



WISCONSIN

VISUAL

ARTISTS

WVS

DECEMBER 2020



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ON THE COVER: Untitled (detail), by  
Jennifer Angelo

## COMMUNICATION

Hello Artists,

Your WVA President, Jenie Gao, and I were invited to participate in a panel discussion hosted by the Wisconsin Arts Board this past week. The intention was to invite Wisconsin artists to share insight on what is needed right now in our cultural ecosystem; the hope being that we can all band together as arts organizations to focus on these issues and offer whatever help/resources we can.

A few points were consistent. Connection. Communication. Engaging the next generation of artists in the Wisconsin art community. Educating about art through arts writing; something that is sorely underrepresented. How to challenge and address local policy to assure proper payment and funding for creatives. We had a follow-up meeting this morning to discuss, and I'm pleased to say that we are taking these matters very seriously. We intend to continue meeting and forming an action plan as leaders in the Wisconsin art community. More to come on this, but please don't hesitate to write in with thoughts and ideas on these subjects.

On the topic of communication, I've been hearing about some very robust conversations happening in recent WVA Zoom meetings. The member participation, as well as enthusiasm for progress as an organization is noticed - and exciting. I have every ounce of faith in artists as creative problem-solvers, movers, and shakers. With this new surge in virtual communication there are so few restrictions regarding who we can reach out to and what we can tackle as a community. WVA is growing in its ability to communicate with those outside of our membership to promote member work - as we've recently hit over 1k followers on Instagram, and added YouTube to our organization's toolkit.

To christen our new YouTube WVA channel, we'll be hosting our first live-stream program this Friday - Curatorial Counsel with Kate Mothes. This particular program is meant to engage and educate our membership, but I hope to share video footage of our members' artistic processes, as well as film/animation work in the future.

Be well,

Ally



# #SUPPORTTHEARTISTS

## BY JENIE GAO



As we approach the conclusion of this year, everyone needs to pay attention to three important trends.

- 1) The biggest impact of this pandemic is on the working and lower middle class. This includes BIPOC communities, rural communities, and the many people who are essential workers and service industry workers.**
- 2) Most of the COVID tax dollar relief has gone towards subsidizing property in the form of payment for rent, mortgage, and development. Even the singular \$1,200 stimulus check that people received subsidized the real estate industry.**
- 3) Property values are still rising despite the recession. Yet evictions and unemployment are also increasing.**

These three things mean that we are going to see not just the closure of small businesses, but specifically a consolidation of whom businesses serve. You have probably seen the #ShopSmall campaigns for the holidays. While it's important to shop small, the inherent flaw, like "Living Green," is that it depends more heavily on individual action than systemic change. Also like "Living Green," #ShopSmall is becoming an increasingly privileged space.

# “Shifting the narrative from #SupportTheArts to #SupportTheArtists”

High-end shops will survive the pandemic because they cater to upper middle and upper class individuals who are the most shielded from the pandemic. The high art market will do well because the stock market and real estate industry are doing great. But if you're an artist who depends on selling prints and merchandise, gig work, and increasingly competitive grants, your market is shrinking. #ShopSmall is becoming untenable for the working class consumer and the working class owner.

In order to combat this, we need to center the value of people and their labor in every solution. The art world is built on countless hours of unpaid labor, and this crisis is all of our leaders' chance to correct this. Otherwise, the art world is going to get more unequal, and more focused on high-end tastes and placemaking initiatives that boost property values but not wages. We need to challenge the current structure of funding, which prioritizes institutions and institutional backing over individuals. Relief funding, from SBA to the We're All In Grant to even the Cultural Organization Grant, has focused on keeping businesses open and property values high. But if we are serious about protecting people during a pandemic, then we need to figure out how to stay closed and have social safety nets in place, instead of open at all costs which requires the exploitation of working class labor.

Again, we need to advocate for solutions that center the wellbeing of people instead of the value of property. For those of us in the arts, that means shifting the narrative from #SupportTheArts to #SupportTheArtists. Protect the people, and make it possible for all of us to have a recovery.

