



April 2025



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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Fellow Artists!

A quick word, as we take a moment to transition to our new Executive Director. On behalf of the board, we are delighted to welcome Shannon Kupfer to this role. We had an impressive pool of 15 candidates, and narrowing it down to the final five interviews was a challenge. After careful consideration, we selected the individual who we believe is the best fit for our needs at this point in time.

We were looking for a visionary leader with both creativity and practical expertise. Shannon brings a wealth of experience and a genuine appreciation for the visual arts, along with strong leadership and organizational skills. Her ability to communicate with passion and clarity will continue our mission to empower you, our valued members, to support your creative goals by connecting you with opportunities, as well as to one another. A peek inside Shannon's experience and passion follows.

As Shannon begins her role on April 2nd, please join me in giving her a warm welcome as our next Executive Director!

Sincerely,

Jane Hostetler  
President WVA



# MEET SHANNON KUPFER

## **Please welcome our new Executive Director Shannon Kupfer!**

Shannon Kupfer an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and educator based in Port Washington, Wisconsin. Shannon received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting and Drawing from UW-Milwaukee and her Master of Fine Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Art, Media, and Design from the Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto. After school, Shannon spent some time in museum arts education at the Art Gallery of Ontario as well as the Museum of Wisconsin Art. She then began working for the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts (THELMA) as their educator and curator for four years and their Executive Director for three and a half years. Shannon is passionate about the arts in Wisconsin and is eager to support working artists, exhibitions, and arts venues across the state. She will continue to curate for THELMA, including WVA's Perspectives exhibition, while bringing WVA into its next, exciting chapter of success. Shannon hopes to increase fundraising efforts for WVA in order to bolster the future programming and operations.

In her personal practice as an artist, she takes an interdisciplinary approach to art making. Fusing her two passions, art and science, she explores and researches



the fascinating world of microscopic fungi. Utilizing a multitude of materials, she bridges the divide between disciplines and encourages viewers to learn from and engage with art in new and exciting ways (sight, touch, sound). In her free time, she likes to go hiking, crochet, visit museums, and read. She has two pugs names Poco and Peggy who are 2.5 yrs old and 6 months old. She also engages in independent art history research and is preparing to launch a podcast called ArtSpark in the next couple of months. Shannon is looking forward to working with WVA members, learning about their practices, and helping foster connections all over the state.

# STATE NEWS

## State News

Mark Your Calendars!

**ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY MAY 31, 11 am – 3 pm**

Hamilton Type Museum, Two Rivers WI

**All members welcome!**

# CHAPTER NEWS

## South Central Chapter

Our next monthly chapter meeting will be held via **Zoom on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30pm**. We'll talk about Perspectives 2025, and hope the South Central members who were in the show will join us to talk about their work. We'll also discuss shipping artwork. It's a real cost that we don't anticipate when we're busy creating!

## Southeast Chapter

The April Meeting of the Southeast Chapter is **Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**. The link is available in the April Newsletter or our Chapter Facebook page.

We will be confirming candidates for Chapter Officers for our May Election.

What's on Your Easel? returns for April, check out the newsletter or our Chapter Facebook page for details.

## North Chapter

**NORTH Chapter meets every third Tuesday of the month.**

# PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS!

**Adam Fulwiler**, Sturgeon Bay, **Marian Vieux**, Bayside, **Daniel Kramer**, Green Bay

### WHY APPLY FOR A PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP?

WVA not only offers support and education to its artist members, but also acts as a resource for galleries, museums, and artist organizations throughout the midwest. When we advertise a member as a professional artist, we are collectively vouching for that artist – to the public – as a responsible, experienced creative. We are extending a recommendation to work with these artists on future projects and exhibitions.

Due to this, it is extremely important that we are thoughtful about granting professional status to our members. Beyond being a resource – WVA also aims to educate artists on criteria that professional organizations look for in an application/portfolio, as well as coach them to be the best that they can be. If a professional membership application is not accepted, a letter outlining areas of potential progress and improvement will be crafted by the WVA Professional Member Jury.

A professional membership does not have an additional fee attached to it. It exists as inspiration for artistic and professional growth and improvement.

### WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE?

The professional membership committee consists of the Executive Director, and two professional members from each chapter.

### WHEN ARE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS REVIEWED?

Jurying will be done the 3rd week of Sept, Dec, March, June and you will be notified of the jury's decision within 10 business days thereafter. For those awarded the Professional Membership designation, it will be reflected in WVA records and on the website within 10 business days from jurying.

### WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS?

WVA defines Professional Artists as those individuals who have shown achievement in their chosen media. Professional Members will submit images of their work, which will be assessed by a jury of Professional and/or Life Members for consistently high quality.



**The Professional Member must also have any combination of three of the following qualifications:**

- Has participated in at least 4 juried exhibitions
- Has made Commissioned art sales and/or is represented by one or more commercial art gallery
- Publication of work two or more times
- 20% or more of gross income generated by sales of artwork and/or art instruction
- Two or more Regional/National/WVA Awards received
- Maintains a professional level website of artwork
- Has a relevant degree and/or record of professional-level training

NEXT APPLICATION REVIEW WILL BE THE 3RD WEEK OF JUNE 2025

Submit your application [here](#).

# Wisconsin Visual Artists **PERSPECTIVES2025**

March 28 – May 9 2025

Thelma Sadoff Center  
for the Arts

Fond du Lac WI



Our opening reception for Perspectives2025 was a grand success! A time for our artists, friends, and family to gather, connect, and enjoy the stunning art of our members on the beautiful walls of Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts. We are grateful for the partnership with Thelma to bring this exhibition to you. A big thank you to our thoughtful and insightful jurors, Fred Stonehouse and Kate Mothes. Their remarks were inspiring and so very supportive of the community of artists for which we belong! And, of course, we are thankful to you, our members artists, and all those who entered. We are so excited for the depth and range of visual art being produced within our state, representing Wisconsin's Visual Artists!

As we celebrate all of our member artists, and the visual arts, shown here are a few images of the opening and recognition of the awards given.





### Best in Show

Arboreal Collection

Ian Vierck, SC



### 3rd Place

A Short Life in the  
Library of Babel

Dara Larson, SE



### 2nd Place

Shelter (Oak Road)

Terri Warpinski, N







An impressionistic painting of a beach scene. The sky is a mix of dark blue, purple, and white, suggesting a dramatic or stormy atmosphere. The waves are depicted with thick, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, and white, crashing onto a sandy beach. The foreground shows the texture of the sand and the foam of the waves.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# Lee Mothes

*Leaping Shorebreak 11 by 14*





*All Kinds of Clouds*

I've always had a desire to experience events or places other than where I happened to be. At a very young age, I was fascinated by train wrecks, tidal waves, earthquakes, floods and fires, and drew them as best I could. Growing up two blocks from the Pacific Ocean in Southern California, I was sometimes exposed to high surf which occasionally flooded our streets. We also experienced small earthquakes and a rare house fire in the neighborhood, but no train wrecks or tsunamis. These scenes later morphed into beaches and houses-on-coastlines with occasional rough surf but without the destruction. Also, no humans or animals were harmed in my drawings.

By the end of high school in 1966, the only thing that interested me was drawing, so I majored in art at nearby California State College at Long Beach. I later moved on to CCAC (now California College of the Arts) in Oakland for about a year, then finally received a Bachelor Degree in Art at Western Oregon University, in 1980. It was a long winding road but I did it!

Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Maxfield Parrish, Andrew Wyeth, David Hockney, Thomas Hart Benton and the conceptual movement have influenced my work. In the '50s I admired Norman Rockwell's cover art for the Saturday Evening Post, and was fascinated by how artists like him obsessively paid attention to the most minute details. Another lasting influence has been JRR Tolkien's creation of Middle Earth for his Hobbit stories, especially the geographical settings, the runes and his wonderful maps.

I do art because I feel I can say something that might resonate with another person. I'm thrilled when someone enjoys, or at least reacts in some way, to my work. On another level, I enjoy the process of simply making up something, like creating an imaginary beach or an entire island. I can be in my 'special world' instead of the 'real world', and it's hugely satisfying when others go there too.



Currently, I'm enjoying writing as much as creating visual art. After many years of "building" New Island, my imaginary island-nation, I recently completed a novel that takes place there. It's a young-adult adventure story called *The Hum*, and is now available on Amazon/ Lee Mothes/*The Hum*

I plan to keep painting and writing indefinitely. Why would I want to quit?

Two watercolors are currently on view at the Trout Museum in Appleton, and a surf-and-beach drawing is at the WVA show at the Thelma Sadoff Art Center in Fond du Lac. I also have several pieces on display at the Robert Ray Gallery in Algoma. The Galeria Logan also features my larger paintings and drawings. It's located in Todos Santos, an old mission town on the Pacific just north of Cabo San Lucas, in Mexico.

