WISCONSIN ARTISTS BIENNIAL | 2024

Kelly Jean Ohl *Biophilia III* ceramic | MOWA Prize

WISCONSIN ARTISTS BIENNIAL | 2024

February 3–April 14, 2024

Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA), 205 Veterans Avenue, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

MOWA

MUSEUM OF WISCONSIN ART

A vital cultural center, educational institution, an expanding network of ideas, the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA) collects and interprets American art through the lens of a single state. Informed by dynamic initiatives and collaborations, MOWA is an innovative forum for contemporary artists, socially relevant exhibitions, lectures by artists and industry experts, and engaging classes and activities for all ages. MOWA has two permanent venues—the West Bend "Mothership" and MOWA | DTN in downtown Milwaukee's Saint Kate—The Arts Hotel—as well as two partnering community organizations that create access across the state. MOWA annually welcomes 200,000 visitors, making it a cultural destination for the art and artists of our time.

wisconsinart.org

The Wisconsin Visual Artists began in the year 1900 as the first professional association of artists in Wisconsin, and has continued for 121 years as an educational, supportive, and connective force for artists within the state. WVA offers a community and a support system to artists at any stage in their career. The organization is run by artists for artists, and dedicated to the well-being and fair treatment of Wisconsin artists through the forging of creative partnerships, exhibition opportunities, monthly meetings, publications, programming, arts advocacy, and more.

wisconsinvisualartists.org

MOWA
MUSEUM OF WISCONSIN ART

Anwar Floyd-Pruitt Statement
Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Wisconsin Art

Thoughtfully presented at the Museum of Wisconsin Art's "Mothership" in West Bend, the 2024 Wisconsin Artists Biennial recognizes Wisconsin artists, celebrates the state's diverse cultural heritage, and encourages a larger sense of community.

From themes of nostalgia reconsidered and spiritual connections with nature to social and political statements about the world during an election year, the stunning works of art that comprise this year's Biennial capture the regional zeitgeist and underscore the vitality of Wisconsin's visual arts. Through a dynamic survey of artist books, ceramics, drawings, fiber art, hand-made paper, installation, paintings, photography, printmaking, and sculpture, the juried cohort of artists comfort, confront, and surprise us through their various creative approaches, skillful execution, and timely commentary.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to our jurors, Robert Cozzolino, William Hernández Luege, and Sandra Jo Martinez, who reviewed a record number of submissions. Their selections represent a wide spectrum of media and perspectives from a selection of emerging and established artists, who represent the rich depth and diversity of contemporary American art viewed through the prism of Wisconsin.

Additionally, I would like to thank our exhibition sponsors—James and Karen Hyde Foundation, Pick Heaters Inc., Thomas J. Rolfs Family Foundation, and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

The Wisconsin Artists Biennial is co-sponsored and organized by Wisconsin Visual Artists and the Museum of Wisconsin Art, an ongoing partnership that reflects our institutions' dedication to and mutual support of Wisconsin artists.

WISCONSIN
Visual Artists

Alexis Arnold Statement

Wisconsin Artists Biennial 2024 Chair

What an amazing time to showcase and celebrate Wisconsin artists. For the 2024 call for art, there were 1,361 pieces of artwork submitted by 512 artists, the most we have ever seen. To me, this is a testament to what is happening in Wisconsin, often a state overlooked for the fine arts. Individuality, technique, and social messages are at the forefront of the exhibition through the use of natural materials, oil paints, photography, and more. The exhibition showcases a diverse range of artworks expressing beauty, technical proficiency, emotional power, and conceptual ideas.

It is with the collaboration of MOWA, which has been serving Wisconsin art and artists for the past sixty years, that this exhibition can happen. The beautiful museum is a leader in exhibiting contemporary and emerging art, making it the perfect backdrop to display the 2024 Wisconsin Artists Biennial. Special thanks to Anwar Floyd-Pruitt and Laurie Winters, along with the whole MOWA team dedicated to curating and showcasing the accepted artists.

The jurors did not have an easy task narrowing down the entries. The Wisconsin Artists Biennial jury process is always done "blindly," meaning the jurors only see images of the artwork, title, media, size, and installation notes if applicable. I would like to personally thank William Cozzolino, William Hernández Luege, and Sanda Jo Martinez for their thoughtful and conscientious decision-making during the process.

Wisconsin Visual Artists is one of the oldest non-profit art organizations in the state. Our mission is to champion and support visual artists working within the state of Wisconsin by forging partnerships that make creative opportunities possible the Wisconsin Artists Biennial Exhibition is our biggest achievement in doing this.

Thank you to all the artists who submitted to the call for art. I want you to know your entries were valued and respected, we appreciate every single one!

Thank you to the biennial committee of Wisconsin Visual Artists, it takes a team to put something like this together. Special thanks to Jane Hostetler, WVA's President for working extra hours with me to ensure the show was a success and to Mary Tilton for making sure all the technical aspects were always working smoothly.

"If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him." - John F. Kennedy

It is both the Wisconsin Visual Artists and MOWA's goal to nourish & showcase the creativity in our state with the 2024 Wisconsin Artist Biennial Exhibition!

With much gratitude,

Alexis Arnold

We would love to have you join WVA.

Visit www.wisconsinvisualartists.org today to become a member and join our community of artists!

JURORS Statements

Robert Cozzolino

Serving as a juror for exhibitions is a privilege that I do not take lightly. My first responsibility as a curator and art historian is to artists: to treat them with respect, proceed with integrity, be open and honest, and be true to my values as we work together. Each contact is the beginning of a relationship. Some connections flow through immediately; others pick up down the road. We move in an interconnected environment. How we conduct ourselves, whether we show up for one another, see one another, and how we support each other matters. In the art world, a microcosm of the whole world mirroring its love and horrors, people notice whether you move with generosity or lead with ego. There is enough ego in this realm to kill a horse – maybe a stampede of horses; being there for others -- being present -- sustains a healthy art world.

The collaborative jurying process also works this way. Three people with completely different life experiences, distinctive points of view, and personal tastes sift through 1361 en-tries and make choices. We came to a consensus on 57. Were these the best works submitted? We picked 57 that connected with us, excited us, stimulated our imaginations, got us talking, inspired us to make a case for the work, reminded us of how thrilling and expanding and con-nected this all is. Why do it otherwise?

Robert Cozzolino is an independent curator and art historian based in Minneapolis, MN

Sandra Jo Martinez

Bravery x 1,361!

