



southeast chapter
wisconsin visual artists
presents

COMING TOGETHER

april 19 – june 1, 2025



Cover Photo: Gary Gresl, *A Cabin Mystic*, assemblage

*Wisconsin Visual Artists is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership-based organization of visual artists working in all media and styles. All visual artists living in Wisconsin may become WVA members. Full history, information, and benefits are listed online at **www.wisconsinvisualartists.org***

COMING TOGETHER

Coming together may be actual disparate materials coming together to make a new whole as an assemblage or collage or separate, unique images coming together in a digital work. This show is about coming together of different materials, media, ideas and images in 2D and 3D work.

Definitions:

Assemblage: A work of art created by assembling materials and objects, often including manufactured articles such as nails, utensils, machine parts, etc.

Collage: An artistic composition consisting of or including flat materials, such as newspaper, photographs, cloth, etc., pasted on a picture surface.

JUDGE

We had the honor to have Patrick Robinson as our judge for this show. He is an artist and owner of Two Fish Gallery in Elkhart Lake, WI. He attended Arrowmount Arts and Crafts School in Tennessee and earned an MFA from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

COMING TOGETHER

Awards

1st Place

A Most Curious Flight

Karen Goetzinger

2nd Place

The Wisdom of My Failures

Laurie Runnoe

3rd Place

Cosmic Chaos

Patricia Algiers

Honorable Mention

Spiraled Grasslands

Marian Vieux

A Porthole on Future Seas

Lindsay Schwarz

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Ann Baer/Milwaukee
Barbara Budish/Milwaukee
Cherie Burbach/Oostburg
Cindy Hansen/Grafton
Courtney Andrews/Nashotah
Danny Buchholz/Franklin
Dara Chappie/Hales Corners
Debbie Callahan/Wauwatosa
Deborah Brooks/Milwaukee
Diane Zeni/Whitefish Bay
Gail Willert/Burlington
Gary Gresl/Brookfield
Gary Warren Niebuhr/Milwaukee
Guntis Lauzums/Belgium
Gwen Granzow/Oak Creek
Jack Long/Grafton
Jean Sobon/Shorewood
Jeanne Panka/Waukesha
John Kowalczyk/Milwaukee
Karen Goetzinger/Mequon
Kathaleen A Kerner/Burlington
Kristine Hinrichs/Milwaukee

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Laurie Runnoe/Brookfield
Leah Robertson/Muskego
Lee Grantham/Greenfield
Lindsay Schwarz/Bayside
Marcia Hero/Milwaukee
Marian Vieux/Bayside
Marilyn Horst/Hartland
Michael Gehrke/Oak Creek
Nick Schroeder/Milwaukee
Patricia Algiers/Fox Point
Patrick Doughman/Cedarburg
Patti Belbin/Milwaukee
Resa Dries/Milwaukee
Rich Stewart /Whitefish Bay
Seonjoo So/Shorewood
Shelly Rosenquist/South Milwaukee
Skip Goetzinger/Mequon
Susan Fiebig/Franklin
Susan Farmer-Tiefenthaler/Delafield
Tanya Steele/Wauwatosa
Ted Injasulian/Racine
Tori Tasch/Hartland



Ann Baer

Milwaukee

Ridiculousness

wood scraps & acrylic paint

23" x 14" x 11"

\$500

This is probably the most spontaneous artwork I have ever created. I was dog sitting and scrounged through a bin in my son-in-law's workshop. He had recently made wooden bears for the family and I spotted the leftover wood scraps.

This crazy piece happened and it happened very quickly. Usually I have some meaning behind my work that reflects my values, interests, history, and beliefs. This is purely the work of an artist at play.





Barbara Budish

Milwaukee

Wrest

acrylic, paper, photography, found natural items

31" x 12"

\$700

My passion for creative expression through art has always been a part of me since childhood. My visual creations express my personal vision and evoke the emotional experience of the moment, such as this assemblage called "Wrest." It conveys a message that makes one think or sparks curiosity, and inspiration.

Wrest:

The threatening ways we treat our Mother Earth may present us with further challenges. Perhaps it may wrestle with us, strip us to our nakedness, like we will have done.





Cherie Burbach

Oostburg

Remember

mixed media assemblage

12" x 6"

\$85

I wanted to convey a sense of home, using an old boxspring and a found piece of lace, evoking the feeling of going back to a place where you can lay down your heart at night and feel safe. She sculpted the clay heart, stitched beads on the heart, and embedded the words "love you" as a reminder that when we are truly home, we never need to doubt that we are loved.

The combination of materials culminates in a reminder to always "remember" that you are valued.





Cindy Hansen

Grafton

My Mother's Love

digital collage

13" x 13"

NFS

Photography is the most powerful way I know to let my soul be heard.

My mother passed away in the summer of 2014, but I have the gifts she gave me from the moment I was born, in the form of poems she read and songs she sang while rocking me.

She shared her humor and her creativity, encouraging me to find these wonderful releases inside myself.

She taught me about the beauty of the garden, as her mother taught her. From dandelions to roses, her love has come together in this tribute.





Courtney Andrews

Nashotah

Experience the Hot Now

mixed media collage

12" x 12"

\$225

My work is a collective of abstract thoughts that stem from a main subject. I usually address issues of the environment and sometimes sensitive topics.





Danny Buchholz

Franklin

1 City

mixed

6" x 12" x 3"

