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SHAFER ART GALLERY  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



SHAFAER ART GALLERY



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## SHAFER ART GALLERY DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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*In so many ways it feels like this reporting period was abducted by aliens like the bull in our recent acquisition on the right. Plato is credited as the source of the expression, "Necessity is the mother of invention." The challenges of Covid-19 and the impact it had on Shafer Gallery programming and outreach made it a necessity for us to look beyond our habitual ways of accomplishing our goals and seek inventive solutions. We reevaluated how to reach out and provide High School students with a safe distanced Vortex High School Art Day and Competition. We engaged the talents of our own Gallery Associate Scott Beahm to create The Virtual Vortex, an on-line world of competition and streaming workshops.*

*If necessity is the mother of invention then it is also the father of cooperation. The Virtual Vortex experience would not have happened without the input and efforts of Barton Community College faculty Bill Forst and Phil Jacobson. Working together we were able to produce an event that will endure in the future as a touch stone for students and a recruitment event for the Barton CC Art Department. With the same collaboration and cooperation we created streaming experiences for the BaRTaRT Student Faculty Staff Exhibit and the Friends and Acquaintances Community Show. We expect to meet the challenges of the coming year with that commitment to invention as we journey into new and unexamined places.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bam". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gallery Director







# SHAHER ART GALLERY

## YEAR AT A GLANCE

Jee Hwang  
Jan. 17 - Feb. 28, 2020



BaRTaRT 2020  
Mar. 13 - Apr. 14

Virtual Vortex  
Apr. 30, 2020  
Online premiere



Exquisite Miniatures  
By Wes and Rachelle Siegrist  
Produced by David J. Wagner, LLC.  
July 10- Aug. 15, 2020

Transmogrification:  
New Works by Brian Hutchinson  
Jul.9 - Aug. 22, 2020



The 50lb. box of art:  
a robert joy disrespectful  
Sept. 11 - Oct. 16, 2020

Barton County Arts Council  
Friends and Acquaintances  
Community Art Exhibition  
Oct. 23 - Dec. 1, 2020



Kansas Byways: An  
Invitational  
Jan.18 - Feb. 19, 2021

Michael Knutson  
and Brian McCallum  
Feb. 26 - Apr.1, 2021



Virtual Vortex  
Apr. 30, 2021 - Online  
premiere



BaRTaRT  
Apr. 16 - May. 7, 2021





## Jee Hwang: Paintings

Hwang's work represents the best in contemporary figurative painting. Her work has been exhibited extensively on the East Coast and even internationally and she has received numerous awards and has many years of experience as an educator.

About her work she says, "My works speak about different forms of human desire. I see the human body as a metaphoric vessel holding individual desire, memories, and history. Through representational figurative paintings in oil and water media, I explore how bodies transmit desire and form relationships through metaphoric gestures that reveal the border between an individual's psychological state and the desires of groups of people, community and the public."

At first glance, the work is strikingly beautiful and masterful, but upon further reflection powerful content and meaning also begin to emerge. We oftentimes assume that sophisticated art informed by an urban art school background will be somewhat inaccessible and difficult to understand. Hwang's work defies that assumption. It delights on multiple levels. It will not disappoint even the casual viewer and will satisfy those who like art to challenge and inspire their own creativity.



*Flower Portrait-Liu Chang Hwang. Oil*



*Fortress. By Jee Hwang. Oil.*



## BaRTaRT 2020

### Barton Student, Faculty and Staff Exhibition

The BaRTaRT exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for our students, faculty and staff to show off their artistic talents in the professional environment of the Shafer Gallery.

Friend of the gallery, Brian Hutchinson from FHSU judged the exhibit this year.



*Galaxy in Jungle by Methanee Pandee. Watercolor.*



*BaRTaRT juror Brian Hutchinson presents awards.*



*Ancient Ruster by Jordan Willinger. Ceramic.*



*Sky Flower by Pam Martin. Ceramic.*



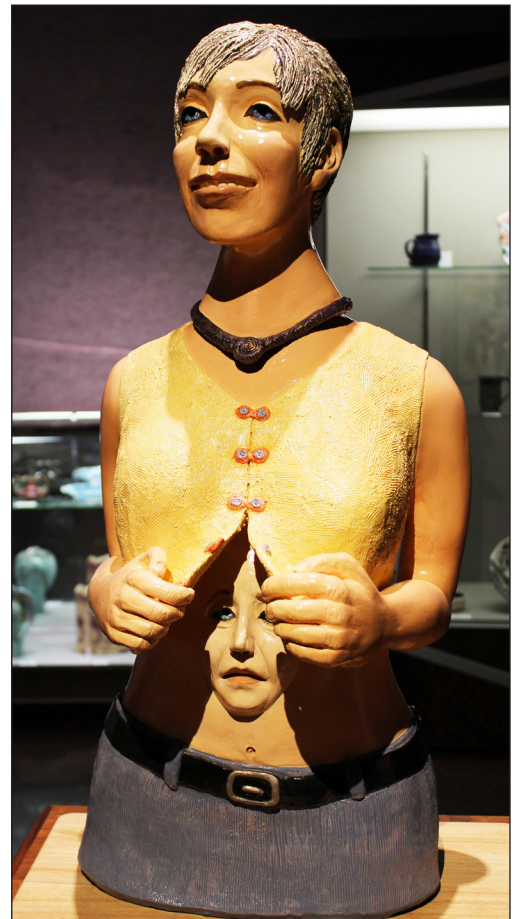
*Flint Hills Heaven by Dawn Ledebor. Colored Pencil on Wood.*



*Flower Bowl by Virginia Bitter. Ceramic.*



*Little Jerusalem by Tracy Miller. Oil.*



*A Look Inside by Terri Horner. Ceramic.*



# Barton County Arts Council Virtual Vortex 2020

High School Student Exhibition  
Underwritten by the Bill J. McKown  
Endowment/Golden Belt  
Foundation

In an effort to keep this positive event  
going throughout the COVID pandemic, this  
exhibit went online. While the typical event  
activities were missed, the online exhibit  
reached over 1,000 hits on social media.



Ceramics:  
Honorable Mention

Mya Maxwell  
*Colorful Hurricane*



Ceramics Instructor Bill Forst



*A House Divided* by Patrick Heath. Acrylic.



*Scales* by Jozlyn Brown. Ceramic.



*Cow Mug* by Lysie Hansen. Ceramic.



*Utsukushii* by Emma Fisher. Painting.