I joined WVA in 1992 not long after moving to Wisconsin from Oregon.

The group really helped me meet other artists at a time when I didn't know anyone. I've particularly enjoyed participating in the shows and sharing work at an occasional critique meeting. My other community-art involvement has been teaching watercolor painting and a class I call *Art of Imagination* to high school kids. It's through the Renaissance School, a charter arts program at Appleton West High School, where I'm officially one of several guest artists. I especially enjoy seeing the wonderful creative responses to my assignments. These kids all have something to say!

My artwork is available for sale and can be seen by appointment at my studio in Kaukauna or on my website, [oceansanddreams.com](http://oceansanddreams.com) For studio visits, which I always welcome, call or text me at 920-858-2636 or email me at [mothesart@gmail.com](mailto:mothesart@gmail.com).

My books, *The New Island Guidebook* and *The Hum* are available on Amazon.com/Lee Mothes. ■

*Mothes working on The Seven foot*











ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# Tori Tasch

LEGEND

Collisions



### Do you have any formal art training – schools to boast? Self-taught?

BFA Carroll University and additional studies in Book and Paper Arts, Columbia College

### How long have you been making art?

Since I discovered the joy of Silly Putty transfers, I spent Sunday afternoons on the porch making silly putty impressions of the comics (in color on Sunday!), stretching them and transferring to my sketchbook. It was magical.

### What motivates you to make your work?

My research based practice explores recurrent themes: climate change, social norms and current events with strong histories. One event can trigger an entire series. Currently working on a memorial to the nearly 1000 migrating birds killed after colliding with the McCormick Place windows in Chicago October 4-5, 2023. The repurposed shadow box frame is from Chris Buth Furness.

### What influences your work?

Meret Oppenheim, Rene Magritte, Lenore Tawney, Louise Bourgeois, Kathe Kollwitz, Anna Atkins to name a few.

Also deeply inspired by Community Print Shops and Residency programs:

Both provide access to resources and support, fostering networking opportunities and expanding my practice. Some of my favorites: Sharing a studio with Dara Larson at RedLine Milwaukee, doing a residency at the Lynden Sculpture Garden with Pat Hidson, Artservancy which led to getting serious about a pollinator garden.

Currently immersed in the Studio 224 Print Shop, Port Washington. I love the energy and cross pollination generated by being with other creatives!

### Can you talk about the process of making your work, from concept to completion?

Lots of research, preparing multiple matrices, making multiples using print processes, many layers of print processes build the image. The small pieces frequently become books. Deciding how to install or display them becomes the most time consuming piece.

Collections of handmade items create a collective whole but retain the uniqueness of the individual. Sequences of deliberate similarities and subtle differences are part of the process.



ABOVE: Damsels and Darners

BELOW: Spirit Lake



### What do you hope to accomplish with your work?

I hope to inspire others to protect and restore the networks for our continued survival.

### What do you hope viewers get out of your work?

I invite the viewer to connect to the living world, to foster growth and appreciation for our landscape.

### What is currently most of interest to you as it relates to your art making?

Sustainable art practices.

### Any upcoming exhibitions, shows, or art happenings?

Perspectives at the Thelma: March 28 – May 9

Coming Together: Cedarburg Cultural Center: April 19 – June 1

Milwaukee Area Teachers of Art: Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Ave: May 3 – June 14

Studio 224: Nature Prints July 12 workshop in the afternoon

Scout Gallery, Bay View : September

[instagram.com/victoriatasch](https://www.instagram.com/victoriatasch)

[facebook.com/victoria.tasch](https://www.facebook.com/victoria.tasch)

[toritasch.com](https://toritasch.com)

### How are you involved with your Wisconsin art community?

Current Historian for WVA State Board 2024–2026 (Past President 2016–2020, Past Treasurer 2020–2024)

Board Member Milwaukee Area Teachers of Art since 2014

Studio 224 Artist in Residence since 2018

Member of Vox Populi Print Collective, Co-founded by Barry Carlsen

### Can we buy your work? If so, where/how?

Studio 224, Vox Pop Art Collective, Artsy and via my website contact page. ■

*PrintShop*









An abstract painting with thick, expressive brushstrokes in various colors including dark blue, light green, yellow, and grey. The composition is non-representational, featuring large, overlapping shapes and textures.

