

ANNIE KAMMERER BUTRUS



PEACH TREE TRAIL: CULP SERIES, AT UAB

I am interested in changes in the landscape and how the hand of man affects and is affected by nature. *Peach Tree Trail: Culp Series at UAB* focused on the Culp Farms in 2007. The series features 28 diptychs, together spanning over 116 feet, installed as a simulated trail of the 2007 farming year where a historic late freeze and ensuing drought resulted in the loss of at least 50% of the peach crop.

The trail suggests the continuity of nature. Seven diptych panels for each season lead seamlessly to the next season. Subtle changes in the qualities of light mark the seasonal transitions. The late freeze in April is reflected in the Spring panels and the long running drought starts thereafter. Walking along the trail acts a condensed, abstracted version of a year in the orchard.

The UAB show is a culmination of the greater *Peach Tree Trail* project that began in 2004. I traveled to Chilton County, Alabama every season for five years tracing shadows of peach trees at different orchards and interviewing the farmers about the changes they experienced in agriculture and land use. Each diptych represents an individual tree at an individual farmer's orchard. I arranged my panels under the trees and traced the shadows of the trees moving overhead. The upper panel of each diptych is formally based on a single shadow tracing while the lower panel shows the same shadow traced multiple times over the course of an hour as it moved across the panel. By recording the path of the sun, I recorded a passage of time.