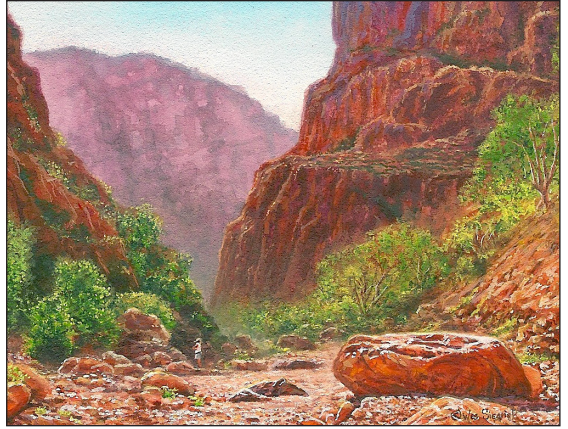
*Disassociative* by Emma Fisher. Acrylic.



## Exquisite Miniatures

Paintings by Wes and Rachele Siegrist

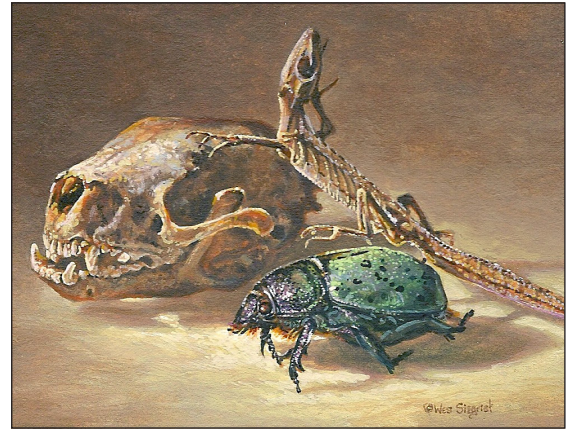
Sometimes, really big things do come in small packages. The Exquisite Miniatures Exhibit features amazingly big vistas and ideas on the smallest canvases. The paintings in this exhibit are fully realized and traditionally rendered watercolor paintings and need to be seen to be believed. The scale does more than signal preciousness; it asks the viewer for an intense, focused kind of looking that is fully rewarded.



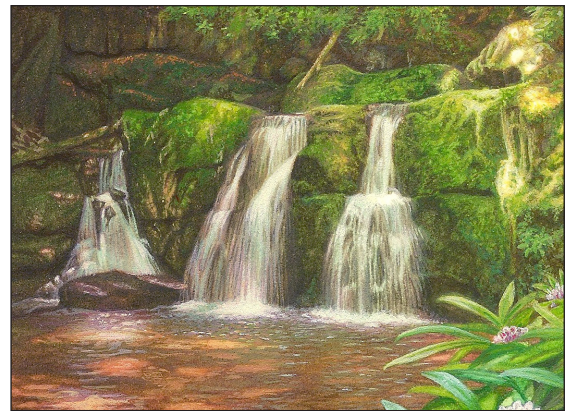
*Lost In Awe In the Canyon by Wes Siegrist*



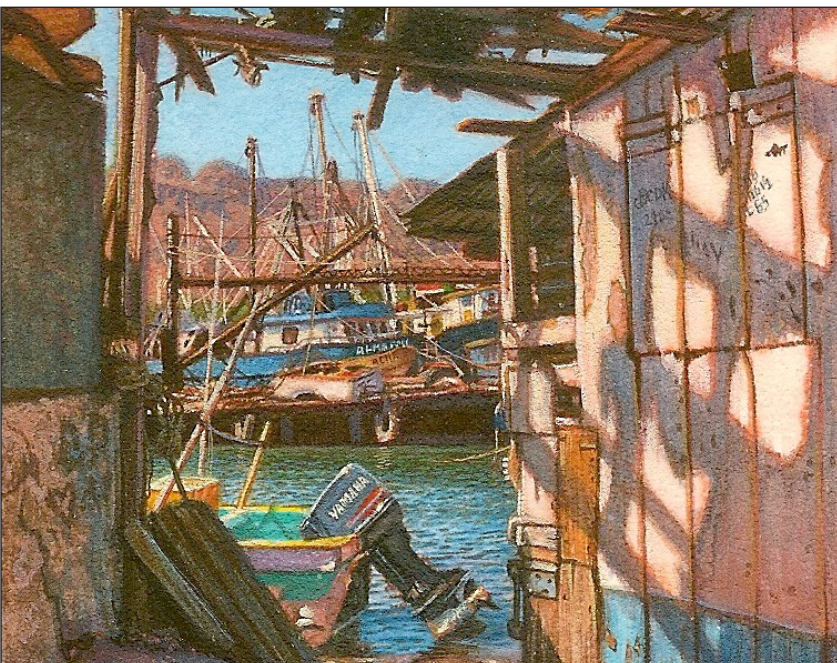
*Close up of painting process*



*A Few Things I Found by Wes Siegrist*



*Ladder Back Falls by Wes Siegrist*



*Glimpse Into a Way of Life by Rachele Siegrist*



*Rhapsody in Blue by Rachele Siegrist*



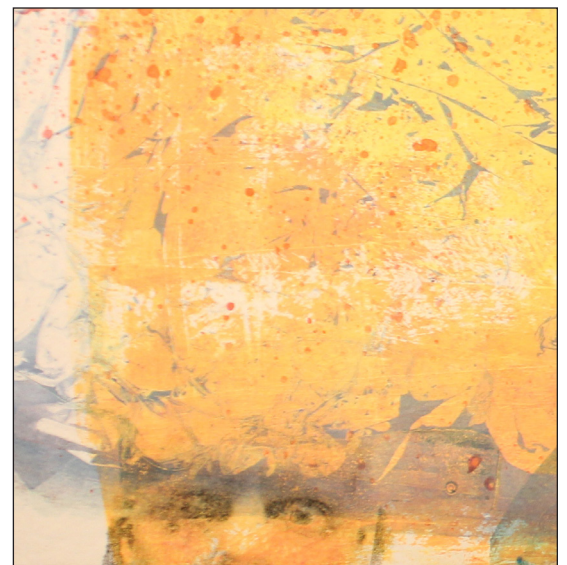
## Transmogrifications

Work by Brian Hutchinson

Brian Hutchinson has been a great friend of the Shafer Gallery. As a dynamic art instructor at Fort Hays State University, Brian admonishes his students to invest a big hunk of themselves in their work. He follows his own advice. Brian's vision is very personal and is delivered with technical precision and grounded in a solid aesthetic. When people ask me to describe Brian's art, my response is that his work is about creating the opportunity for the viewer to enter into his unique, sometimes dark, state of mind, while at the same time being encouraged to create a mind or emotion place of their very own. In fact, even the story he tells is not yet fully formed until the viewer reacts to the evocative images that Brian presents.



