

2023 FACULTY EXHIBITION

Learn more about **Forced Labor Camp** by Bonnie Mettler. This piece is on view in Wayne Art Center's **2023 Faculty Exhibition**.



Forced Labor Camp

Oil

NFS

Landscape in the Studio

The beautiful Monticello was Thomas Jefferson's plantation in Charlottesville, Virginia, but it was a forced labor camp. Jefferson allowed his overseer to beat the enslaved boys (10-16 yrs. old) who labored in his nail factory if they were late or failed to meet their quotas.

He was a man divided. At 37 he wrote that "All men are created equal" yet he owned 600 slaves during his lifetime – more than any other President.

Leslie Alexander and Michele Alexander wrote in "The 1619 Project" that Jefferson was acutely aware that Black people yearned for freedom no less than the White colonists who had waged the American Revolution and that no principle of justice could defend slavery. Jefferson wrote, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."