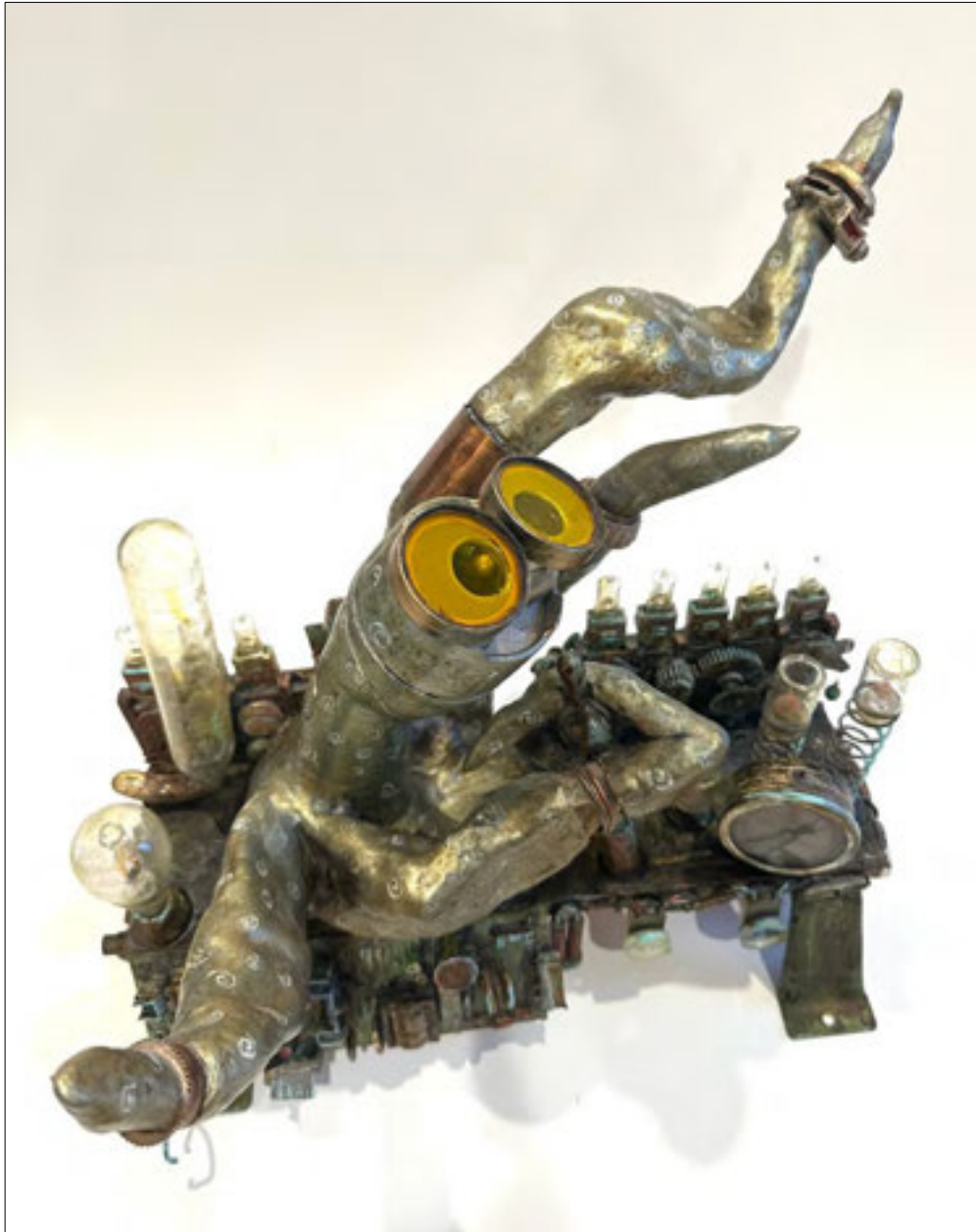
\$125

In my work, I explore the dynamic center of urban life. I create cityscapes composed of cut and painted wood where each item stands alone yet contribute to the whole.

My intention is for the viewer to engage with the piece by adjusting or moving the elements to align with their own vision or, choosing to leave it untouched.

This interactive element emphasizes the collective beauty of cities and celebrates the diverse ways people come together in urban spaces..





Dara Chappie

Hales Corner

Dr. Octo

assemblage

15" x 19" x 17"

\$300

Dr. Octo is an assemblage piece that I made from a tool stand, flashlight, various machine parts and other found objects including epoxy clay and acrylic paint.

I have brought these materials together to create an imaginary scientist creature so you could create the rest of his story.

Without these various parts coming together, a creature like this would have to exist only in your imagination and not be a treat for your eyes. . .and what a disappointment that would be!





Debbie Callahan

Wauwatosa

Vase of Yellow Flowers

acrylic with mixed media, pencils, crayons paper

12" x 12"

\$275

I am an abstract and semi-abstract artist who works primarily in acrylic paint on canvas board, with added mixed media elements, such as crayon and pencil, old lace and torn magazine papers, all of which are useful in building a more textured and interesting surface on which to paint .

I find it satisfying to bring together these bits and pieces of random material and combine them into a cohesive painting.





Deborah Brooks

Milwaukee

Blown Away

acrylic, collage, arches 400lb watercolor paper
22" x 31"
\$400

Blown Away brings together my emotions, ideas, and concerns about current world events.

Like a swirling storm, this mixed media collage combines fragments of my world: studio chair, leaves, flowers, and memories of travel. Developed over months, each layer reflects moments of instability while seeking beauty in color, shape, and texture.

The piece embodies Coming Together by merging materials and meaning, balancing chaos and harmony in a shifting world.





Diane Zeni

Whitefish Bay

The Disappearance of Birdsong

assemblage, found objects

34" x 22" x 6"

\$450

I wrote an erasure poem (a kind of collage in itself) using Barbara Burn's book, "North American Birds" as my source. This assemblage, "The Disappearance of Birdsong", was created using the words of my poem, found elements from nature and a sky-colored scarf discovered in the depths of my closet.

As I was constructing this piece, I felt a real connection with the avian nest-builders of the world who are so often busy finding and gathering material to make something new.





Gail M. Willert

Burlington

Ancient Scribe/Future Scribe

assemblage, found objects

34" x 22" x 6"

\$450

One of the joys of collage and assemblage is the opportunity to bring together ideas and elements from disparate times and places.

In this diptych I'm juxtaposing images of past and future, realism and fantasy, 2D and 3D. I'm imagining images of scribes- those important people who record our lives, stories and myths and thus write our history from the past and into the future.





Gary Gresl

Brookfield

A Cabin Mystic

assemblage

36" x 34" x 6"

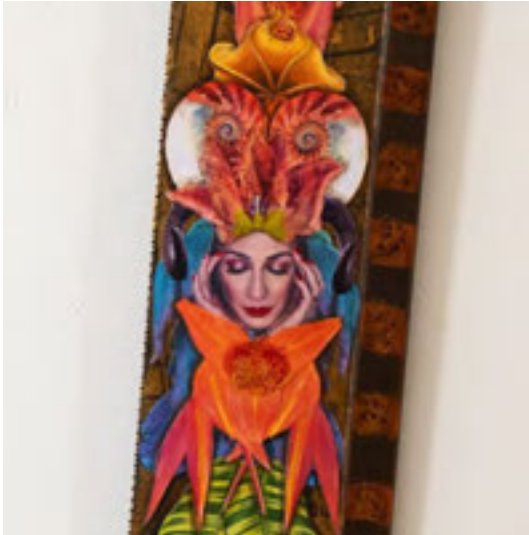
NFS

It has been over 43 years since I first assembled a sculpture, not including in my Art 101 class back in 1963.