*Meat Cycle by Brian Hutchinson. Lithograph and Etching.*



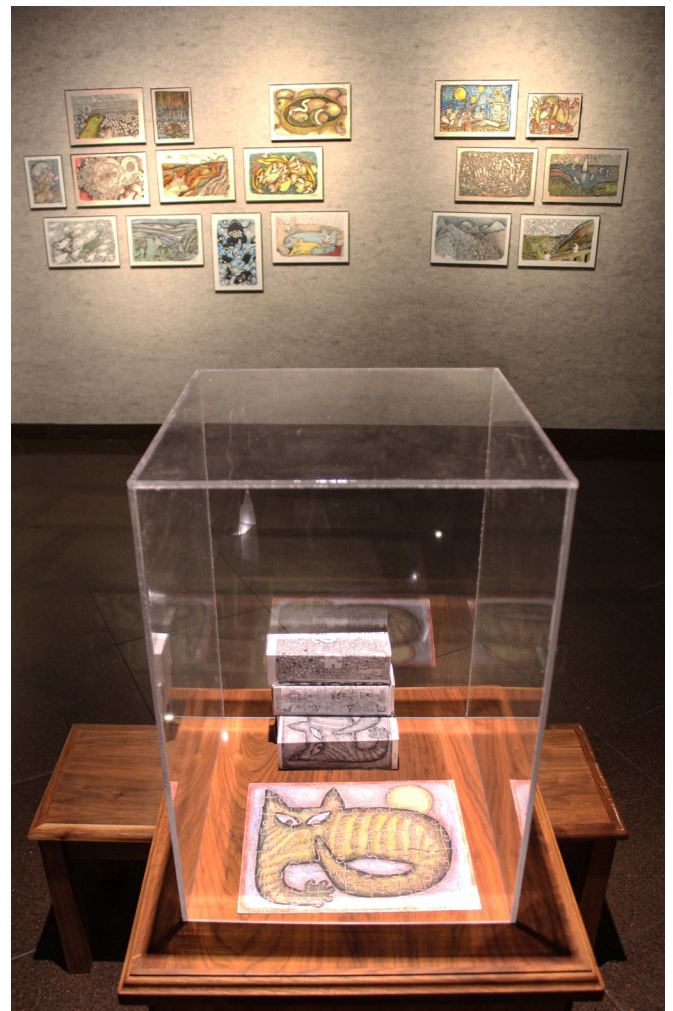
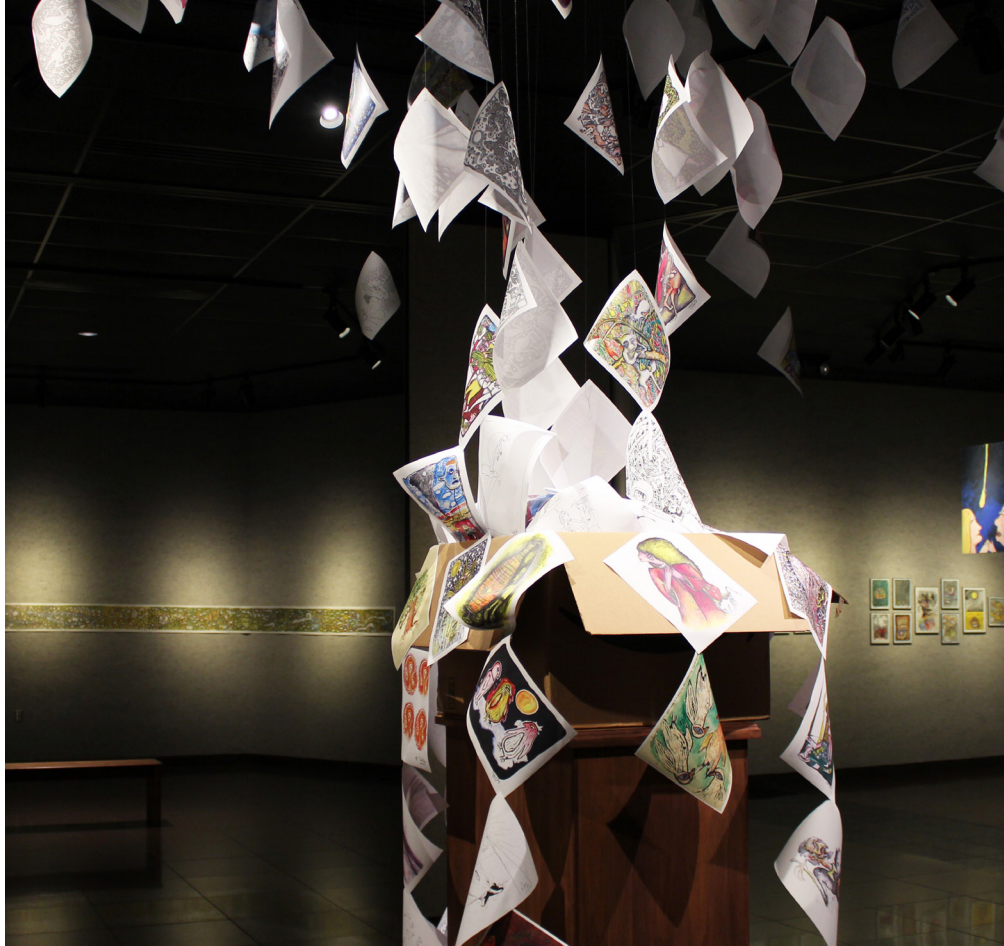


## The 50lb. box of art and other tales of obsession

a robert joy disrepective

The artworld is filled with creative people, some stolid and business like, others flamboyant and colorful. The Shafer Gallery has been privileged to work for almost ten years with an artist who is focused and business like in the obsessive production of his unique and colorfully eccentric art.

Robert Joy is a completely genuine and humane being. He simply is what he is. His work comes straight from the well spring of his heart. He responds to the emotional flow of the world around him. Although his art is sometimes commentary, and often very probing and astute, it is mostly an expression of emotions that sometimes grab him by the throat. That is to say he draws out the feelings he cannot express with words. This connection between thought, feelings and spontaneous form is enhanced by his almost trance like mark and pattern making. Out of the special spaces his doodling creates, there emerge images, always unique to Robert and whimsical, in a never ending multiplicity of themes. He is like an undammed river meandering where his inner world demands. It is our privilege to highlight his recent work. This "disrepective" intends no disrespect but exhibits Robert's wry sense of humor, his good nature and consummate sense of the absurd.



