

Ronald Lockett

b. 1965 in Bessemer, AL
died 1998 in Bessemer, AL

A few of Ronald Lockett's earliest pieces are scrawled on the tin walls of buildings in Bessemer, AL, the town where the artist lived his whole life. Upon graduating High School, Lockett dedicated himself completely to his art while caring for his infirm mother. The area around his home was rich with materials for the artist to incorporate into his work: abandoned tin, nails, wire, metal scraps and tree branches. Lockett's work literally jump off the surface- the deer emerge from behind wire and the forest branches reach beyond the borders of the canvas. Fascinated by nature documentaries and the news, Lockett's animals replace humans in his examinations of the world. He saw the animals as symbols of loss- the manner in which they are trapped or tamed spoke to him as a direct link between the entrapment he suffered and the larger presence of poverty, racism and illness in his life.