Objects in my work "come together" and dance with each other, balancing their moves by shape, color, texture, suggested meanings. Like so many others I feel the experiences of youth and my associations with Nature, the streams, lakes, woodlands...and my family's roots as farmers.

I choose to create large pieces knowing they will require extra care and also a lack of willing buyers.





Gary Warren Niebuhr

Milwaukee

I Speak in the Language of Sharp

found object, mixed media assemblage

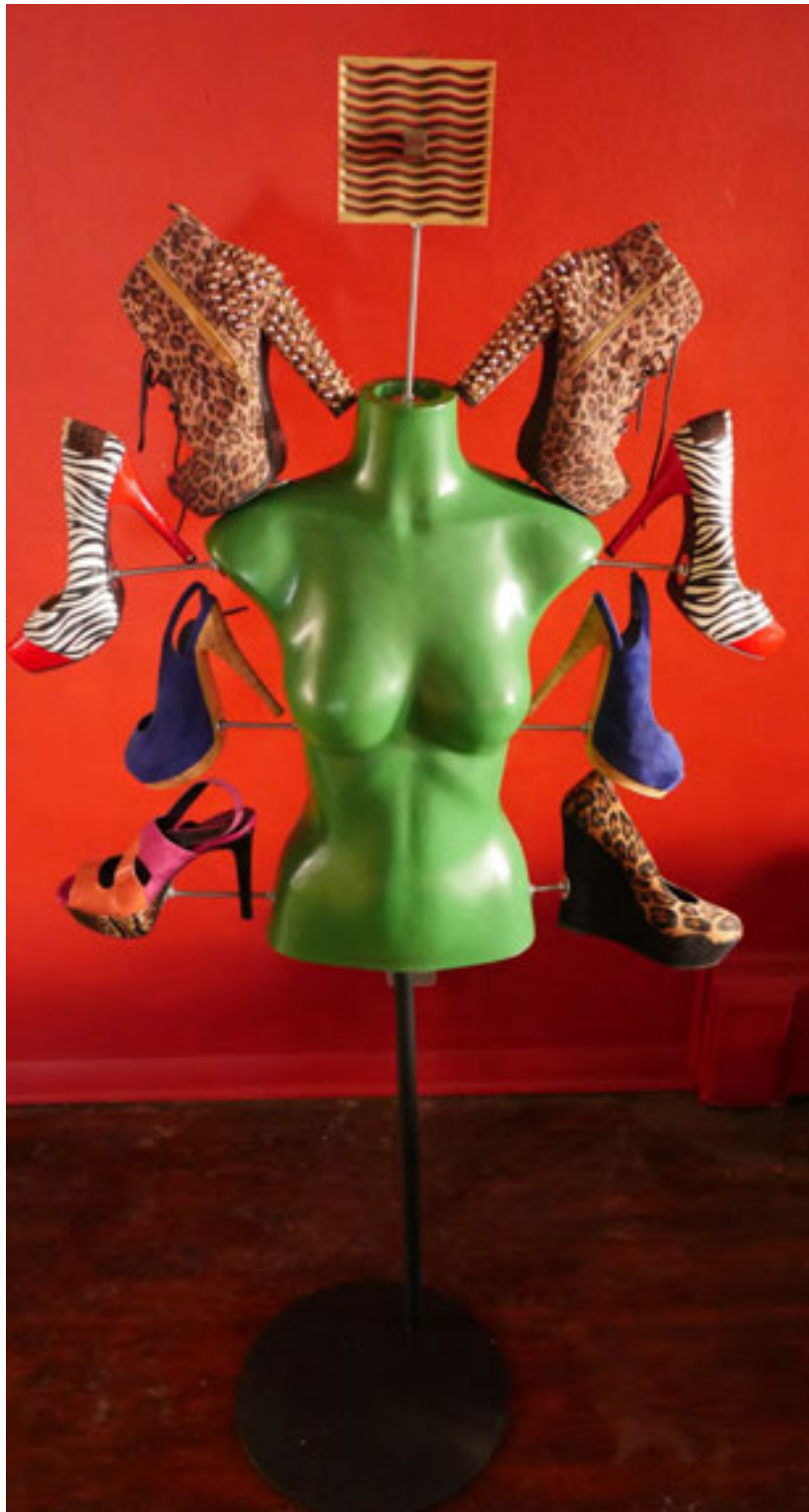
29" x 7" x 1"

\$150

I consider myself a found object, mixed media, collage and assemblage artist. My objective in making art is to take objects and images, repurpose them in harmony with a theme, and construct a work that is entertaining and delivers a message. I like to use irony, satire and humor to make my points.

I like to tell a story. I am a lifelong reader and an occasional book maker. I love photography. I believe that the one common link between assemblage, reading, book making and photography is story.





Guntis Lauzums

Belgium

Goddess of Shoes

assemblage

60" x 31" x 12"

\$1,250

My work here explores the color and complexity of styles of women's shoes. As styles change the shoes end up in thrift stores across the land.

This assemblage brings together these found objects in a display that celebrates woman's shoes.





Gwen Granzow

Oak Creek

Through the Porthole

acrylic, paper, wood, and steel

33" x 17"

\$1,200

I have spent decades refining my sense of color, texture, and composition. I've explored printmaking, collage, fused glass, textiles, metal sculpture and furniture making.

I am driven to attempt nearly anything creative, and love to combine materials. I unite the influences from my many experiments and professional experience as a graphic designer to create unique and varied works.

I am currently focusing on acrylics, mixed media, and metals.





Jack Long

Grafton

Helix Proto-Art

kinetic sculpture

20" x 12" x 12"