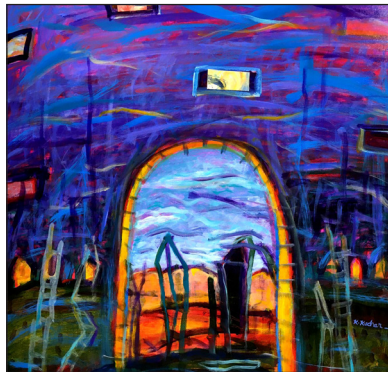


# Barton County Arts Council Friends and Acquaintances Community Art Exhibition

Though the event was altered from previous years due to the pandemic, this exhibit featured an online artist's reception featuring comments from the artists. While the Artist Ball was sorely missed, the digital format allowed for people to be introduced to the artists behind the brush and hear from them personally.



*Daphne Awakening by Mantra Cora. Oil.*



*The Other Side by Kathleen Kuchar. Acrylic.*



*Mary's Dream by Von Pounds. Watercolor.*



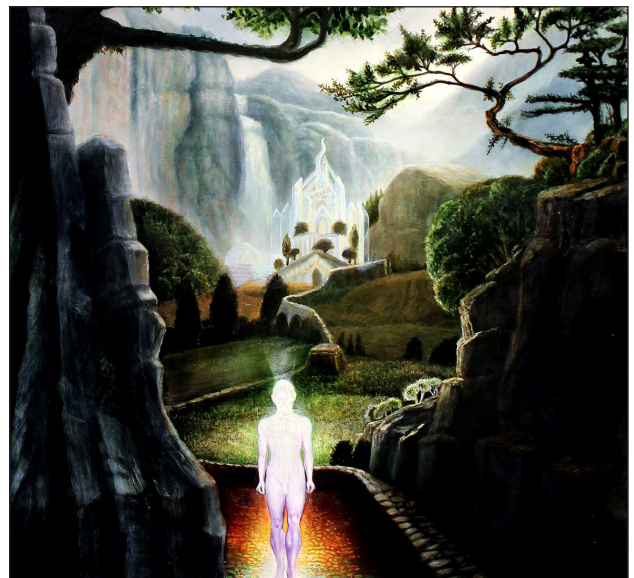
*Frog Bowl by Carol Long. Ceramic.*



*Untitled by Lawrence Robl. Mixed Media.*



*Female figures by Linda Ganstrom*



*Radiant Path to Knowhere by Philip Jacobson. Casein and Oil.*



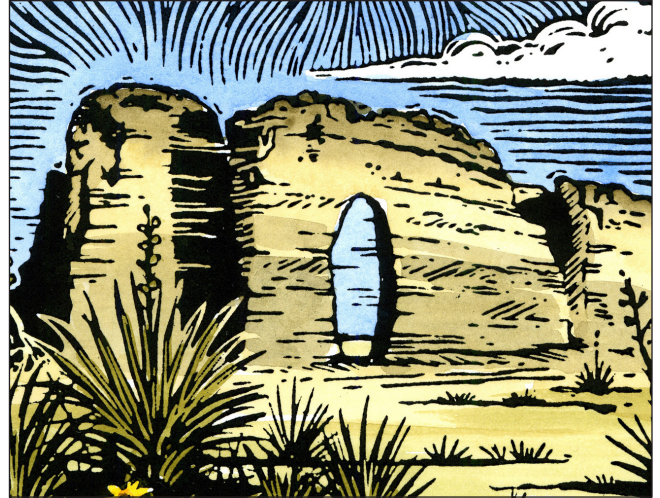
## Kansas Byways

### An invitational

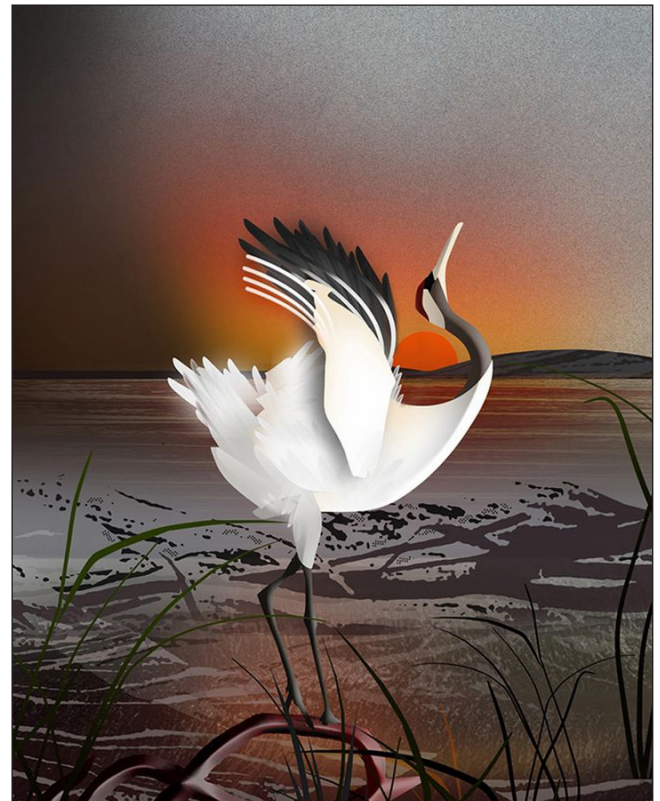
The exhibit featured invited regional artists who were asked to conceive work that reflects one or more of the scenic byways in Kansas. The show was originally conceived with a generous grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, by the Sandzen Memorial Gallery.

“Some people refer to Kansas as a flyover state or a snooze through state, but if you get off the major ‘superslab’ and explore the smaller highways and byways you will discover no shortage of amazing beauty. It’s not always flashy like the sandy shores and rocky coasts of the western seaboard or the majestic mountain ranges of the west but in its own way it is profound and even grand. From the picturesque rolling hills with meandering streams and perfectly round knolls dotting the Smoky Hills, to the incredible sea of grass that extends to the omnipresent horizon of western Kansas, it offers a beauty, sometimes Zen-like sometimes harsh, but always unique and moving to those who have the eyes to see. The artists in the byways exhibit have those exceptional eyes, and their looking has paid off in unique and thoughtful works of art.”