A feast, dear Wisconsin. It was my pleasure to engage with a fearless range of work offered from honorable, often consummate roots. I wish you wind in each and every sail!

My deepest congratulations to the WVA 2024 Biennial artists. Exhibiting (in any context much less a Biennial is a beautiful thing. Open yourself further, connect to the world and feel the warmth of a circle holding you for a time. Celebrate!

Then get back to the blank page. Keep digging into what it means . . . what it feels like to stand in and push up against your own skin. In or out. . . Never loose sight of the fact that every moment you give yourself in reflection, mucking about, recording, responding to materials—is a sanctuary of your own making. That is the treasure.

Best advice I ever got. . . David Damkoehler: WVA Lifetime Achievement Award-Art+Design Professor Emeritus UWGB

“Go make a hundred more. Then we’ll have something to talk about.”

Onward, XXX

Sanda Jo Martinez is a symbolist painter from Milwaukee, Sandra Jo Martinez renders works on paper that reference human, plant, and shelter forms. Her designs evoke a shared experience that points to our connective root.

She finds freedom working on found and gifted surfaces including book pages and Tyvek. In a 40+ year automatic drawing process she calls, “One step up from a doodle.”, accessible materials are the foundation of her flow.

See Sandra Jo’s work and collaboration in weaving design with Wenceslao Martinez at martinezstudio.com, or in person at Martinez Studio galleries in Jacksonport, Door County, WI and Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM.

JURORS Statements

William Hernáandez Luege

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who submitted work or this year's Wisconsin Artists Biennial, making this year's exhibition a testament to the rich tapestry of artistic expression in Wisconsin. The diversity of practices showcased, encompassing a myriad of concepts, formal approaches, and creative processes, has demonstrated the diverse rigor of the artistic discourse within this community.

Looking at the final checklist, I am struck by the thought, technique, and exploration that not only highlights the depths of your artistic vision, but has also set a standard for practices across the Midwest. It truly was a joy to see the kaleidoscope of ideas that define this artistic landscape.

If I could pinpoint a single theme that emerged across these works, it would be the theme of community, transcending boundaries ecologically, socially, and artistically. The collective efforts of these artists have woven a narrative that reflects the interconnectedness of experiences and perspectives while also serving to highlight the different vantage points of each individual.

Thank you for contributing your brilliance to the Wisconsin Artists Biennial. To all who submitted work, your dedication has enriched this cultural tapestry and left an indelible mark on the artistic legacy of this state.

William Hernández Luege is a Curatorial Associate for Painting and Sculpture at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Previously he was Curatorial Assistant at the Walker Art Center where he worked on exhibitions including Shen Xin: Brine Lake (A New Body) (2021), and Jannis Kou-nellis in Six Acts (2022). He is the curator of the Walker exhibition Allan Sekula: Fish Story (2023) and organizer of Kahlil Robert Irving: Archeology of the Present (2023). Hernández Luege holds a BA in Art History/Arts Management from the University of San Francisco, and an MA in the His-tory of Art from Williams College.

WISCONSIN BIENNIAL | 2024
AWARDS

MOWA 1st Place Award – $5000 + Solo exhibition at MOWA in 2026

Kelly Jean Ohl ***Biophilia III***

WVA SE Chapter 2nd Place Award – $2000

Scott Espeseth ***Box With Cat***

WVA SC Chapter 3rd Place Award – $1250

Hannah O'Hare Bennett ***Landscape Construction III***

WVA NE Chapter 4th Place Award – $1000

David Hajib Kasir ***Linear Equations of Children by the Commutative Property of God 4***

WVA Lee Weiss Award for first time Biennial exhibitor – $500

Beth Schueffner ***Double Shot!***

Merit Award – $250

Sarah Kreuter ***Copper Delta***

Wisconsin Artists Biennial 2024 stats:

512 artists submitted 1361 pieces of artwork with 53 artists with 57 total pieces accepted.

42 of the 54 accepted artists are first time exhibitors at the Biennial.

2024 Wisconsin Artists Biennial Committee:
Alexis Arnold (chair), Jane Hostetler, Ally Wilber (WVA Executive Director),
Mary Tilton, Tori Tasch, Christine Style,
Laurie Winters and Anwar Floyd-Pruitt

WISCONSIN BIENNIAL | 2024
ARTISTS

Nadia AL Khun
New Berlin

Jeff Baenen
Kenosha

Cassidy Baranek
Waterford

Hannah O'Hare Bennett ●
Madison

Aaron Boyd
Milwaukee

Brian Breider
Glendale

Kimberly Burnett
Milwaukee

CathyJean Clark
Neillsville

Tony Conrad
Appleton

Angelica Contreas
Madison

Phyllis Deicher-Ladwig
Plymouth

Rachel Durfee
Madison

Scott Espeseth ●
Madison

Benjamin Fairly
Milwaukee

Doug Fath
Madison

Terri Field
Oconomowoc

Jenie Gao
Madison

Frankie Garr
Milwaukee

Pavonis Giron
Milwaukee

Jarod Hamley
Milwaukee

Asher Imtiaz
Waukesha

Robin Jebavy
Brookfield

Jerry Jordan
Madison

David Najib Kasir ●
Milwaukee

Helen Klebesadel
Madison

Michael Knapstein
Middleton

Nykoli Koslow
Milwaukee

Sarah Kreuter ●
Sobieski

Andrew Linskens
Green Bay

Cheryl Mahowald
Newton

Abigail Marquardt
Green Bay

Bethann Morgan Handzlik
Fort Atkinson

Nina Moyer
Blanchardville

Catherine Nelson
De Pere

Janet Nelson
Cambridge

Dennis Ninmer
New Holstein

William L. Nettelhorst
Fond du Lac

Kelly Jean Ohl ●
Sun Prairie

Janet Roberts
Brookfield

Katherine Rosing
Madison

Hugo Saavedra
Pleasant Prairie

Rafael Salas
Ripon

Beth Schueffner ●
Neenah

Andrea Skyberg
Wauwatosa

Kara Slamka
Madison

Sally Sorenson
Green Bay

Clarussa Sosnowski
Appleton

Kira Straub
Milwaukee

Aldis Strazdins
Wilton

Hideki Suzuki
Madison

Roberto Torres Mata
Madison

Jennifer Urbanek
Milwaukee

Sarah Vandersee
Oshkosh

Terri Warpinski
De Pere

● Designates Award Winner

Nadia Al Khun

New Berlin

The Rays of Origins

Oil and acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches

Jeff Baenen

Kenosha

Domus Delorum

Wood, brass, glass and natural materials
26 x 22 x 22 inches

Cassidy Baranek

Waterford

Protected?