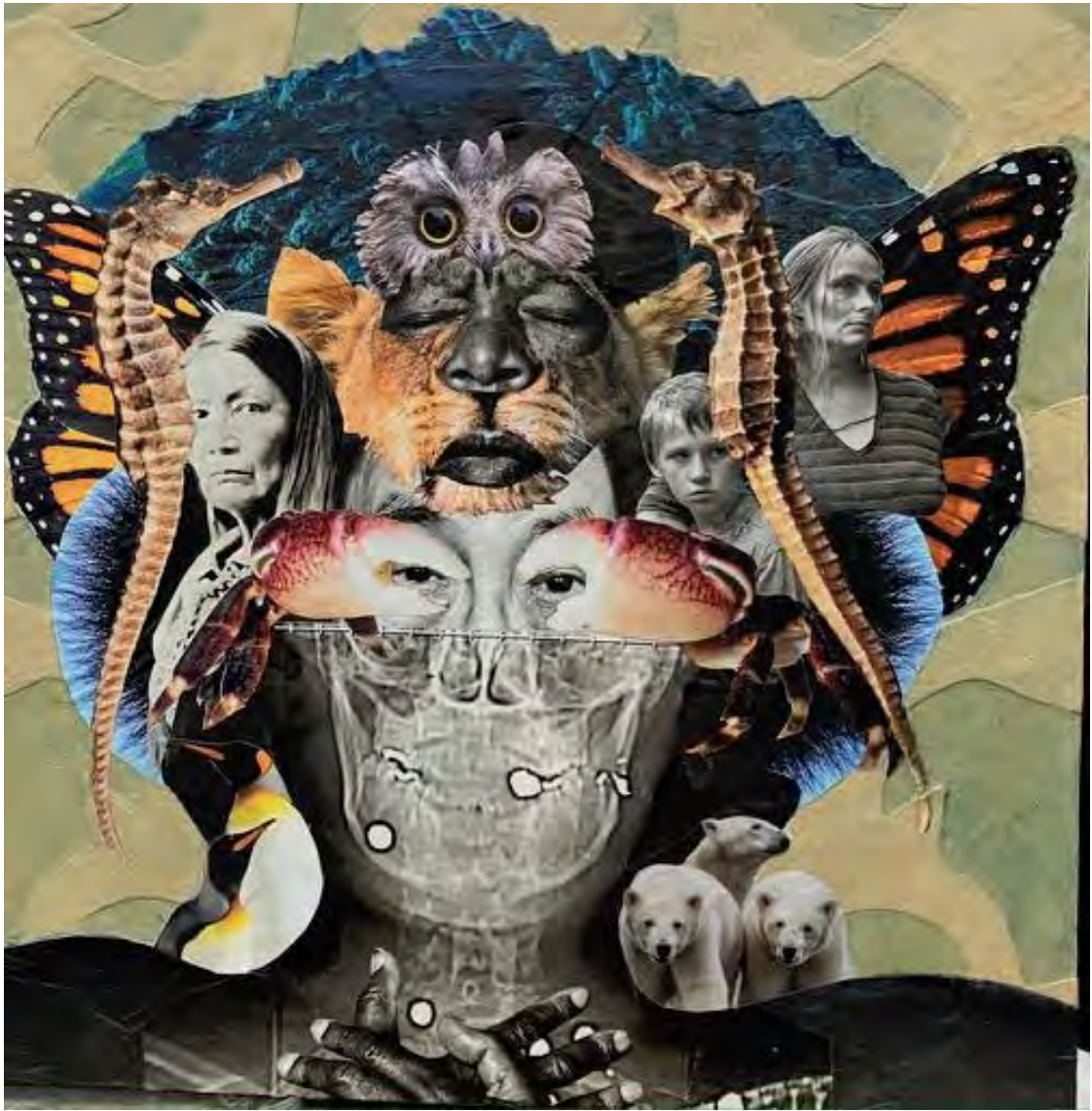
\$350

While I have been primarily a photographer for most of my career, changing times have caused me to explore the artistic world of the 3rd dimension.

Specifically, through the added knowledge of 3D Cad and Additive Manufacturing. Not wanting to miss an opportunity to create something unique and intriguing, I submit Helix ProtoArt.

(To my photo pepes, IYKYK)





Jean Sobon

Shorewood

Survivors

collage on cradle board

12" x 12"

\$350

Look down from the deep-water headdress of coral, through eyes-avian and human-in meditation or gazing at us directly, to the hands folded on the bullet-riddled throat and face of a man shot 7 times, to all the surrounding creatures forming a living framework - and you'll see survivors with a message.

I've chosen these living species for my collage. They form a composite portrait of the beauty and interdependence of all of Earth's life, with humans, myself included, as caretakers.





Jeanne Panka

Waukesha

Complexity

mixed media collage

22" x 22"

\$375

Just as different media layer together to create this image, nothing in Nature stands alone.

The soil , water, plants, animals, insects, fungi, and even the moon interweaves together to make the whole, our world.





John Kowalczyk

Milwaukee

Epona and Her Horses

watercolor, acrylic, spray paint, ceramic, wood
20" x 16" x 5"

\$475

"Epona and Her Horses" is an assemblage honoring the Celtic Goddess Epona. Epona is the patron goddess of horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys and can represent fertility and abundance.

I used a combination of altered and painted found objects, ceramic tiles, and a collage to create a dynamic wall relief sculpture.

I love how separate elements can come together to become more than the sum of their parts and exude a sacred nature.





Karen Goetzinger

Mequon

A Most Curious Flight

wooden chair, plexiglass, paper, found objects

27.5" x 15" x 14"

\$750

I can remember as a child being told to stop daydreaming.

Why is it daydreaming is so often thought of as being unproductive? Oh, the places we can go when we allow our minds to wonder, to wander, and to soar. Unmapped contemplation becomes the fertile ground for gathering together the seemingly disparate seeds of inspiration and creativity.

Our mindful wanderings are limited then only by where we curiously want to go.

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Kathaleen A Kerner

Burlington

Man's Search for Money

ceramic

12" x 12" x 12"

\$910

The Jewish survivor of WWII camps was renowned psychiatrist and philosopher, Victor Frankl. His book, ***Mans Search for Meaning***, was my inspiration for this art.

Mans Search for Money gives a cynical twist: my warning to our society's attitude towards "easy & quick" money such as bitcoin.

The ceramic stack-totem includes symbols of bitcoin, money, and working hands to earn money. The desire for wealth, recognition, and purpose exits in everyman..





Kristine Hinrichs

Milwaukee

Museum Shadows

photograph printed on silk, hung on a clear bracket

36" x 18" x 6"

\$550

My work is about re-imagining the urban landscape – shadows, reflections, photos through windows, or all 3 in one image. I want the viewer to wonder what it is that they are looking at. I find it interesting to marry digital photography with silk, an ancient material, to create a moving 3-D piece.

This piece was based upon an image of the Milwaukee Art Museum shot from outside at night, featuring the 'Iceberg' sculpture there in January 2024. Can you distinguish between the shadows and sculpture?

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Laurie Runnoe

Brookfield

The Wisdom of My Failures

mixed media on gallery wrapped canvas

32" x 24"

\$625

The Wisdom of My Failures is a representation of my art journey.

As I was looking through my collection of failed paintings, I realized how much I have learned from each one. I decided to repurpose my old watercolors into a collage and I was surprised at the emotions that I felt as I cut up and destroyed my art. I wrote the emotions and thoughts down and incorporated them into the collage. The owl represents wisdom and the scraps of paintings are my failures.