*-Gallery Director Dave Barnes*



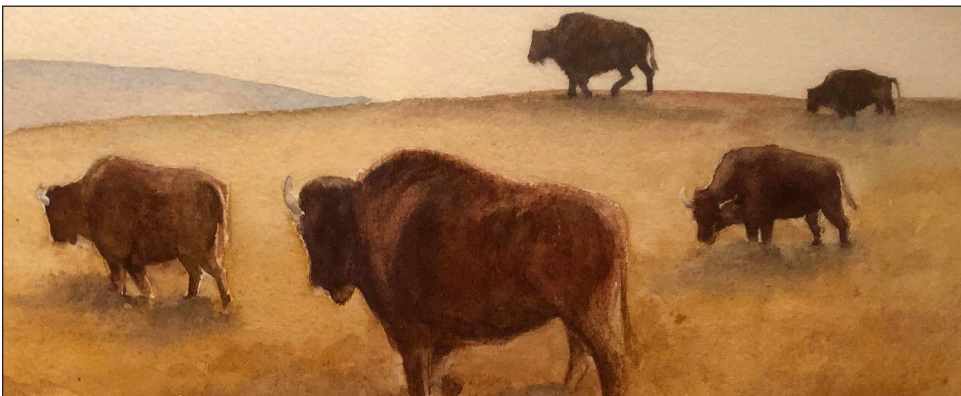
*Monument Rocks by Stephen M Perry. Print.*



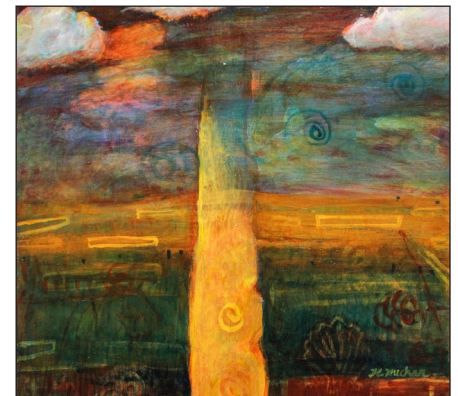
*Whooping Crane by Dee Erway Sherwood. Digital.*



*Instrumental by Matthew Miller. Oil.*



*On the Trail at Maxwell by Paula Smith. Watercolor.*



*If this Post Could Talk by Kathleen Kuchar. Acrylic.*



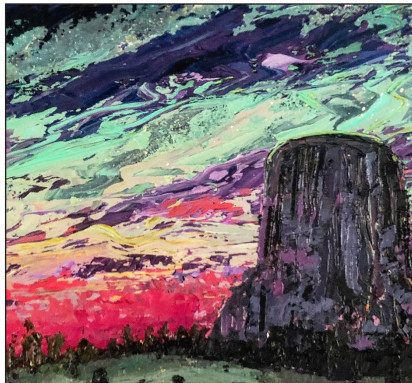
## Michael Knutson and Brian McCallum

### Paintings and Sculptures

"Michael Knutson is no stranger to the Shafer Gallery. He first exhibited here as a stellar graduate student working with Fort Hays State University professor Joel Dugan. Since then, he has become a stellar art instructor in his own right at Garden City Community College. Michael's work can be described as barely controlled energy in paint. Dynamic, in-your-face canvases, filled with dazzling light, courage, and subjects that cannot be forgotten. They have a common and wry sense of humor, very personal, eccentric even, but always accessible. When I think of Michael's work a word comes to mind that is sometimes missing when talking about art; that word is fun."

*-Gallery Director Dave Barnes*

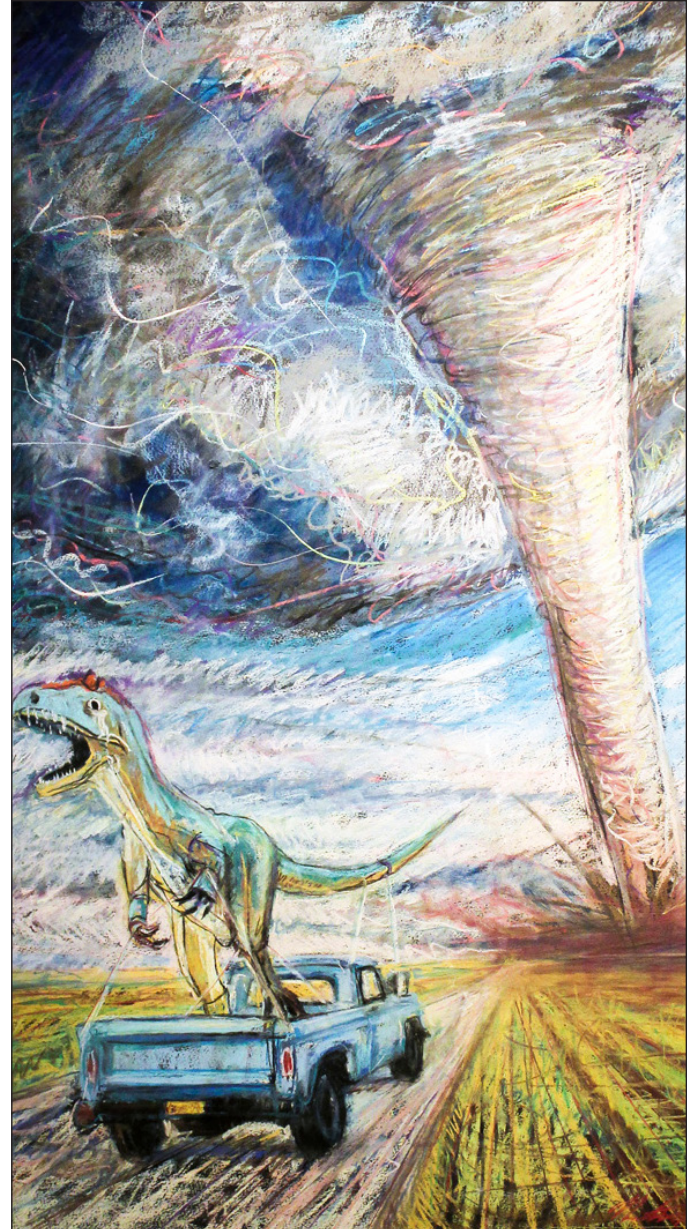
The exhibit also featured a small exhibit of sculptures by Knutson's fellow Garden City Community College Art Department comrade, Brian McCallum.



*Devil's Tower in Pink and Green by Michael Knutson*



*Sitting by the Campfire Drinking Beer by Michael Knutson. Oil.*



*The Curse of Expectations by Michael Knutson. Pastel.*







## BaRTaRT and Vortex Special Guest Artist Kris Kuksi

This year the gallery was thrilled to have world famous artist Kris Kuksi as the judge for the annual BaRTaRT Student, Faculty, and Staff exhibition. Kuksi is an artist of special regional interest who has created a following of very devoted and erudite fans. He exhibited two of his own pieces in the gallery. Kuksi was not only the judge of this year's BaRTaRT college student show; he also taped a special dedicated presentation for the annual Virtual Vortex High School Art event in April. He came to Barton County and the Shafer Gallery with a message of encouragement and inspiration to rural Kansas high school artists, as he grew up in rural Kansas and has proved that great artists can emerge from even the most humble hometown beginnings.



*Churchtank by Kris Kuksi. Sculpture.*

*General Heinrich Von Howitzerhead by Kris Kuksi. Mixed Media Assemblage.*



# Barton County Arts Council

## Virtual Vortex

In order to make a way through the obstructed byways of COVID-19, we designed a special virtual world for Barton County high school students to exhibit in. On April 30, the portal opened for students (the Vortex Discovery Team) to explore a gaming style online environment where they could participate in a variety of activities and explore a realm of art all their own.