Porcelain, metal, stone, and ribbon
60 x 36 x 5 inches

Cassidy Baranek

Waterford

Medicine

Ceramic

22 x 8 x 8 inches

Hannah O'Hare Bennett

Madison

Landscape Construction III

Handmade paper with natural pigments
60 x 72 inches

Hannah O'Hare Bennett

Madison

Recede

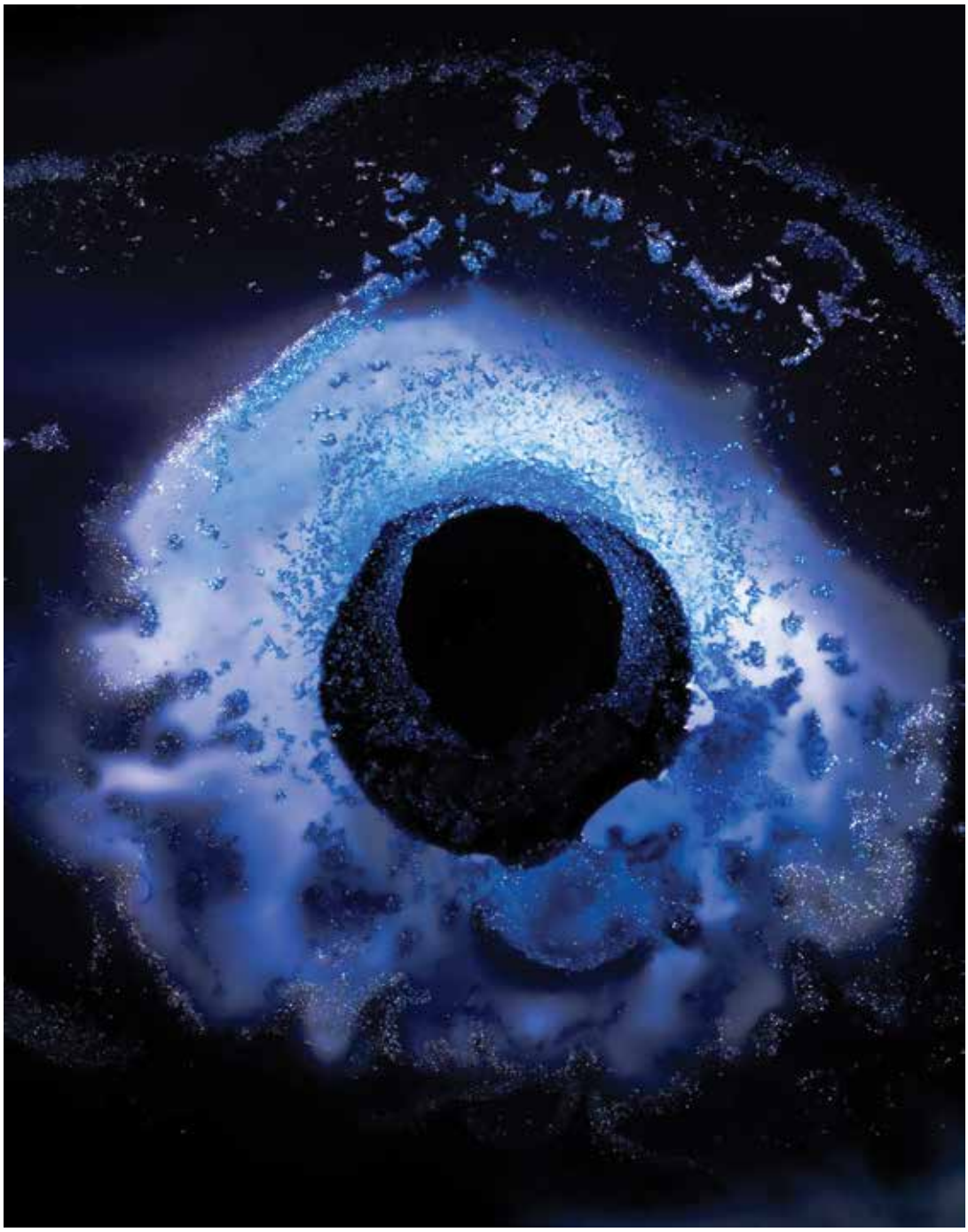
Found, altered and made objects
33 x 48 x 48 inches

