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For Immediate Release ALEXIS PIKE : COLOR ME LUCKY

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When I was six, I planned to be just like Evel Knievel. Naively, I couldn't understand the consequences of my choice. Imagining myself in his striking leathers, I raced my bike down a hill like a kamikaze on a mission for the sake of a stunt. At the bottom of the hill, with too much speed, I crashed, tumbled hard across the gravel, laid there unconscious—my prize was spending four days in the hospital with a fractured skull. Injury aside, I gained bragging rights.

In the 1970's, Evel Knievel was *the* daredevil—steadfast, virile, courageous, and determined. Knievel's illustrated legend captivated an audience. Clad in red, white and blue, he embodied the fantasy of soaring over obstacles—even if the landing wasn't pretty. *Color Me Lucky* is inspired by Evel Knievel's swagger. It explores desire, sexuality, masculinity, image, and risk. It's about the momentum that carries you forward, even when you know there's a train wreck ahead. My work about this popular daredevil opens up a conversation about what attracts a woman or man to act on or witness risky behavior for the sake of a thrill. In these images, Knievel is the metaphor to decipher if we all have a bit of Evel in us.

Alexis Pike is a sixth generation Idahoan calling on the geography of her genes while focusing on the American West. Pike received her BFA from Boise State University and her MFA from the University of Iowa.



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