

Craig Rigdon on his essay, *Three Trees*:

*Three Trees* began, quite simply, as an homage to the western larch, a tree sometimes locally referred to as the “redwood of the Northern Rockies.” It is a tough, long-lived tree, one that occupies a rather narrow range across the greater Northwest. As the story progressed, however, I realized that my fascination with those fire-scarred and wizened trees arose almost exclusively from the cultural context in which their long lives have been spent. Eventually the story evolved into an experiment in placing my own experiences as a firefighter within the deeper history of a mountainside rife with the silent, but glaring, effects of a human presence. By witnessing three centuries of change through the “eyes” of those three trees, and exploring my own personal culpability in their fate, I hope to highlight just how intrinsically linked we all are to our surroundings.