Aaron Boyd

Milwaukee

The Tadpoles

Watercolor, paper, crayon, oil pastel, colored pencil
35 x 14 inches



Brian Breider

Glendale

Sight

Photograph
20 x 16 inches

Kimberly Burnett

Milwaukee

The Lone Cow

Oil on canvas
30 x 40 inches

CathyJean Clark

Neillsville

Weston Night

Etching with marbelizing
38 x 32 inches

Tony Conrad

Appleton

Composition #69

Acrylic on canvas
36 x 36 inches

Angelica Contreras

Madison

La carga

Mixed media on canvas
63 x 38 inches

Phyllis Deicher-Ladwig

Plymouth

Bem-Vindo

Photograph
11.5 x 13.5 inches

Rachel Durfee

Madison

The Vencello

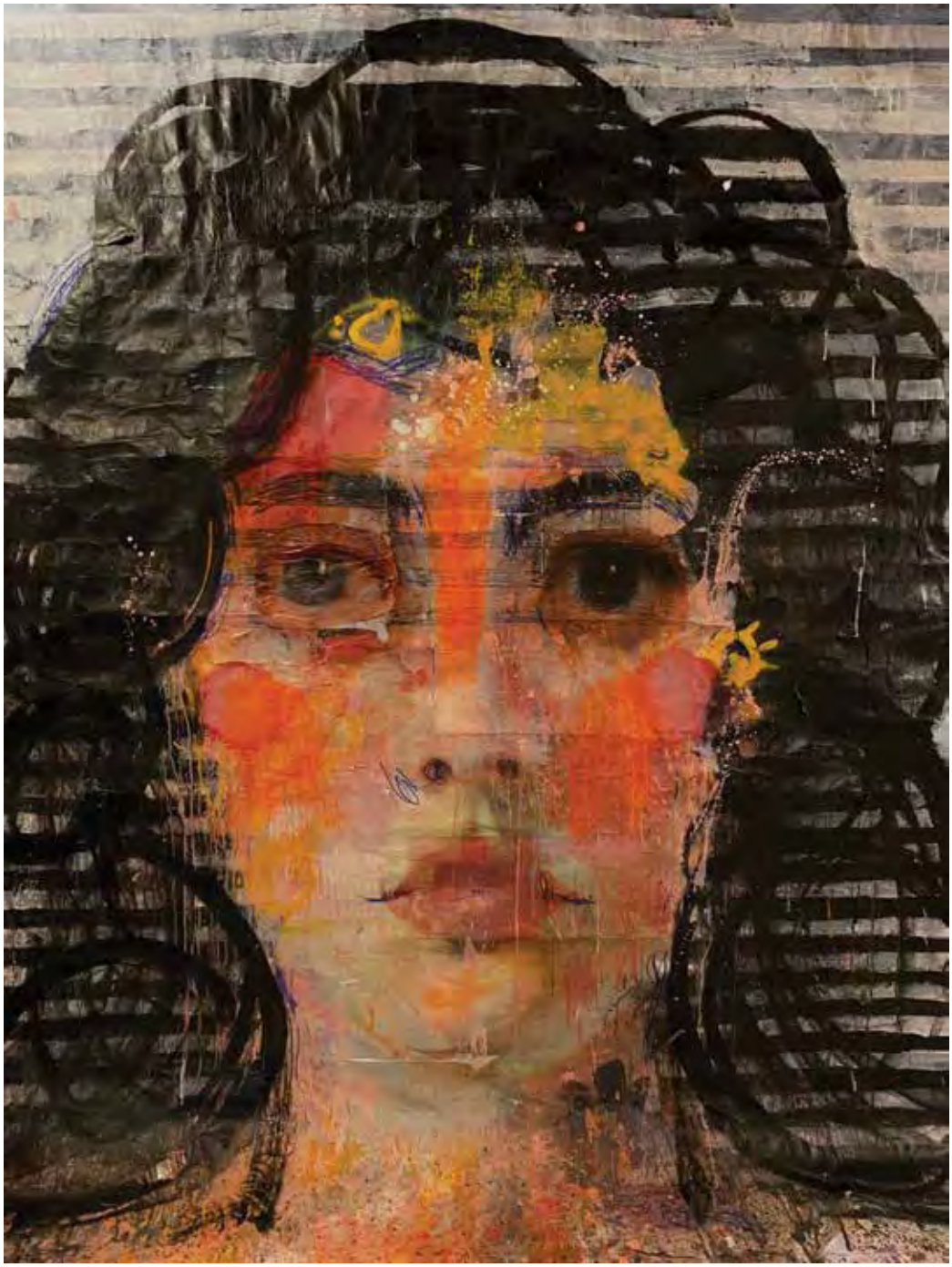
Woodcut with watercolor
29.5 x 37.5 inches

Scott Espeseth

Madison

Box With Cat

Watercolor on paper
28 x 39 inches



Benjamin Fairly

Milwaukee

Is It Really You?

Mixed media, collage on paper, vellum and canvas
94 x 86 inches

Doug Fath

Madison

Beautiful Loser

Acrylic on canvas
38 x 60 inches

Terri Field

Oconomowoc

Dad Goes To Work

Oil on canvas
36 x 36 inches

Jenie Gao

Madison

Three Generations Happy Family

Artist's book, inkjet print on plain copy paper (designed like takeout menu)
8.5 x 11 inches