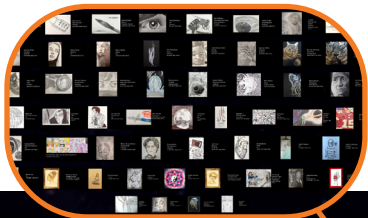
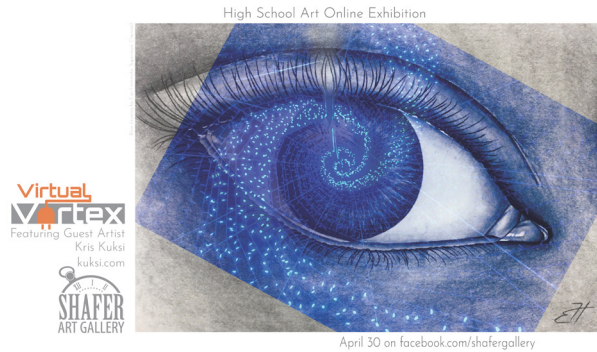
Hoisington High School Art Instructor Christina Lamoureux said the exhibit was well received by the students.

"It was a more than wonderful format," she said. "I will be continuing to share and use it in my classes through the week. I think this is motivating and encouraging to our young artists and increases student appreciation of the arts."

The highlight of Vortex Day is always the juried art show, which this year consists of an online exhibit of the work by students from Central Plains, Ellinwood, Great Bend, Larned and Hoisington High Schools. In addition, the students were able to do the following activities:

- View their submitted work and that of their peers on the "World of Exposition."

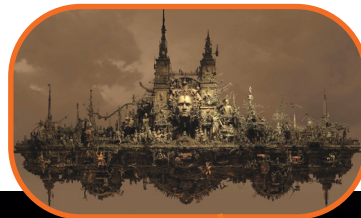
- View comments by Vortex judges on the "Orb of Wise Critique."
- Participate in short online workshop presentations by Barton Aesthetic Masters Bill Forst, Philip Jacobson and Yuchen Boswell.
- View a video made exclusively for the Virtual Vortex by renowned steam-punk artist Kris Kuksi on the "Magister's World."
- Mind-meld with the "Core Brain" to determine the Artists' Choice Singularity Award.



World of Exposition



Orb of Wise Critiques



Satellite Outposts of the Aesthetic Masters



Magister's World: Featured Artist

Exit Portal: Singularity Award

Start Here



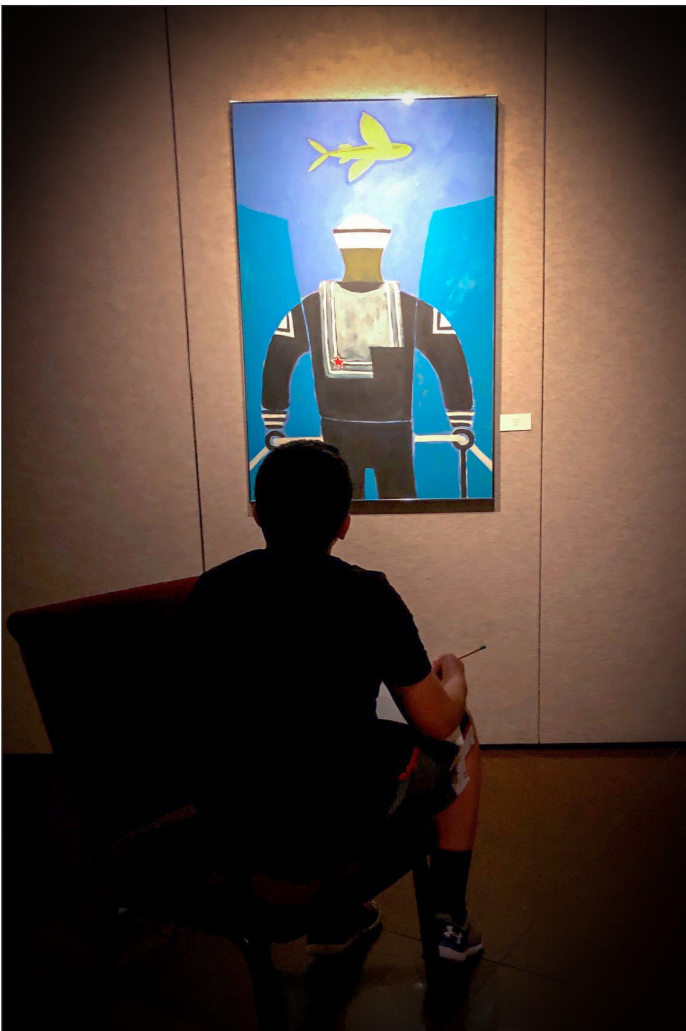


## GALLERY VISITS, OUTREACH, AND WORKSHOPS

The gallery continued its work with local elementary schools through the Glen and Elaine Mull Art Cart.



*Glen and Elaine Mull Art Cart Visit to Park Elementary School Kindergarten classes / May 2021 / Spring Fun art lesson / Imaginary Garden and large paintings*







Glen and Elaine Mull Art Cart Visits / Spring 2019 / All About Art Museums lesson to 4th grade

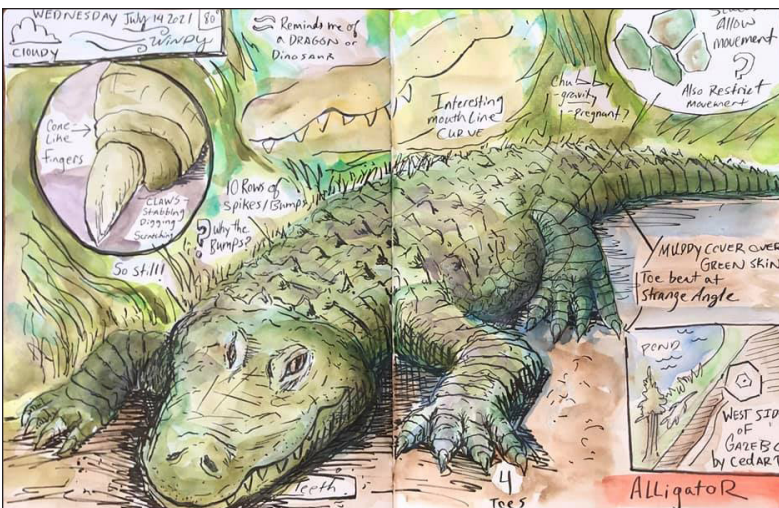




## Nature Journaling

### Outreach Classes

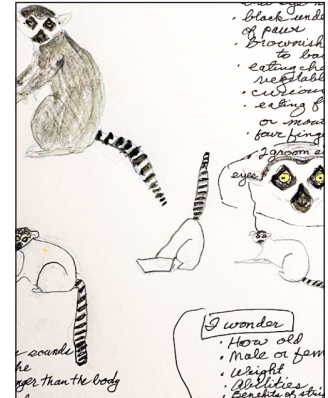
Scott Beahm led weekly nature journaling classes during the month of July. Classes met at the Great Bend Zoo and focused on teaching observational and field drawing techniques. The classes were cumulative, each building from the ones before. These classes catered to local home school groups as well as community members.