# CURATORIAL COUNSEL: KATE MOTHES

**WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH @ 11:30**

**WHERE: LIVE-STREAMING ON OUR WVA YOUTUBE &  
FACEBOOK PAGE**



**Join Kate as she discusses best practices for utilizing social media to promote your artwork, as well as insights into her curatorial process and what she likes to see from artist applicants.**

Kate Mothes is an independent curator, arts writer, editor, and publisher based currently in Wisconsin, with a background in art history, and an interest in artist-run culture. Since 2014 she has run a project called Young Space, an independent, nomadic, online-offline contemporary art platform emphasizing early career and emerging artists.

<https://katemothes.net/>

## NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Next Meeting December 15 @ 7 PM via Zoom

Contact Edita Birschbach with questions: [nechapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org](mailto:nechapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org)

## SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Next Meeting December 15 @ 6:30 PM via Zoom

Contact Jayne Jackson with questions: [scchapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org](mailto:scchapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org)

## SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Next Meeting January 6th at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Contact Steven Bauer with questions: [sechapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org](mailto:sechapter@wisconsinvisualartists.org)

## STATE BOARD

WVA now has a YouTube channel  
WVA now has over 1k followers on instagram!

There is work being done on the website - many members are not listed in the Membership Directory. It will be resolved soon!

Next state board meeting is December 10th at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Contact Ally Wilber with questions: [director@wisconsinvisualartists.org](mailto:director@wisconsinvisualartists.org)





# FEATURED ARTIST: JENNIFER ANGELO

I love textiles and have enjoyed working with wool fiber since I was a child learning to knit and crochet. Some of the best textiles I've had the opportunity to handle were in New Zealand, where my husband and I lived for five years on the South Island. He had his dream job, and I had my hands full learning to felt New Zealand wool.

New Zealand has an active fiber guild system which is obvious as the sheep outnumber the people 7 to 10. I joined two guilds and became familiar with felt—not the scratchy, stiff felt from grade school, but soft, luxurious fabric I could drape over my shoulders, giving myself a hug and blocking the breeze. That was it for me. I was hooked.

Now, I create wearable art. My mission is not only to create beautiful garments but also to protect the wearer, both physically and metaphorically. I aim to create equilibrium by combining soft, tactile material with a structured design, imbuing a sense of well-being, safety and strength. **Feeling comfortable and enjoying our clothes can help us feel confident, look great and provide a sense of empowerment.**

I look at everything in my environment—especially the natural environment—for design ideas and color palettes. For instance, my husband and I were kayaking, and we passed some lily pads that were crammed tightly together. I took a quick picture. Those lily pads turned into a scarf design using fall color palette. The scarf that I created was snapped up quickly at my last show. In fact, I inadvertently sold it twice. Fortunately, I was able to make a second one in a timely manner.

When developing a new piece, I think about the season. I want to create scarves that are lightweight for summer, heavy for winter. As I develop an idea, I determine whether to include silk or only wool, whether I will dye the fabric myself, and if I will hand-paint the piece.

I switched to online outlets since all art fairs closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I sell through Facebook groups and my personal online store.

I always am happy to discuss commissioned work with potential clients.

-Jennifer

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JENNIFER ANGELO

# FEATURED ARTIST: JOAN NORTH



Born in St. Louis and raised in waterfront Fairhope, Alabama, my 43-year career as an administrator in colleges and universities scooted me around the country—Tuscaloosa, Erie, DC, Davenport, and, finally, Stevens Point, WI. I moved to the Stevens Point area in 1985 when I became Dean of the College of Professional Studies at UW-Stevens Point, the greatest job of my life. Retiring in 2010 I turned my full attention to metalsmithing sterling into unusual jewelry.

A basket full of degrees (BS, MS, Ph.D.) attests to my love of being a student. I have learned about art, form and metal from masters across the country and annually seek out teachers who unlock new mysteries. Learning new things keeps one humble.

Bringing something new and beautiful into the world makes my brain sing. Perhaps it is similar to a runner's high. The new piece brings me into a state of wonder, bordering on love. I am grateful for this urge to create. I am grateful that there are people who share my love of these things that spring out of me. I am now a full time, award-winning silversmith trying to make a business out of this bubbling passion. Working mostly through galleries and my online store, I have been accepted into almost 100 juried shows and have participated in 5 solo or small group gallery exhibits. I start from sterling wire, sheet or tubes. Then I use tools (lots of tools!) to shape, pattern, move the metal and an acetylene torch to attach, melt or move the metal. Stone-setting involves its own drawer full of tools!

