Exhibition Overview

- *Will Boone: The Highway Hex* is the artist's first solo museum exhibition.
- The exhibition features Boone's first long-form video, titled *Sweet Perfume*, alongside new sculptures and paintings.
- Boone wrote, directed, and produced *Sweet Perfume* and its original score. The video's loose narrative centers around the iconic character Leatherface, lifted from the 1974 horror film *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, directed by Tobe Hooper.
- *Sweet Perfume* is inspired by fan fiction (fiction written by a fan of a particular television show or movie that features those same characters) and gives the main character, "Face," played by Boone's wife and artist Stephanie Boone, a new personal trajectory.
- The sculptures included in the exhibition were also used in the film including a homemade jukebox. Boone is interested in props and exploring how an object is imbued with meaning and mythology.
- The artist's sculptures employ a variety of techniques outside of the fine arts framework, such as model building, automotive painting, and sign making.
- The artist is interested in storytelling, unconventional portraiture, and examining a person's relationship to their place of origin.
- The title of the exhibition refers to a bizarre medical condition called highway hypnosis or "white line fever," where a driver enters an altered mental state and can operate a car for great distances in a safe manner with no memory of having done so.



A Picture of Me (Without You), 2019. Wood, automotive paint, speakers, car stereo, and Plexiglas. 64 x 36 x 18 inches. Image and work courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.

Key Questions

- Have you ever had the experience of leaving and returning to your place of origin? Can you describe that experience, how you felt, and how the place you were from had changed and/or stayed the same?
- What is your experience with fan fiction? Have you ever written or read any examples? If you were to create fan fiction, what would be your inspiration?
- What other artists are using techniques in their artwork outside of the fine arts framework? What methods are they using?



Sweet Perfume (video still), 2019. VHS video transferred to digital: color, sound, 50 minutes. Image and work courtesy the artist and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, California, and Karma, New York, New York.

Curriculum Connections

Visual Art | Create a new piece of work using any medium of your choice as you explore the theme of home. What does home mean to you? Where is home? Who lives at your home? Have you ever had to leave your home? Are you able to create a new home if you leave your old home? What happens when you return home after being gone for a long time? Share your work with your classmates and discuss how everyone defines and views the idea of home.

Writing | Choose a book, film, or television show that you love. Create a new piece of fan fiction inspired by a character or story in the original work. Your fan fiction could be a prequel, a deep dive into a minor character, an alternate ending, or a jump into the future. Be creative but be true to the original inspiration.