Journal entry by Scott Beahm



Journal entry by Emma Beahm



Journal entry by Mary Kottmann



Journal entry by Noah Herrman



## Art with the Sheriff Outreach Productions

Born out of pandemic adversity "the Sheriff" -sock puppet gallery mascot- released a few videos online to boost creative morale and create online offerings to homebound kids.



*Cheddar the Horse takes the Sheriff on a wild ride through the gallery.*



*Scott and the Sheriff draw daffodils together.*



*Sheriff finds artistic inspiration from daffodils.*



*Sheriff and Cheddar admire the work by Gus Shafer.*



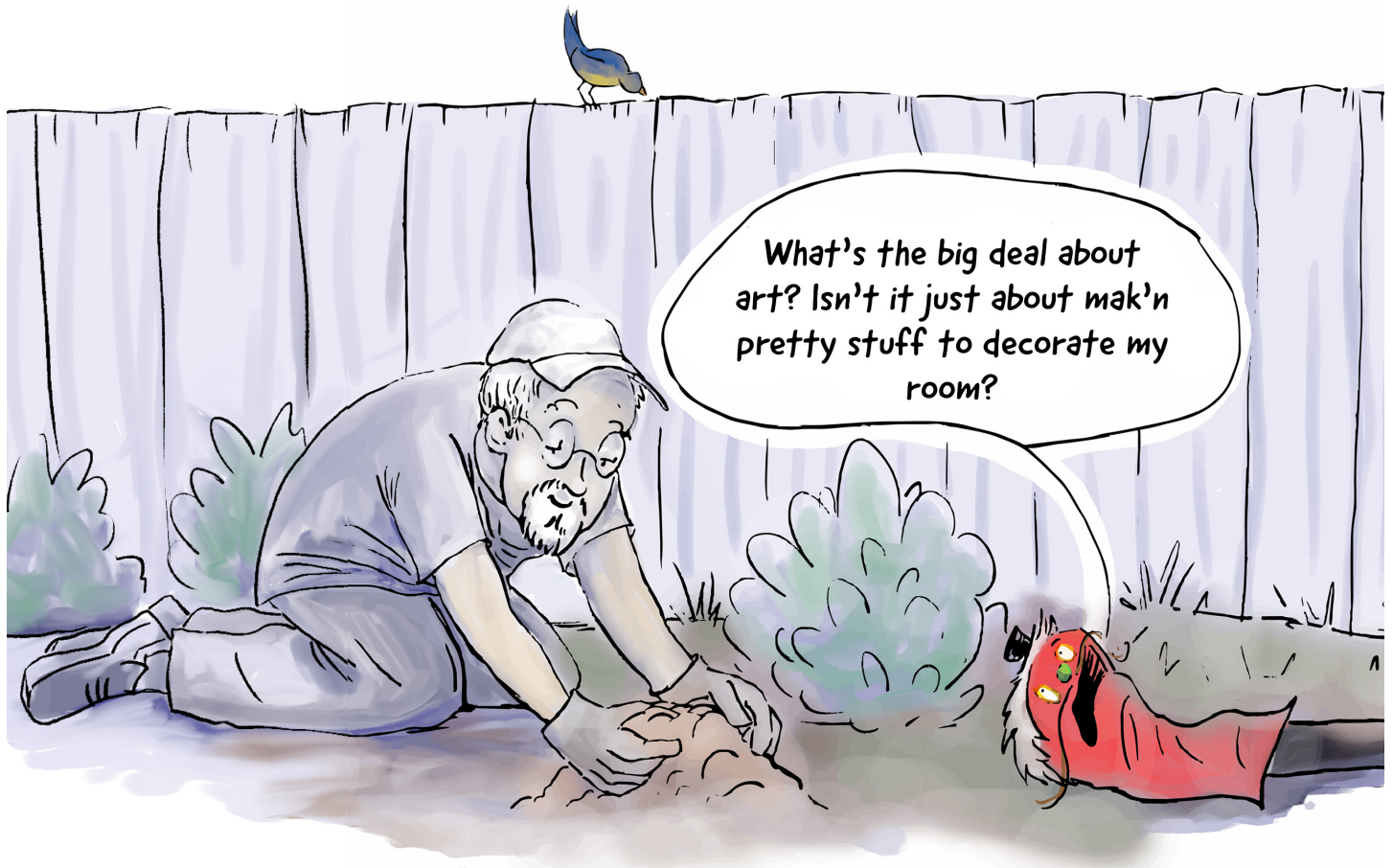
*Sheriff learns to draw a cat from artist Robert Joy.*





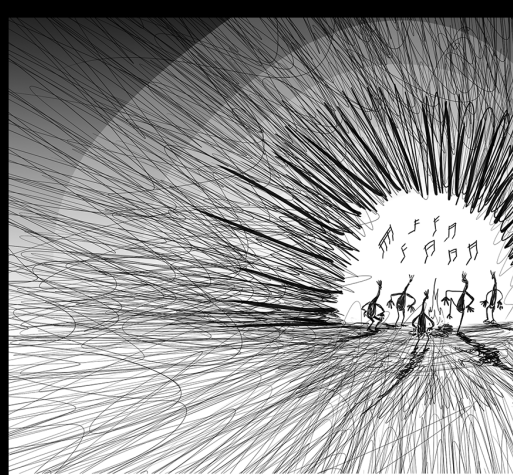
## The Sheriff's Daffodils And the Art of Making Special

In addition to his video appearances, the Sheriff decided to embark on a journey of artistic discovery with Dave and Scott. In this comical adventure the gallery Director teaches the Sheriff about aesthetics and the art of making special.



