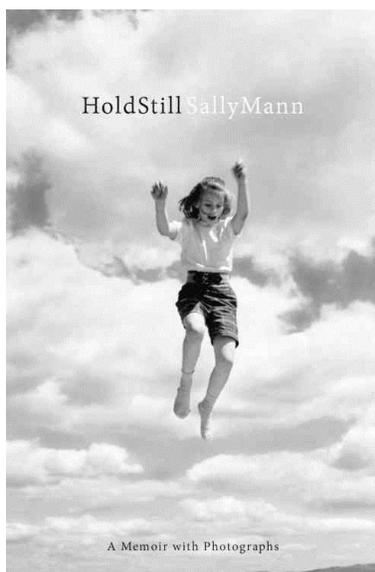# Spotlight

While it seems like there is a memoir published a minute lately few have stayed with me the way American photographer Sally Mann's 2015 effort, *Hold Still*, has. *Hold Still* is unique not only in its depth and complexity of feeling but also in its formatting of text with image. Mann's artistic photographs are mixed in with family photos, archival images, and her concise language which makes for a striking book and story. Instead of photos appearing on their own pages separated from the language of the book in *Hold Still* they appear alongside the work, between paragraphs, and tucked in the middle of memories working to enhance the flow of the story rather than simply being an addendum to it.

Mann grew up in rural Virginia and much of the book is her exploring her connection to that place. Through her memories of childhood, reflections on her work, and considerations of the history and culture of the American south she crafts a book that isn't just a memoir but rather a drama held together with themes normally saved for epic novels. As in her photography, she creates memorable scenes thick with tension and mystery. Much of her photography has been focused around her three children and following her life and their lives through the images and words is fascinating.

This is a book to settle into and a great pick to bring on the autumn with. Touching on the timeless themes of family, home, and the meeting of art and life, *Hold Still* is a fascinating journey into one artist's family history but also an unforgettable dissection of the meaning of art and creation.

HoldStill SallyMann

A Memoir with Photographs

If you are interested in photography, stop by the library on Saturday September 30th at 3pm – 4pm for a presentation that is bit closer to home. Photographer Kristen Olesen will be presenting images from her collection *Beyond Taltheilei* featuring photographs from her life as a 30-year resident of the Hoarfrost River, on the northeast shore of McLeod Bay.

Megan Clark
Public Services Librarian