

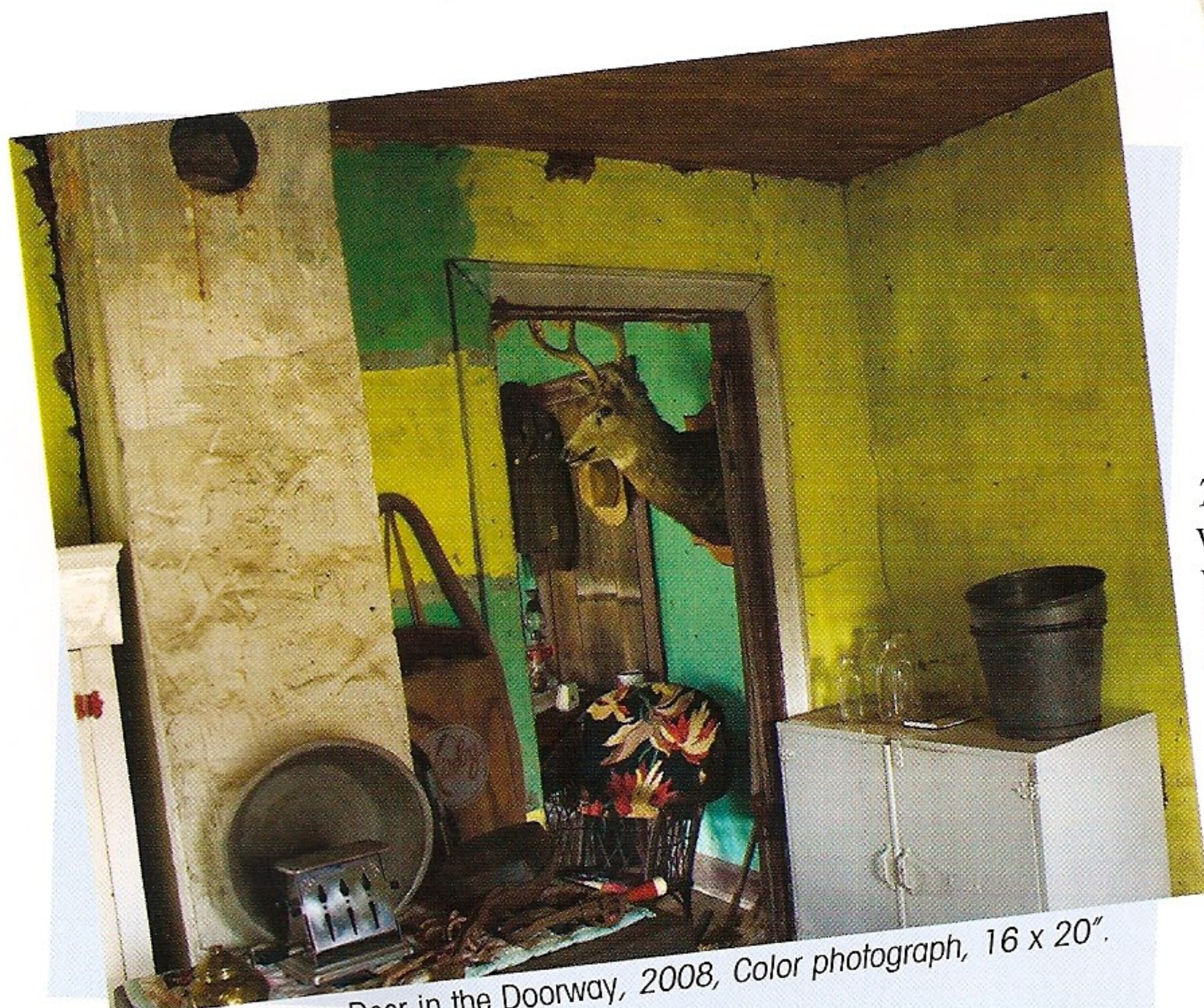
THE BLUEGRASS BIENNIAL

a juried exhibition of Kentucky artists

A KENTUCKY JURIED EXHIBITION

By Jennifer Reis

There is an important “so what!?” factor to be acknowledged in arts programming. Take art exhibitions—any seasoned curator or gallery director knows that determining the “so what!?” can dictate the validity and/or success of a project. The shrugging query asks, what good is it? To “art people” this can be an infuriating question: of course it matters – it’s ART! But, putting personal outrage aside, it is actually quite handy when determining the what, the whom, and the why to construct programming to provide for the most important element: the need.



Lee Ann Paynter, *Deer in the Doorway*, 2008, Color photograph, 16 x 20”.



Lee Ann Cathy Vigor, *Fertility Cloth II*, 2007, Art cloth, 45 x 96”.

The Bluegrass Biennial: A Kentucky Juried Exhibition, was established in the summer of 2004 with the “so what!?” in mind. The “what” and “why” of the project is to provide the opportunity to submit examples of current work for exhibition consideration, and if selected, the potential to receive cash awards; the “whom” were our artists as well as the gallery’s summer audience. The “need”? At that time there was no large scale, Kentucky-specific, juried exhibition open to any citizen of the Commonwealth that was invitational in nature and unaffiliated with an organization. *The Bluegrass Biennial* continues to be the only exhibition in the state of its kind.