Music surrounds me as I create.





Leah Robinson

Muskego

800-472-1214

collage ephemera papers, watercolor, pencil

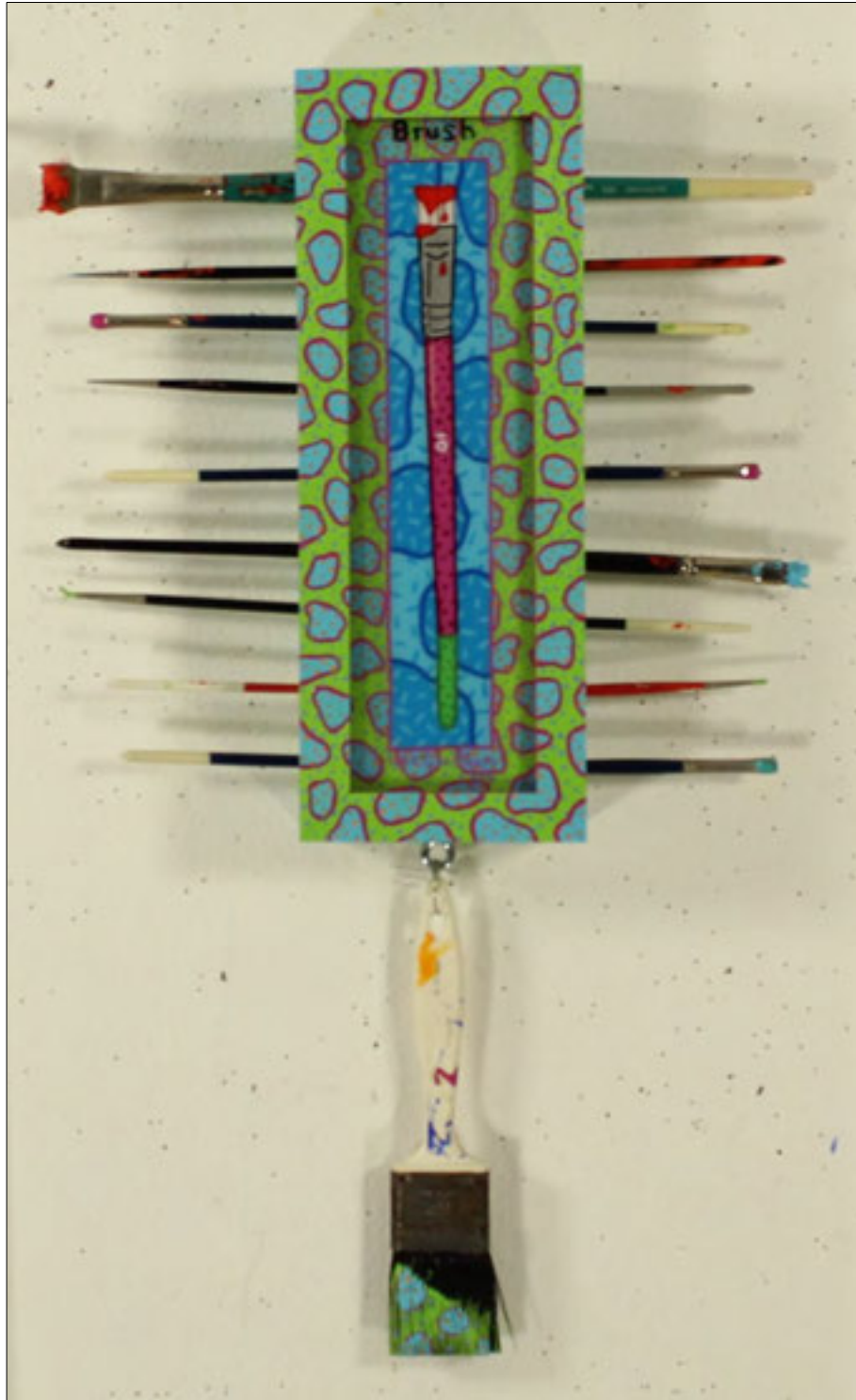
13" x 10"

NFS

Disparity can often be jarring, chaotic, or off-putting for me initially. It requires me to be more observed, considered, and patient.

This pause helps me to reconsider the whole with a different lens, and I'm able to see things come together. Often, giving way to a rewarding sense of newness, a new whole, and if lucky a different kind of beauty.





Lee Grantham

Greenfield

Brush

acrylic on plexiglass with found objects

20" x 12" x 2.5"

\$400

I have been doing reverse painting on plexiglass for over forty years.

I often add object to the frame and to the glass. This painting the objects fit the theme of the painting.

Assemblage is something I plan to do more of.





Lindsay Schwarz

Bayside

A Porthole on Future Seas

paper collage

16" x 16" x 3"

\$700

I create collages by using a variety of decorative, marbled, cyanotype or printed papers.

A Porthole on Future Seas it is a paper collage. I have used the various papers as one might create a mosaic. Each piece is custom cut as to color and shape. I have allowed a slim white border around each piece. The "porthole" itself is actually a painted quilting hoop.

I chose to create a statement about climate change, as seas everywhere begin to rise.





Marcia Hero

Milwaukee

Seamus Hardware

assemblage

14" x 12" x 3"