When I can loosen the tie that binds me to the studio, I play tennis with giddy abandon, deal bridge with my laughing friends, read a Kindle while adding up the miles on my treadmill, and waive an eco-flag over all I do. I so appreciate my customers whose admiration makes me blush. I am a silversmith and stone setter, creating new looks for jewelry

I sell from my website ([joannorthdesigns.com](http://joannorthdesigns.com)), from selected galleries here and there around the country (California, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin). My home gallery is Gallery Q in Stevens Point, and also CVA in Wausau. Website selling takes some new skills, especially photography and social media. My on-line sales have been slower than gallery sales, even with COVID-19. But I do like having so many of my works available, at least for viewing, at any time. I love when a person can see my work in person, so I love selling from Galleries (including my home studio), but I also get very excited about someone new finding my creations on-line.

I have always looked for the creative path, even though I may walk alone. In my creative life, the lonely walk works just fine.



-Joan

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# THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY

## BARRY CARLSON



This Vox Populi Print Collective Portfolio was inspired by the work of American Civil War soldier, journalist and writer, Ambrose Bierce. Bierce's witty and satirical glossaries of words appeared in newspapers and publications around the turn of the 20th century. The writings were gathered into books, first as *The Cynic's Word Book* in 1906 and then in a more complete version titled *The Devil's Dictionary* in 1911.

The initial reception of the *The Devil's Dictionary* was mixed. In the decades following, however, the stature of *The Devil's Dictionary* grew. It has been widely quoted, frequently translated, and often imitated, earning a global reputation. In the 1970s, *The Devil's Dictionary* was named as one of "The 100 Greatest Masterpieces of American Literature" by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. It has been called "healingly funny," and Wall Street Journal columnist Jason Zweig wrote that *The Devil's Dictionary* is "probably the most brilliant work of satire written in America. And maybe one of the greatest in all of world literature."

The artists included in this portfolio felt Bierce's satirical approach to language and politics has a particular relevance today. Each artist was randomly assigned a letter or symbol. They then chose a word that resonated with them on some level, and with Bierce's spirit in mind, let that word inspire their print.



Prints from The Devil's Dictionary Portfolio were printed in a range of media by the artists in 2019 and 2020 in the time of the COVID pandemic. The portfolio was collated by Barry Carlsen, Rachael Griffin and Derrek Hibbs. Vox Populi Print Collective is a membership organization.

<https://www.shhhim.com/voxpath>

#### FEATURED ARTISTS

A Gail Panske - Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
B Andy Rubin - Madison, Wisconsin  
C Stephanie Copoulos-Selle - Waukesha, Wisconsin  
D Kathy Puzey - Ogden, Utah  
E Michael Schultz - Columbus, Wisconsin  
F Christine Style - Green Bay, Wisconsin  
G Mary Hood - Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
H Luke Johnson - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
I Tori Tasch - Hartland, Wisconsin  
J Todd Herzberg - Murray, Kentucky  
K John Balistreri - Shorewood, Wisconsin  
L Dana Kadison - Bronx, New York  
M Patrick Smyczek - Madison, Wisconsin  
N Israel Campos - Los Angeles, California  
O Natalie Hinahara - Viroqua, Wisconsin  
P Andrew Decaen - Denton, Texas  
Q Sheila Goloborotko - Jacksonville, Florida  
R Lucy Turner - Bangor, Northern Ireland  
S Anita Jung - Iowa City, Iowa  
T Mei Lam So - Iowa City, Iowa  
U Rachael Griffin - Madison, Wisconsin  
V Berel Lutsky - Glendale, Wisconsin  
W Derek Hibbs - Madison, Wisconsin  
X Barry Roal Carlsen - Madison, Wisconsin  
Y Jessica Merchant - Lanark, Illinois  
Z Roberto Torres Mata - Madison, Wisconsin  
@ J. Leigh Garcia - Kent, Ohio  
# Jayne Reid Jackson - Madison, Wisconsin



FEATURED ARTIST: AMY REGUTTI



My art generally explores ideas of artificial intelligence, body adornment, mythology, gender, and nature. I like to combine images from different historical time periods and come up with my own stories and characters. I'm always drawn to a snapshot like quality; the moment when you stumble across something interesting. Recently, I've really been inspired by Edwardian fashion, vintage science fiction and enchanted forests.