Frankie Garr

Milwaukee

Ol'Rusty Red

Photograph
17 x 22 inches

Pavonis Giron

Milwaukee

El Montaña del Rey

Steel with bronze patina
16 x 12 x 22 inches

Jarod Hamley

Milwaukee

Inchoate

Oil on panel
30 x 30 inches

Asher Imtiaz

Waukesha

***Apikwaakaamiigookwe* (Little Arrow Lady)**

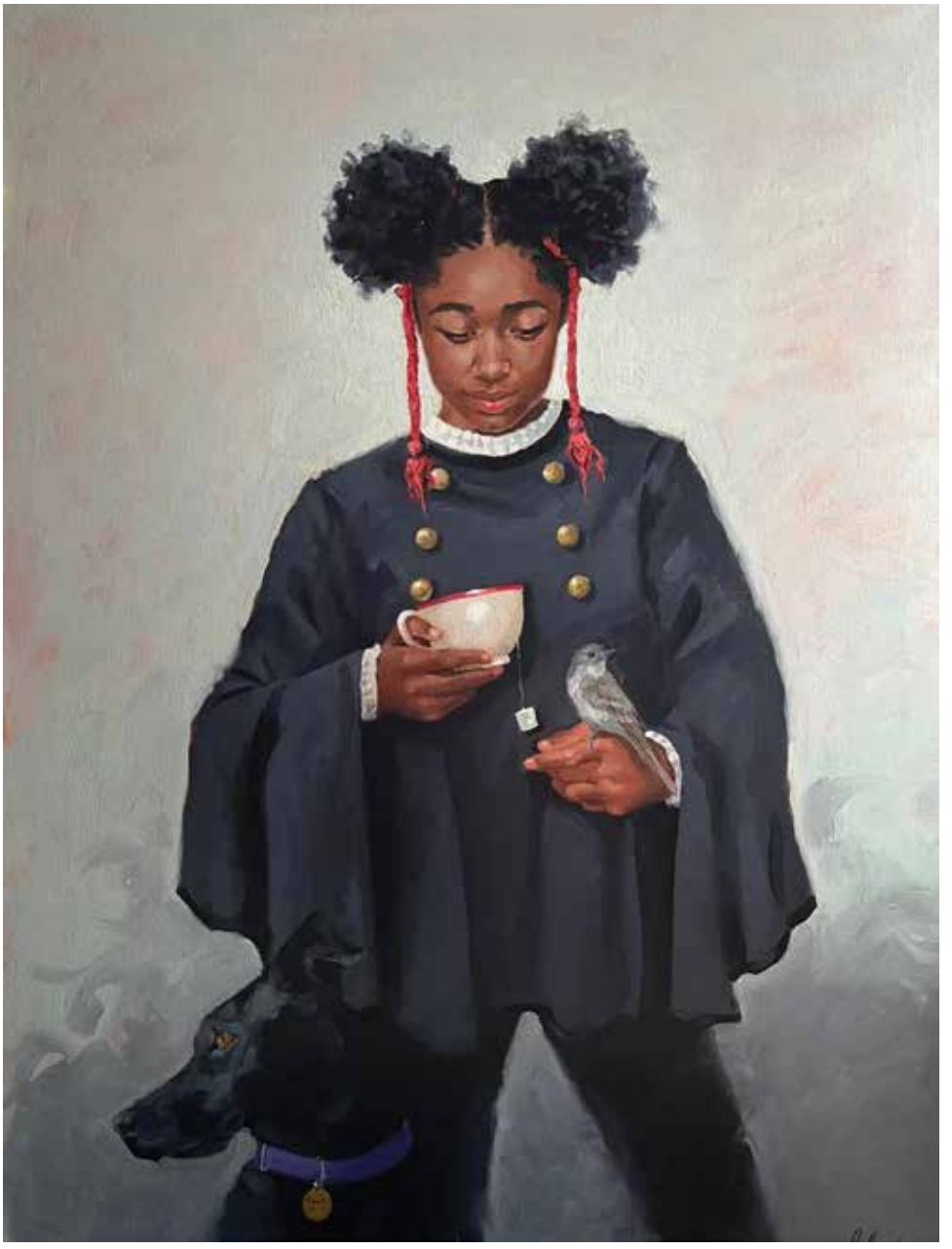
Archival pigment print
30 x 20 inches

Robin Jebavy

Brookfield

***Untitled,* from Candlehands series**

Acrylic on paper collage
72 x 64 inches



Jerry Jordan

Madison

A New Friend

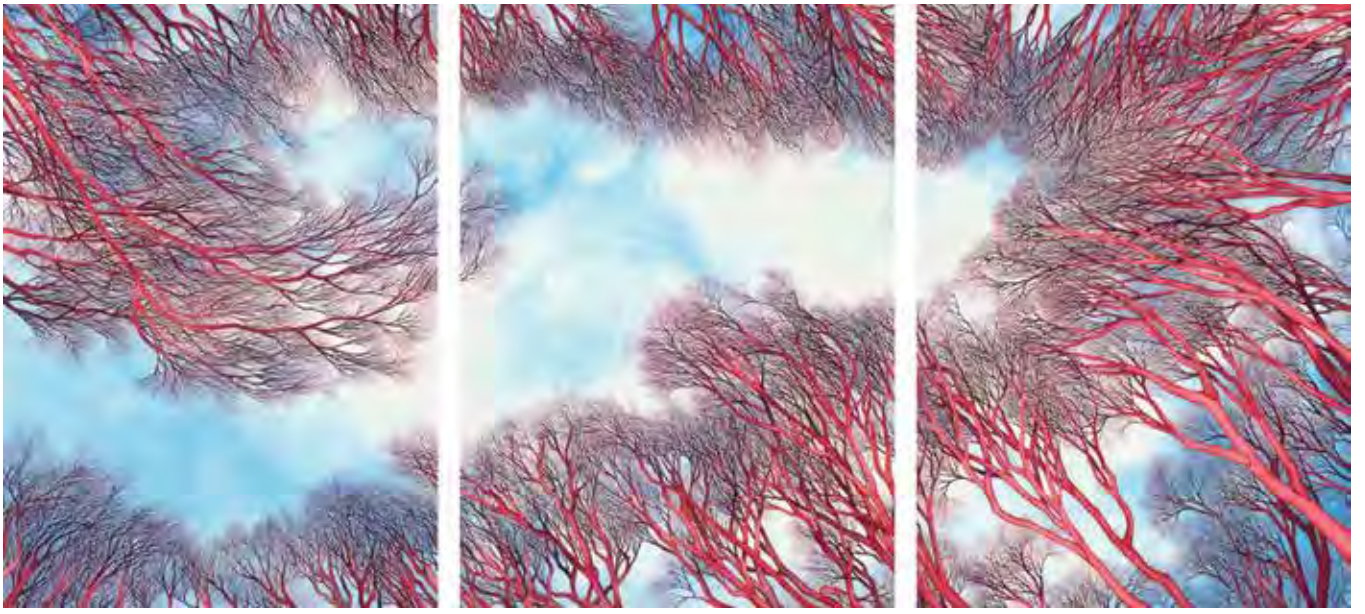
Oil on canvas
40 x 30 inches

David Najib Kasir

Milwaukee

Linear Equations of Children Divided by the Commutative Property of God, No. 4

Oil, acrylic and mixed media on wood panel
44 x 57 inches



Helen Klebesadel

Madison

Intersectionality: Sacred Grove Triptych

Watercolor on paper
50 x 110 inches

Michael Knapstein