*Sheriff asks his big question*

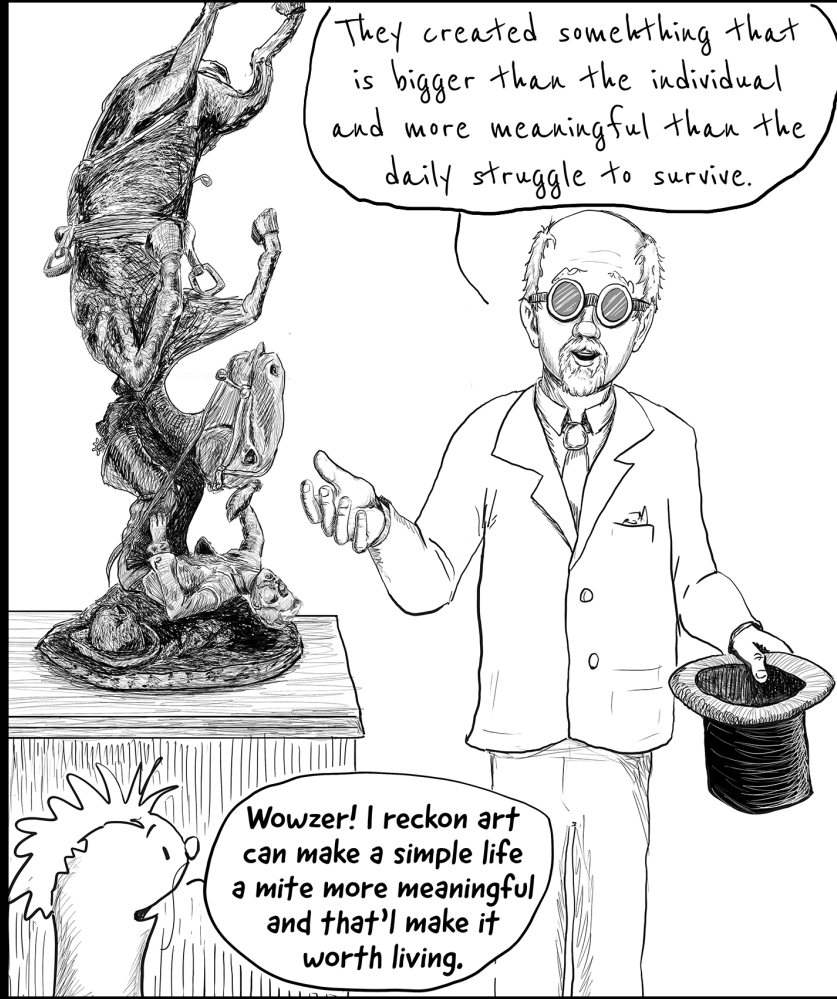




While other hominid bands slowly die away this band endures. No matter how bad things got they still looked forward to slapping legs together in the evening. Their ethos gave them something meaningful to live for.



They created something that is bigger than the individual and more meaningful than the daily struggle to survive.





GIFTS AND NEW  
ACQUISITIONS



Three Spouted Vase. By Norma Ward. Ceramic.



Making Waves by Kathleen Kuchar. Collagraph Print.



Through the Window by Kathleen Kuchar. Print.

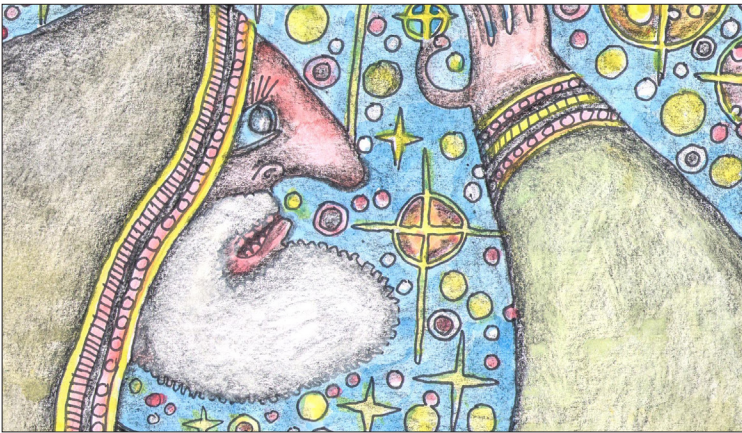


Angelic Presents. By Carol Selle. Collage.

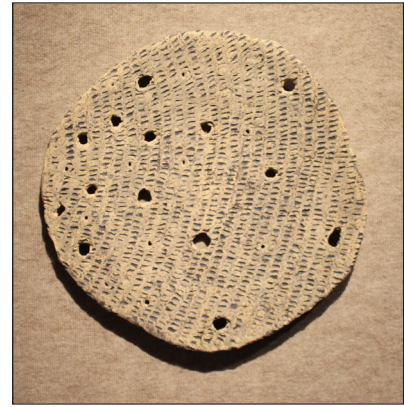


Penitente Good Friday. By Gene Klass. Print

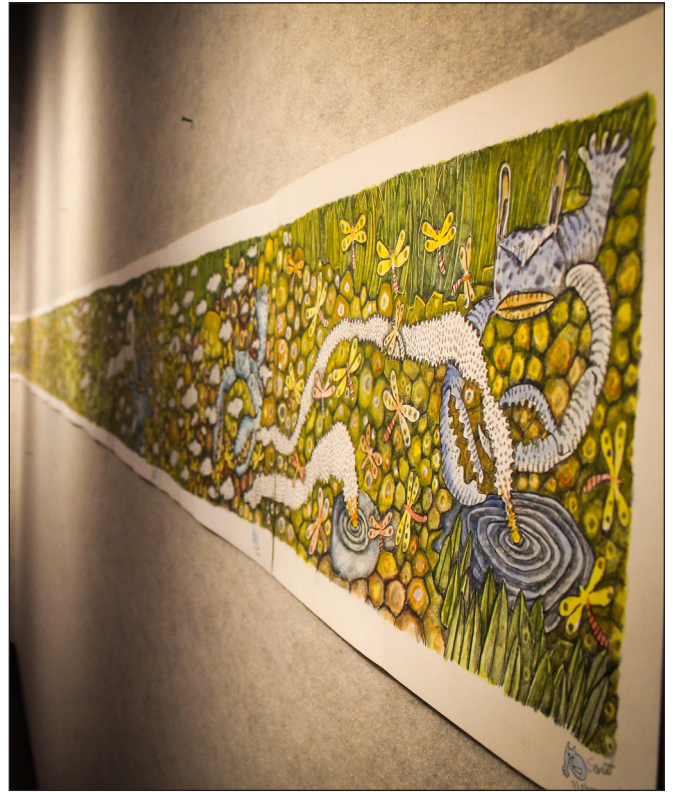




Small watercolors by Robert Joy



Blue Disk. By Ron Michael. Ceramic.



Frieze by Robert Joy (Scarlett).



Saber-Tooth Cat by Bob Mix. Donated by Robert Feldt.



Yellow Female Form. By Linda Ganstrom. Ceramic.





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