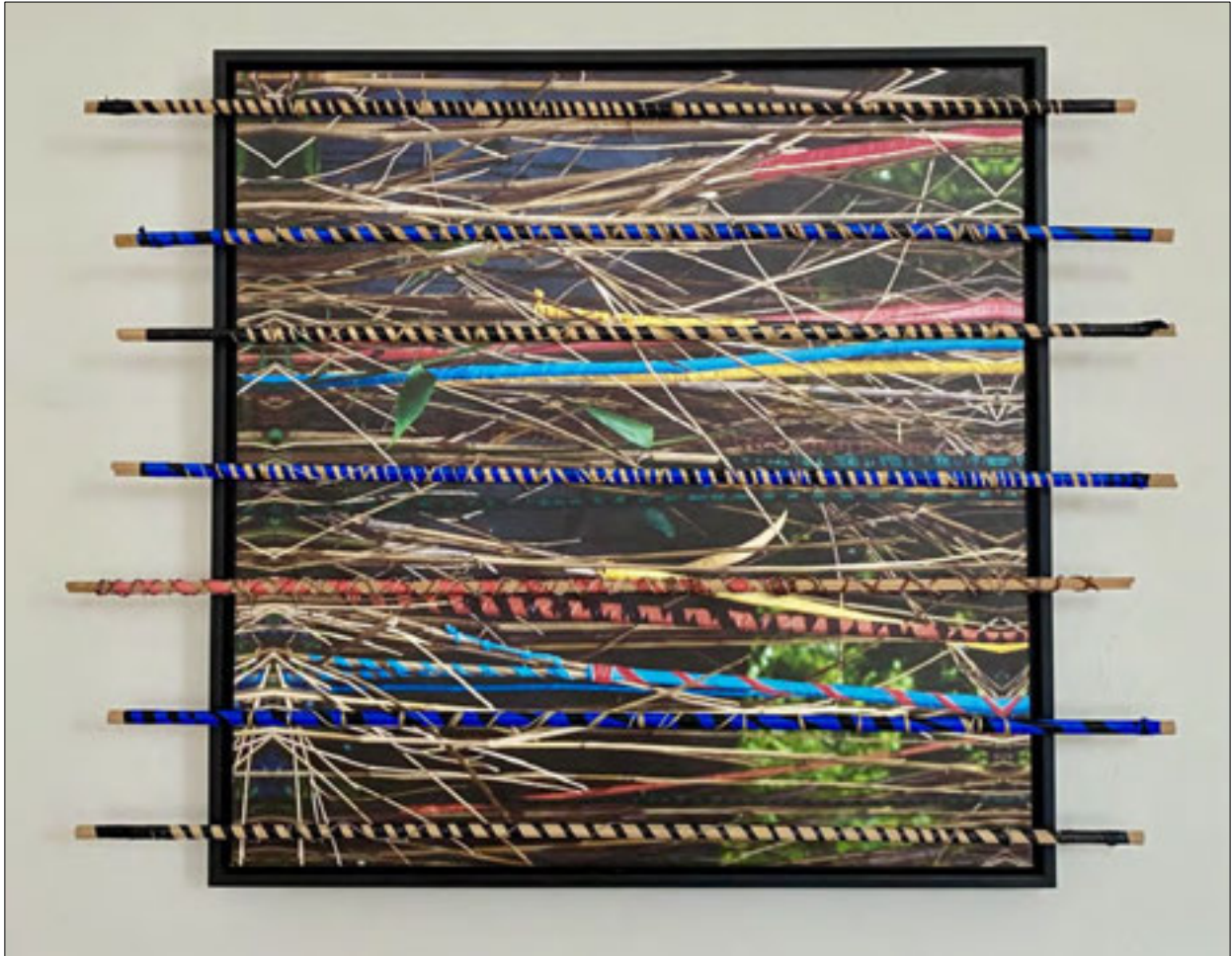
\$185

Some of my early childhood days spent visiting an old farm near Coleman, WI gave me an appreciation for all things aged and antique.

As an adult, I began to collect rusty odds and ends, knowing that the artist in me would eventually find a way to repurpose them.

Seamus Hardware is just one of my assemblages inspired by collecting rusty junk. Seamus is a fictional man who immigrated from Ireland, settled in Coleman, and opened up a hardware store, fulfilling a lifelong dream.





Marian Vieux

Bayside

Spiral Grasslands

mixed media & digital assemblage

21" x 28" x 2"

\$1,250

Spiraled Grasslands celebrates interconnectedness in our shared world.

As a multimedia artist, I blend human-made and natural materials, inspired by nature's patterns and the forces that unify elements. This piece fuses past and present – spiraled reeds stitched onto a digital print of my earlier installation—creating a rhythmic, time-centered work.

It reflects the complexity of human connections and invites dialogue on how we shape and are shaped by nature.





Marilyn Horst

Hartland

A Gathering in the Grove

collage/watercolor

21" x 28" x 2"

\$525

Inspired by the theme, **Coming Together**, I invite all viewers to gather in the Grove.

This watercolor collage is a mosaic, of sort, which entices one to expose intrinsic emotions fearlessly and unabridged. In this place of refuge, we "listen, but do not judge."

All living creatures are welcome to assemble here. Bring your friends, loved ones, strangers you find along the way. I'll save a space for you.





Michael Gehrke

Oak Creek

Asiento De Los Muertos Para Frida *(Seat of the Dead for Frida)*

chair, bones, letters, roses, paint, ink

33" x 18" x 25"

NFS

This journey began when I noticed that the back of this chair sort of resembled a pumpkin and I thought I might cut a jack-o-lantern face into the back.

This evolved into a Day of the Dead theme after I saw several beautiful DoD masks in a restaurant. It further evolved into a Frida Kahlo tribute. I collected bones all over including a trip to Rockford for the shin bones.

The final addition was Frida's backbone; something that connects Frida and me. She had a messed up back and so do I.





Nick Schroeder

Milwaukee

Letter to Josef Albers

RE: Shard Picture

stoneware, glazes, wine and beer bottles

16" x 11" x 2"

NFS

This piece is part of my "Letter to . . ." series which is my reaction to an artist's life/work. Calling the piece a "letter" allows me to "quote" the artist's work and then add my own elements.

Early in his career at the Bauhaus Josef did pictures with found items such as the bottoms of wine bottles and wire. In my piece I have incorporated the bottoms of wine bottles, a beer bottle, stained glass and my own "writing" to respond to Albers' early work.





Patricia Algiers

Fox Point

Cosmic Chaos Too

watercolor, gouache, market, and ink collage

25" x 28"

\$700

We live in an uncertain, crazy-making time.

I created *Cosmic Chaos Too* to speak to what is happening, imagined to be happening, and may happen. Truth, fiction, fantasies, lies, and conspiracy theories circulate as we emotionally respond.

This collage layers what may be spinning in our heads or the heads of those around us - and says "it's all entertainment, so hang in there and enjoy the ride."





Patrick Doughman

Cedarburg

The Gift

watercolor paper on wood painter with acrylic

15" x 25"

\$425

We are all given a gift.

How will you use yours?

This painting is constructed with layers of watercolor paper and has an irregular edge thus not needing a frame to bound the image.





Patti Belbin

Milwaukee

Moonlit Garden

mixed media

36" x 24"

\$450

Sitting in my back yard, in the evening as the sun is setting and the moon is rising, is one of my great joys. Listening to the birds call and the insects buzz. Watching the blooms swaying in the breeze. Smelling the herbs and the flowers sweet scents.

It makes perfect sense to me to merge those things with my current obsession for collage/assemblage.

In the fading light, there's lots of circles. Roundness is abundant, in tissue paper, aluminum, alcohol inks and acrylics.