Middleton

Father and Daughter

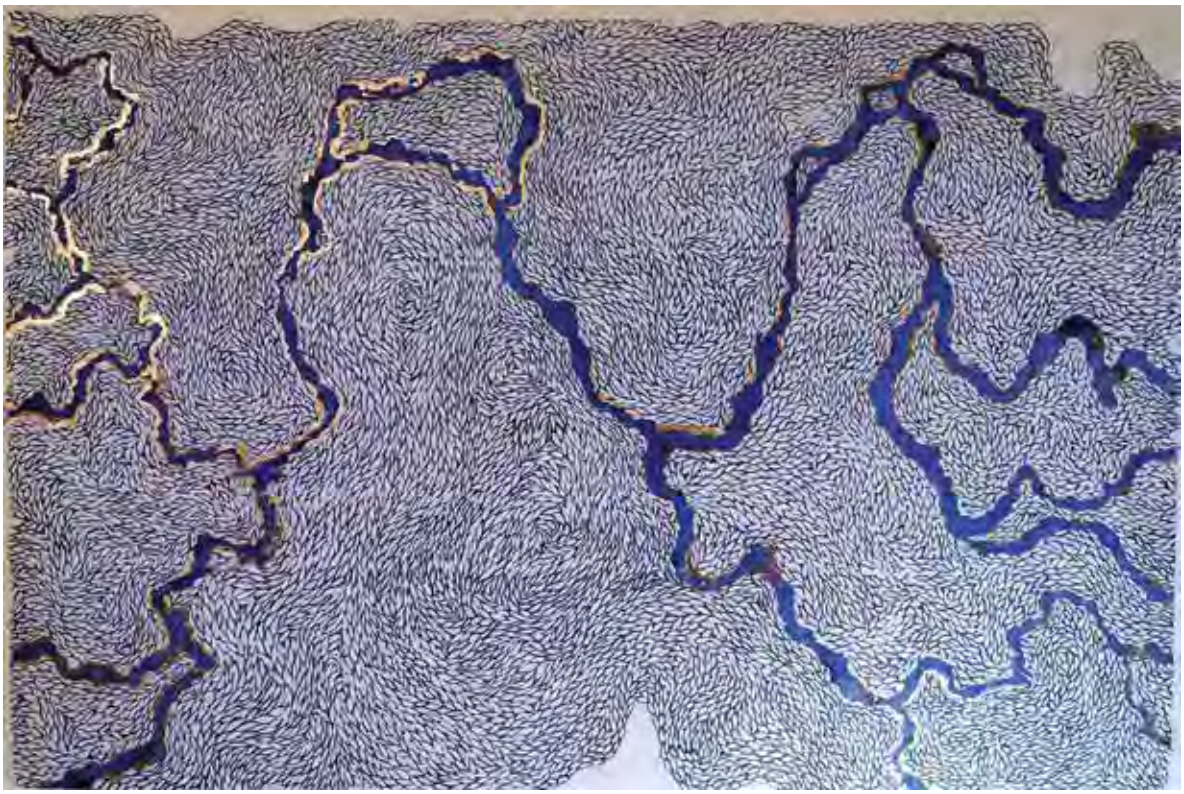
Photograph
25 x 25 inches

Nykoli Koslow

Milwaukee

Åtum gets help from the Uni

Oil on wood panel
24 x 24 inches

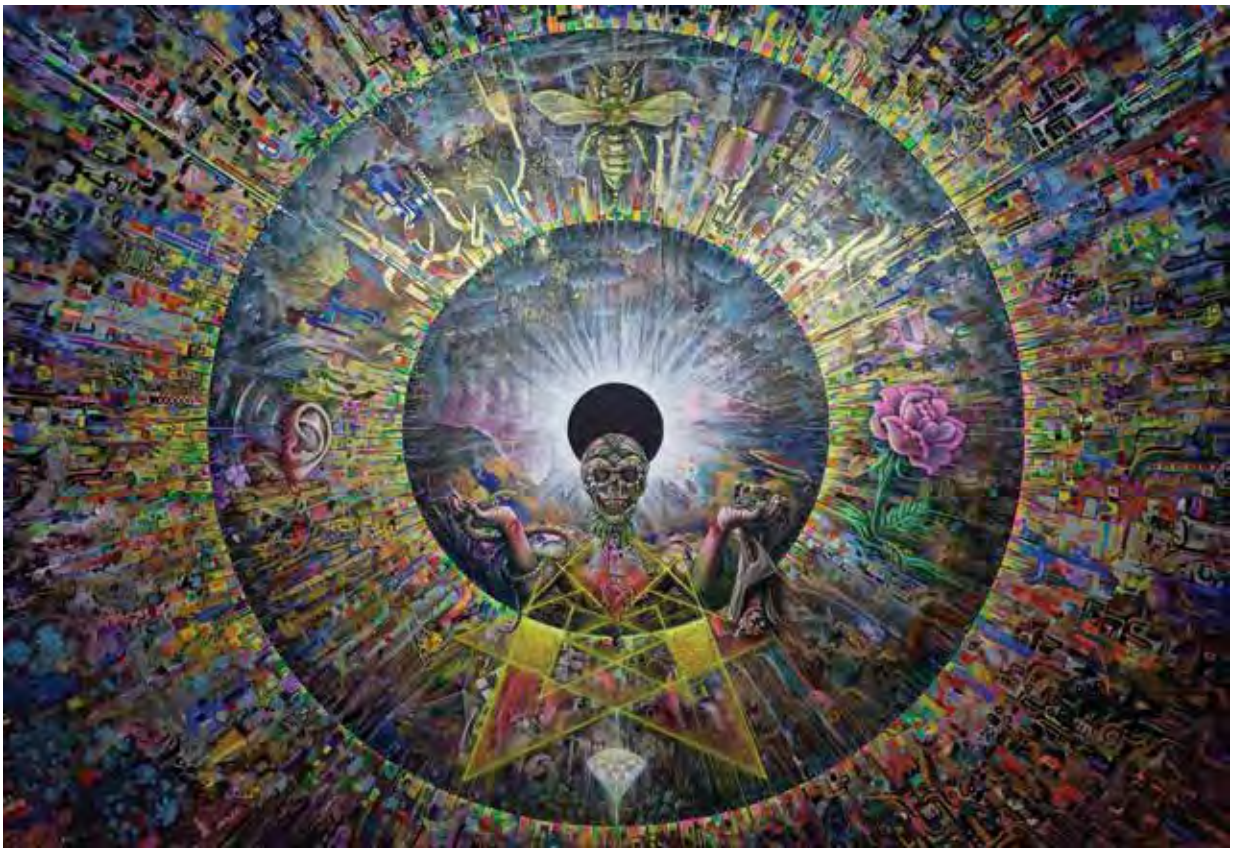


Sarah Kreuter

Sobieski

Copper Delta

Woodcut print, variable edition
34.5 x 36 inches



Andrew Linskens

Green Bay

Path of Totality

Acrylic on canvas
51 x 72 inches

Cheryl Mahowald

Newton

Choices

Paper, string and mixed media
6.5 x 10 x 6 inches

Abigail Marquardt

Green Bay

Funnel Weaver

Crochet fiber, metal, and poly fill
40 x 40 x 6 inches

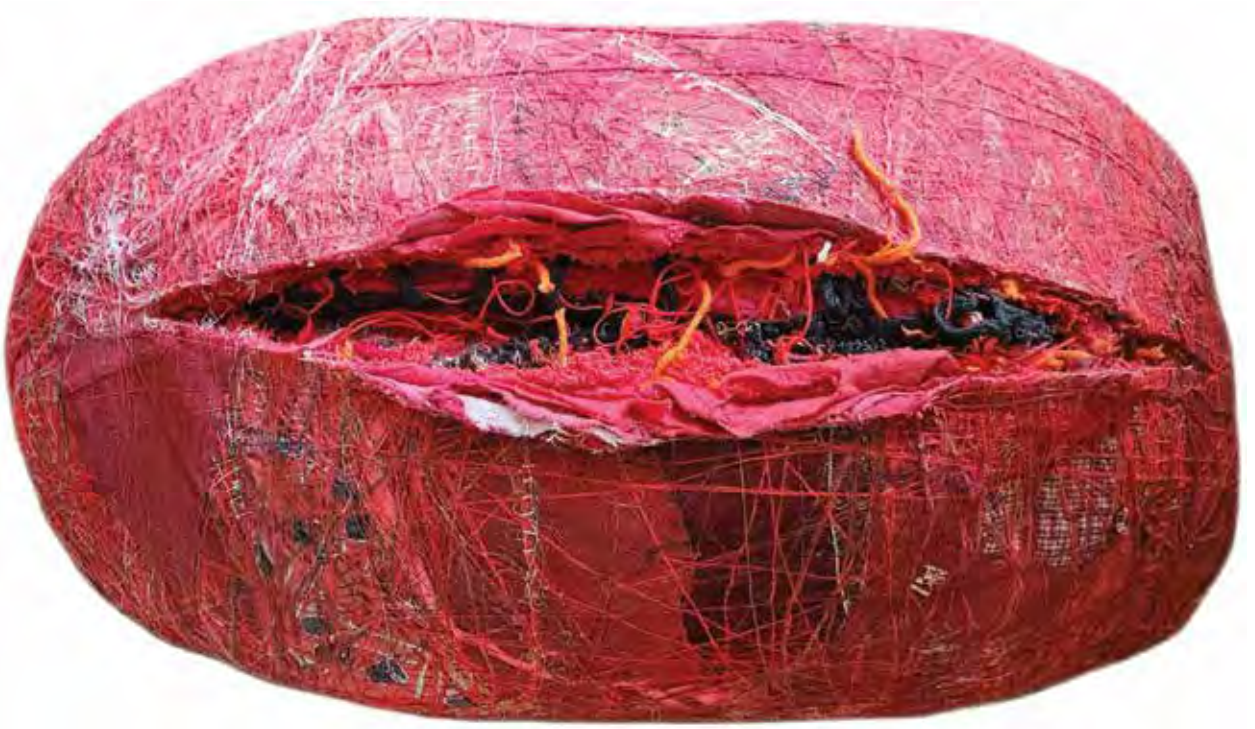
Bethann Moran Handzlik

Fort Atkinson

***Bay Beach, February* (plein air & memory)**

Oil on linen

62 x 80 inches



Nina Moyer

Blanchardville

Ova Ursa

Discarded textiles, (twenty-nine pounds) and water-based glue
28 x 16 x 16 inches

Catherine Nelson