I sell my work in a variety of venues. Online through Scout gallery and my shop on Etsy. Physically, I have work at Communication Madison, DreamLab in Milwaukee, Promise You Art House in Indiana, Paul Henry's Art Gallery in Indiana and Green Door Books in Indiana. I will often sell my work over Instagram and Facebook as well. Etsy has been enjoyable and rewarding for me. I really only started to sell prints this last year while recovering from a serious automobile accident. I couldn't do much else, so it was the



perfect time to get a shop up and running. It's fairly easy to use and the fees aren't exorbitant. The biggest issue I have is generating enough work. I'm a bit slow-paced.

Picture Salon in Madison really does high quality prints. They are just beautiful. I have used their services for a few years now. Sticker Mule has been good for me. I don't do too much merchandise because I am not proficient in photoshop or anything like it. I'm really an old school painter. I would like to learn more going forward but finding the time is difficult.

At this point, I would be interested in serious gallery representation. It would allow for a certain focus and support for larger projects.

-Amy

amyregutti@gmail.com | Instagram: @spacethrob | amyregutti.com



## HELEN KLEBESEDEL | NE CHAPTER

From October 1-December 26, 2020 the virtual exhibition 'Force of Nature' featuring the art of Helen Klebesadel (watercolors) and Georgia Weith (art metals) will be available through River Arts on Water Gallery

A recorded artist talk is also posted.

<https://www.riverartsinc.org/fon/>

## KAREN STEWART | NE CHAPTER

Karen's art show entitled *Sisu* is currently up at the gallery in the Finnish American Heritage Center until January 5th, 2021.



## DENISE PRESNELL | SE CHAPTER

Denise will be having a solo exhibition of paintings, “The Sweet Spot In Between Chaos and Control” at the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts, December 10, 2020 - January 23, 2021.

She will have one painting in the Plymouth Arts Center annual Holiday Membership Exhibition. The exhibition runs December 4, 2020 - January 15, 2021.

## MARTIN KEYEY | SE CHAPTER

Martin is currently exhibiting in the following shows:

Alfons Gallery - “Ecotherapy: A Challenge”

September 1, 2020 - November 13, 2020

Cedarburg Art Museum - “Masters as Muses”

October 2, 2020 – January 10, 2021

Anderson Arts Center: “Annual Juried Show”

October 11, 2020 – January 9, 2021

Museum of Wisconsin Art: “Member Show”

November 21, 2020 thru January 3, 2021.

## CHRISTINE STYLE | NE CHAPTER

Christine Style: Awarded First Place in the 75th Art Annual at the Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, WI for “Meme Predicament”. woodcut with chine colle (image attached). Exhibit on view until January 3, 2021  
<https://www.nevillepublicmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/exhibits/special-exhibits/75th-art-annual>

Christine Style created a woodcut and monotype work for “It’s All About Me” an invitational self-portrait exhibit organized by Pat Filzen for the Art Space Collective in Oshkosh, WI held Sept. 4 - 27, 2020. Title: “The Life of Me, Myself and I,” print size: 28x20 in.

Christine Style received a print commission from the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation for a print edition to be sold as part of their fundraising. She created a 16x23 inch woodcut titled “Baird Creek Jubilation’ and 13 of the prints sold (10 with hand printed watercolor and 3 in black & white). Spring-fall 2020.

# OPPORTUNITIES

## **ARTS for ALL | Deadline March 17, 2021**

Wisconsin Call for Art invites submissions of artwork and poetry from Wisconsin residents with disabilities ages five and up. All submissions are juried by arts professionals who look for creativity, originality, and craftsmanship in selecting ten visual artworks and four poems to be added to Creative Power, the ARTS for ALL Wisconsin Traveling Exhibition. The exhibition provides public recognition of hundreds of individuals with disabilities each year.”

<https://www.artsforallwi.org/programs/call-for-art>

## **Soi & NOVA**

A new restaurant/tattoo parlor/nightclub in Sheboygan, WI is looking for art.  
Contact Vern Kittler | [info@vernkittler.com](mailto:info@vernkittler.com)

## **Artless Bastard | Deadline December 18th at Midnight**

*“Abstracted”*

<https://www.artlessbastard.com/call-for-art>

**SUPPORT WISCONSIN ART**

**BENEFACTOR | \$1,000+**  
**PATRON | \$500**  
**SUSTAINER | \$300**  
**CONTRIBUTOR | \$150**  
**DONOR | \$80**  
**FRIEND | \$40**

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