Resa Dries

Milwaukee

Koi Pond

assemblage

33" x 18.5" x 18.5"

\$400

Coming together has never been more important.

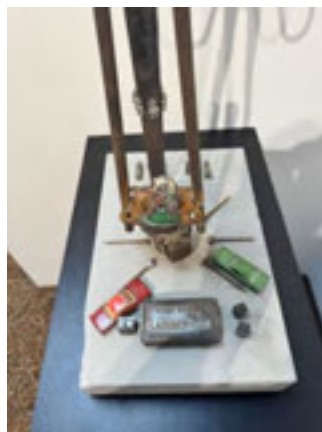
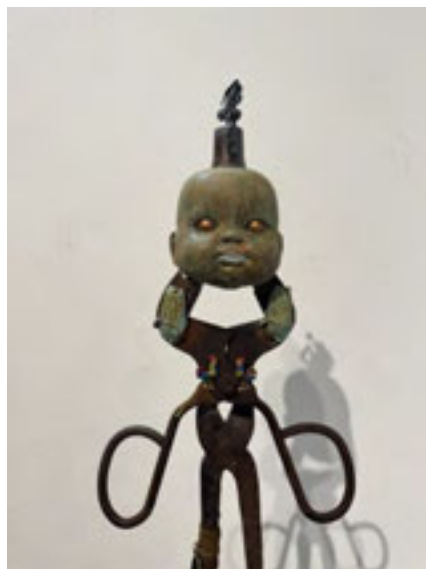
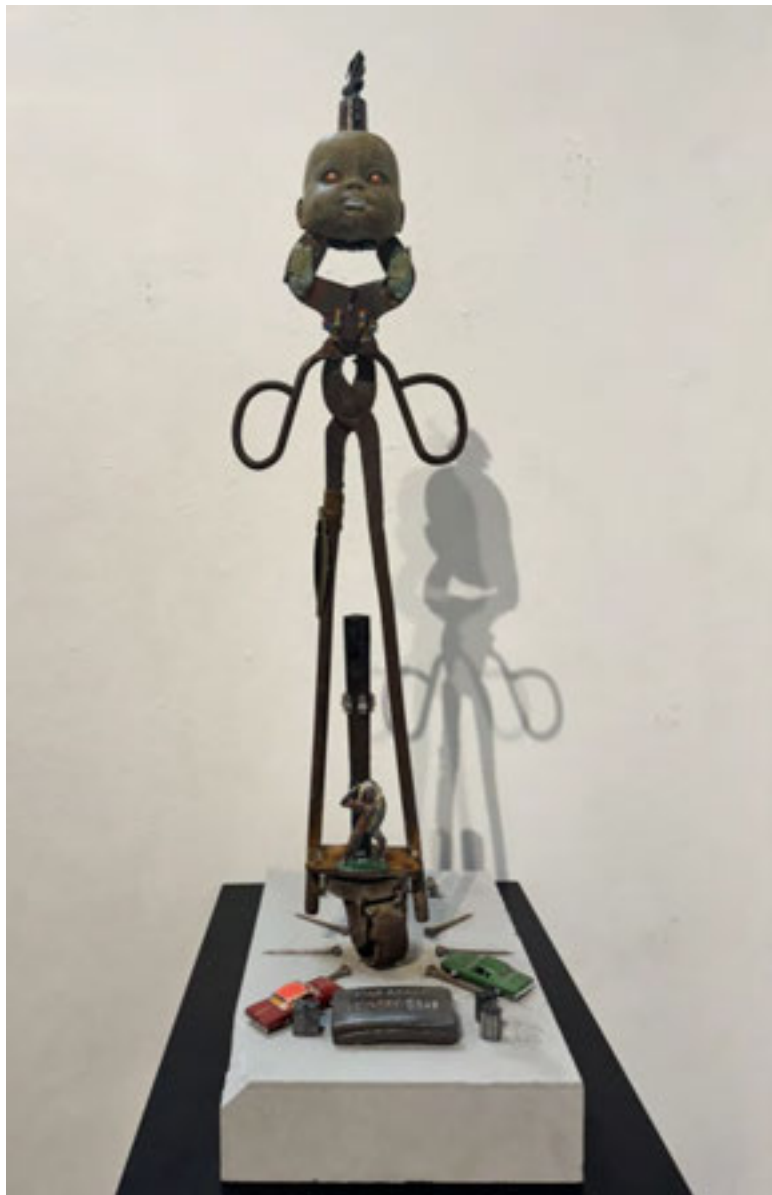
The world is in turmoil. Cultures are being lost and the environment is breaking down.

We need traditions alive through dance, art, language, food, and religion. My chairs show this diversity. Chairs represent comfort, hierarchy, culture, and religion.

We all can help the environment through recycling and reuse. Every item on my chair comes from the Goodwill store thus keeping things out of the landfills.

Unity is the answer.





Rich Stewart

Whitefish Bay

Ron

cast bronze, cast iron, found objects

35" x 10.5" x 16"

\$1,350

"Ron" (Carlson) created the UCSD Crafts Center as a refuge for students and alumni. Ron and the Crafts Center brought together a wide variety of people, skills, media and tools.

After many years away from "making" I became part of the Crafts Center. The experience made me whole.

This piece, in bringing together casting, glass, forged metal, printing, and composition serves to honor Ron and the community which he created.





Seonjoo So

Shorewood

A Peacock with 1000 pieces

1000 pieces of rectangular calendar papers & glues

15" x 21" x 8"

\$800

Since 1996, I have been working with papers using folding artworks.

I have felt almost like paper arts and crafts for about thirty years. Something looks silly and insignificant, but the process of making it or teaching it to young children leads me in the world of creativity.

At first folding a simple triangle and repeating more than 1000 times, the swan was organized by glue with shaping to a peacock.

During the folding and making the artwork, I felt a peace and concentration.





Shelly Rosenquist

South Milwaukee

Berries and Bloom

acrylics & fabrics, matte medium, wooden canvas

24" x 18"

\$295

I work in acrylics on handmade wooden canvases and have recently been experimenting with collage.

Ironically influenced by my background as a graphic designer, I tend to take much of my inspiration from nature and the organic. I believe that in our hectic human existence, we have strayed from what makes this world a beautiful place.

I like to use my work as a tool to remind people to look around them with fresh eyes. My goal is to take the ordinary and twist it into something unexpected.





Skip Goetzinger

Mequon

Last Judgement

wood, paper, found objects, lights

18.5" x 15" x 6"

\$850

Inspired by the work of American artist Joseph Cornell (1903–1972), I build self-contained environments meant to be enjoyed for the design—a mystery intended to be solved.