De Pere

Murmurs

Oil on wood
14 x 18 inches

Janet Nelson

Cambridge

Through the Looking Tree

Acrylic on canvas
36 x 36 inches

William L Nettelhorst

Fond du Lac

Wisconsin Prairie Bison

Prairie flowers, grasses, willow, and wood
77 X 102 x 48 inches

Dennis Ninmer

New Holstein

Kayak Exploration

Digital photograph
16 x 34 inches

Kelly Jean Ohl

Sun Prairie

Biophilia III

Ceramic

68 x 68 x 3 inches

Janet Roberts

Brookfield

Old Wounds

Oil and collage on canvas
36 x 36 inches

Katherine Rosing

Madison

Entanglements

Crushed voile, sisal, glass vessels, locally sourced water, and painted lace

120 x 120 x 120 inches

Hugo Saavedra

Pleasant Prairie

Morning Flight

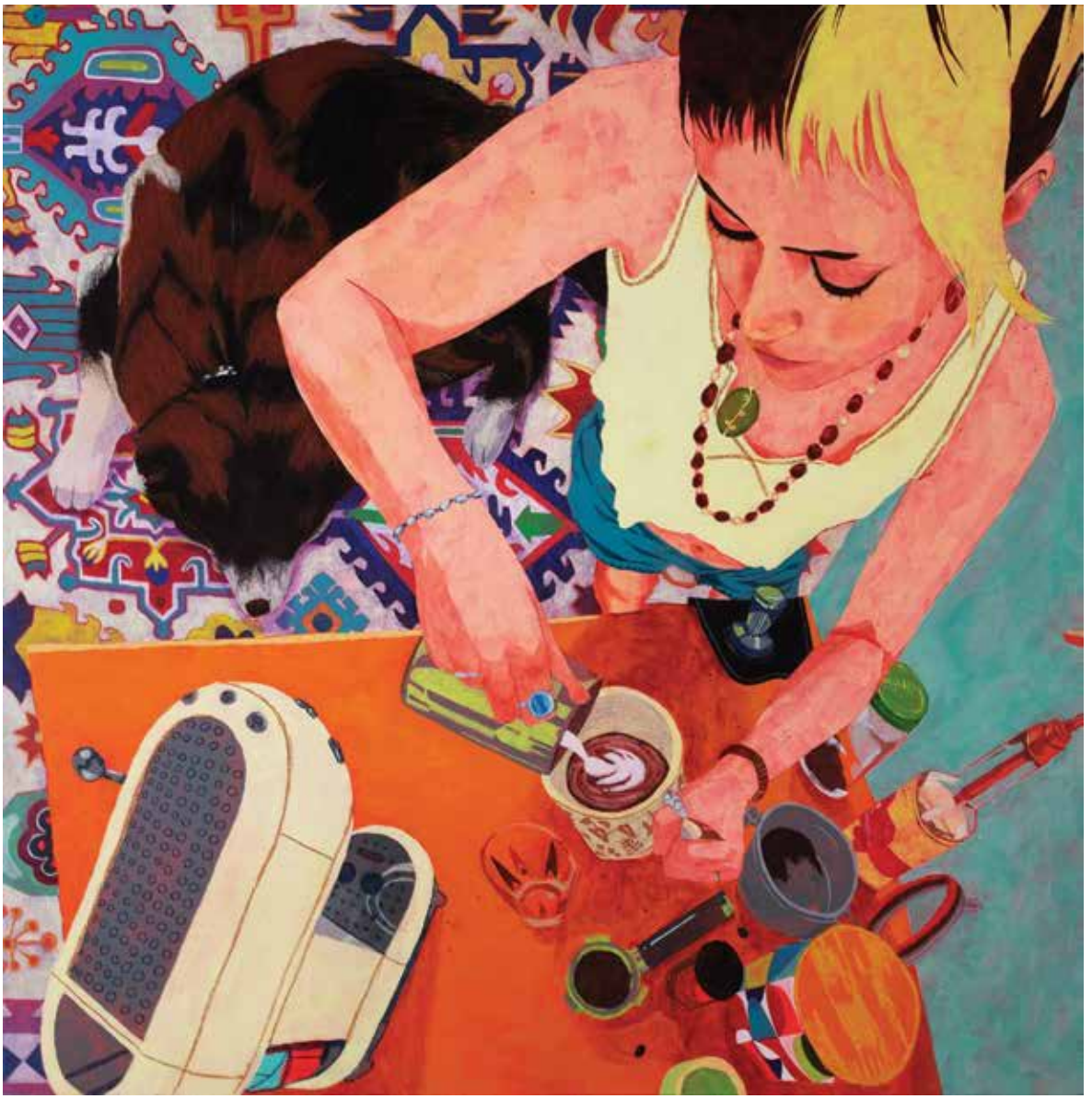
Wood (mahogany and wenge)
65 x 50.75 x 17 inches

Rafael Salas

Ripon

Summer's End

Oil on canvas
30 x 30 inches



Beth Schueffner

Neenah

DOUBLE SHOT!