I collect and combine found objects to create small suspended moments. There are just some things that need to be preserved behind glass and archived for a time.

My wooden boxes use motors and lights to animate the interiors. Levers, knobs, and switches allow the viewer to access the curious inner world behind the glass.





Susan Farmer-Tiefenthaler

Delafield

Fisherman's Angel

watercolor, pen, photo, and newsprint transfer

12" x 15"

\$200

This piece began as a rejected watercolor that evolved through collage with a few twists and turns and playful drawing into a fishing themed, spirit filled mix.

It has no other purpose than to inspire a bit of a chuckle, just as it did while I was making it.





Susan Fiebig

Franklin

Memories of a Perfect Childhood

assemblage

12" x 14" x 14"

NFS

My assemblages are a reflection of my life and memories.

This assemblage illustrates my childhood memories: my love of wearing a cowgirl outfit, sitting in the tallest tree in our yard and daydreaming, and snuggling in a chair with my father reading books. These are moments in time that connect be replaced.

The piece is mounted on a clock which represents the passage of time and how these memories were cut short by the loss of my father.





Tanya Steele

Wauwatosa

Transformation

plaster, shells, leather, bones, feathers, opals

12" x 14" x 14"

\$3000

Most of my life I've collected fragments; bits of bone, feathers, stones. . . I've always been drawn to the treasures found amongst the forest trees.

My Father knowing my fascination with these remnants, would bring me things he would find on his journeys, and in one case, two tiny jaw mandibles, from some woodland creature. For whatever reason, these little jaw bones spoke to me of the transformation every living being undergoes in death.

This piece is an imagining of this powerful transition.





Ted Injasulian

Racine

Wrapping Character

mixed media

22" x 18"

\$125

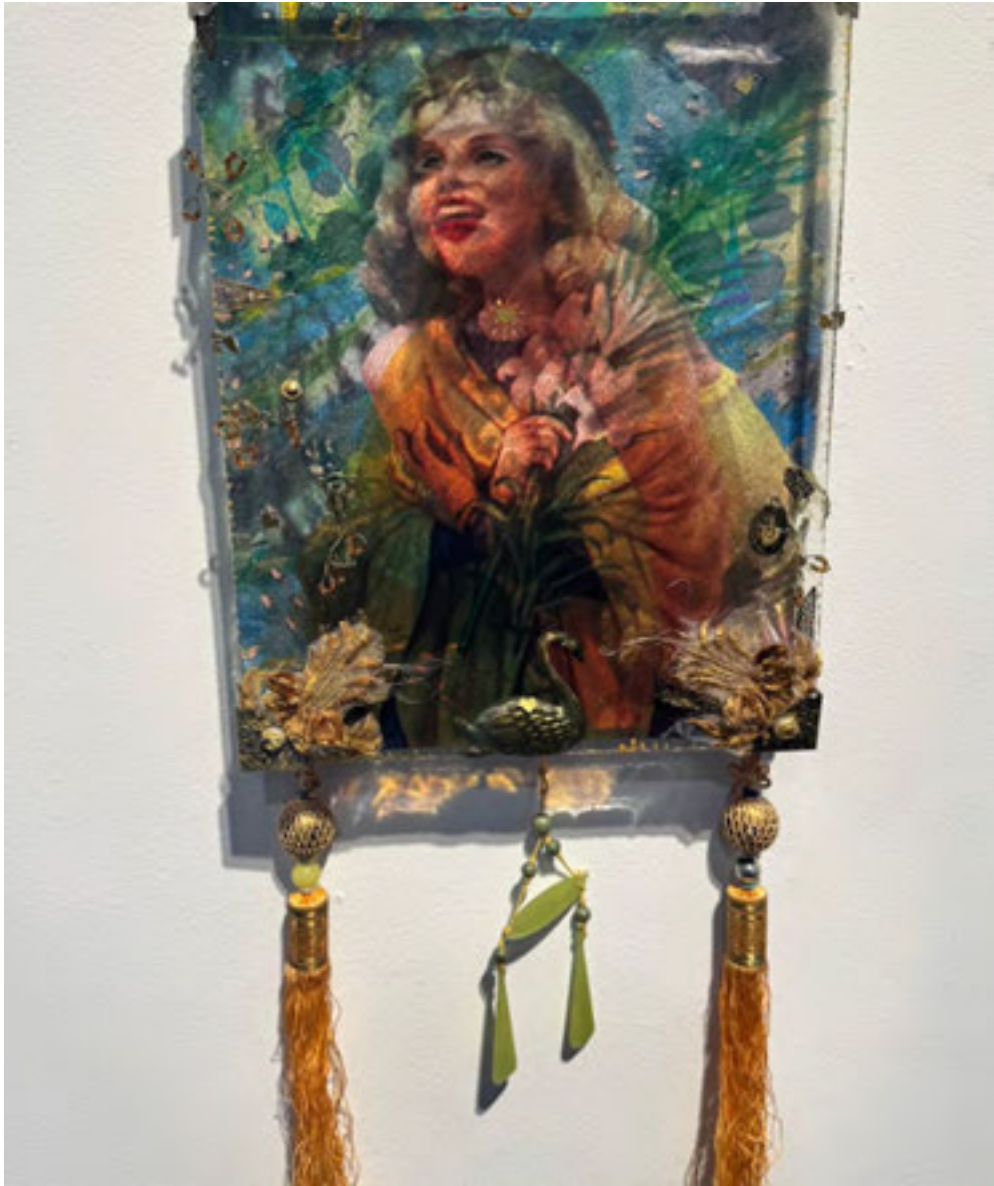
I sit here and contemplate presents for friends and family. When I wrap the gifts, I try to match the paper's design and color to the personality of the person.

In this work I was confronted with the different character of the papers themselves. Some cold, warm, funny, elegant and so on. Finding diversity in expressive wrapping papers are endless.

Maybe next time I will stick to newspaper and think of black and white personalities.

.





Tori Tasch

Hartland

Pin Up Saint: St. Maria Goretti

printmaking, assemblage

21" x 9" x 2"

\$300

I'm in love with the pin-up girl, she is so desirable!

It is a constant struggle for many women not to allow societal expectations to carve some sort of void in the way we perceive ourselves. I have resolved this with my mash up of pin up girls layered with saints.

The image of a Pinup girl triggers a variety of reactions, from viewers, female and male - and from feminists and theorists. She is unattainable, much like sainthood. She over-fulfills in ways that other women could never achieve.

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