Acrylic, colored pencil, and graphite on wood panel.
18 x 18 inches

Andrea Skyberg

Wauwatosa

What We Carry: Resilience, Resistance, Survival

Dried flowers, grasses, dirt, and plastic
26 x 30 x 16 inches

Kara Slamka

Madison

F(Vase) in Salmon

Ceramic
9 x 4 x 3.5 inches

Sally Sorenson

Green Bay

The Rushmore Room

Etching
7 x 5 inches

Carissa Sosnowski

Appleton

Inevitable

Digital collage
20 x 20 inches

Kira Straub

MilwaukeeI

Fold Series (I-IV)

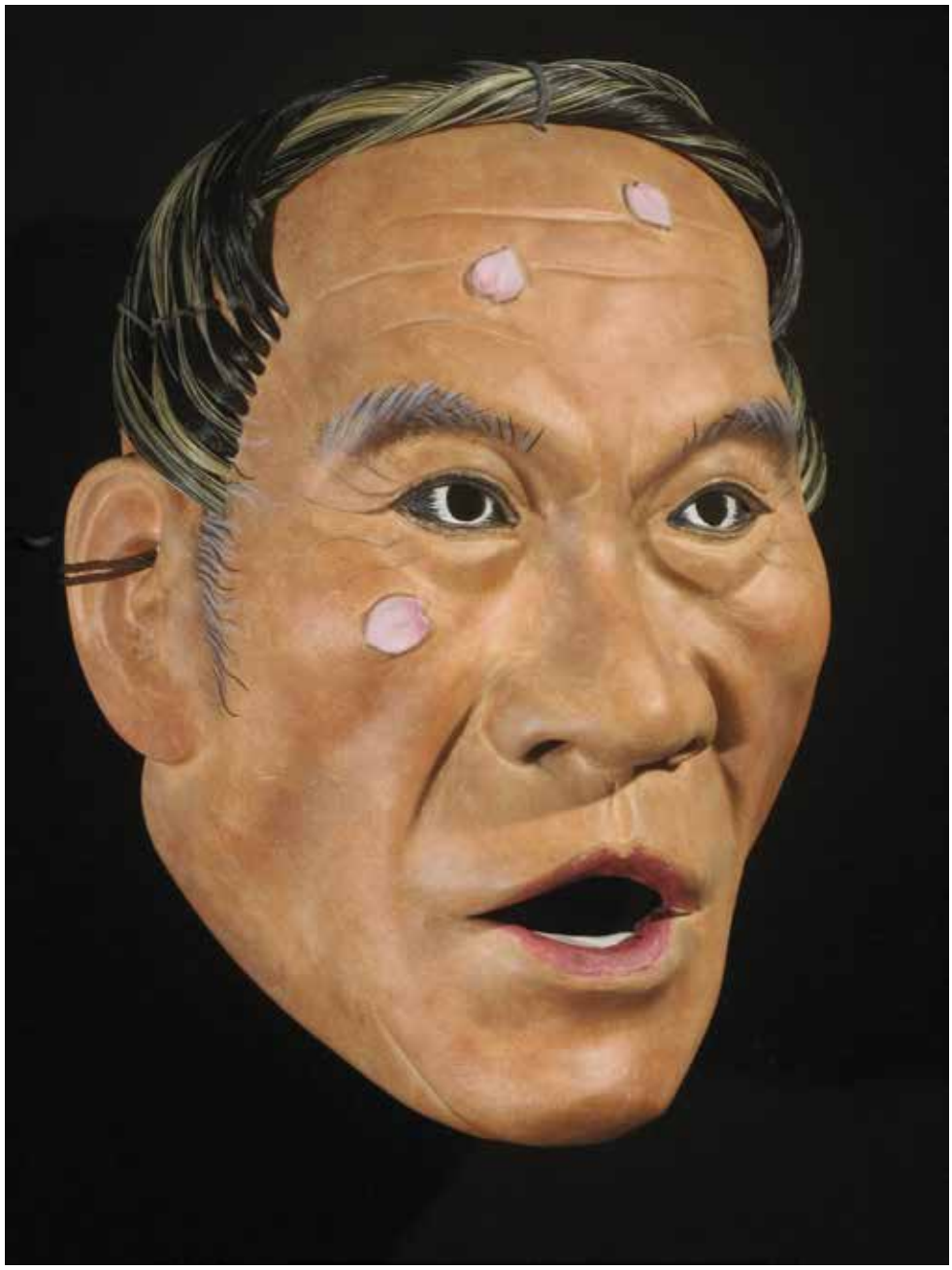
Woodfired stoneware
10 x 10 x 30 inches

Aldis Strazdins

Wilton

Hidden Oasis 5

Wet plate collodion glass ambrotype with found object
20 x 24 inches



Hideki Suzuki

Madison

Sakura has fallen

Wood, watercolor, and horse hair
9 x 8 x 4 inches

Roberto Torres Mata

Madison

The Path That Leads Us

Screenprint and lithograph
32 x 40 inches

Jennifer Urbanek

Milwaukee

Self-Portrait

Embroidery on canvas
9.5 x 9.5 inches

Sarah Vandersee

Oshkosh

Fish Grippers

Charcoal on paper
36.25 x 28.25 inches

Sarah Vandersee

Oshkosh

Three Chicken Moon

Charcoal on paper
36.25 x 28.25 inches

Terri Warpinski

De Pere

From the series *Land/Trust: Field Study for Recovery*

Archival pigment wall adhesive print on fabric with archival pigment prints
84 x 72 inches

WISCONSIN
ARTISTS
BIENNIAL | 2024

MOWA
MUSEUM OF WISCONSIN ART

WISCONSIN
Visual Artists