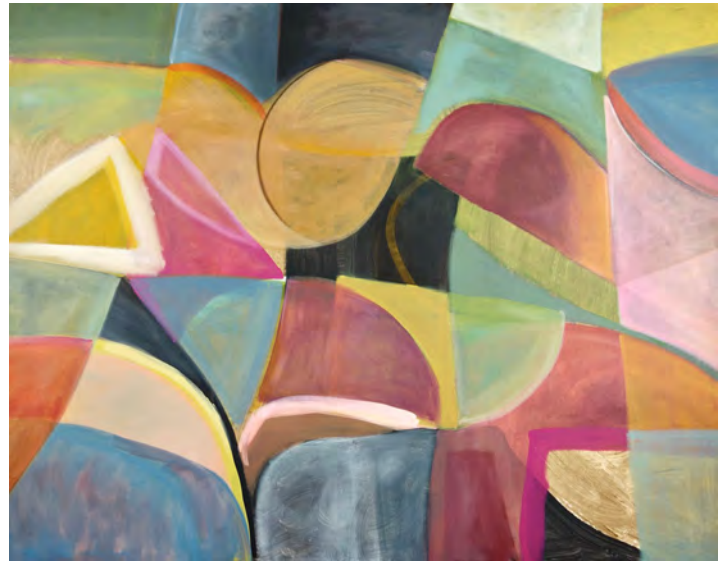
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Louis

### Do you have any formal art training – schools to boast? Self-taught?

Three years into Art and Landscape Architecture studies at UW Madison I followed a casual urge to move to Spain. Not quite 3 years later, I returned home to help my family in Fort Atkinson, where I finished my BA in Art at UW-Whitewater.

I've had an art practice for more than forty years. Along the way, numerous international art residencies have influenced my work. My studio extends to my yard, where I nurture an edible landscape that's forever a wild artwork in progress.



### What motivates you to make your work?

As both artist and naturalist, I'm curious about how Nature inspires awe, how we feel it deep in our bones, how to express that relationship, and what we can learn from it. My process focused work explores balance, pattern, and connection in a complex world. Celebrating and confronting Nature and life's transience through abstraction, I want to express how the natural

world and life constantly expand and contract all around us, kindling our sense of awe, urgency, and wonder.

### What influences your work?

My mother was a painter. She died of ovarian cancer when I was young. Her love and my longing continue to propel me forward. Some of my brushes belonged to her. In my studio, I feel a visceral connection to her and am reminded that life can be short and unpredictable. That's a powerful message.

Science and ecology also play a weighty role in my creative process. My work is deeply influenced by time spent volunteering, living in, and studying tropical rainforests across Central and South America. For many years I served as a board director for a conservation non-profit while volunteering banding birds and conducting plant surveys at UW's Biocore Prairie. Exploring the landscapes of my home in the Driftless Area near Cross Plains is now a daily tonic for my sense of wonder and artistic creativity.

### Can you talk about the process of making your work, from concept to completion?

Process-focused, I paint without plans or sketches. An open mind is my most important tool. I love the physicality of painting large-scale pieces and the interplay between control and spontaneity. I prefer abstraction as opposed to more realistic work because it challenges my courage as a painter and your openness as a viewer.

Every living being is composed of myriad generations carried forward genetically and epigenetically. We literally hold the history of life within our bodies. Each of us is a microbial community taking note and adapting (or not) to the environment we live in. That just blows my mind. I want to paint that. It's why I'm drawn to painting large abstract canvases where 'self' is fully accepted and absorbed as inherent to the whole. I know a painting is done when I see and feel that synthesis come into balance.



## What do you hope to accomplish with your work?

In 2013, serious illness forced me to take a hard look at my artistic path. I'm not retired, I don't have a pension. I still have health insurance to buy. My art practice needed to pay the bills at a time when I had less energy than I'd ever had in my life. Plus, I didn't want to die with a studio full of artwork—a sentiment shared by many artists at a certain point! I spent a recovery year diving into the business side of art.

I'm adamant about not romanticizing what it means to be a full-time working artist. These days, record-keeping, marketing and social media, cleaning and organizing, packing and

shipping take up half my time. I'm a disciplined artist-entrepreneur who works every day. So far, I've been able to pay my bills without compromising my artistic values or creative spirit.

## What do you hope viewers get out of your work?

These are daunting and uncomfortable times. I hope my work serves as a reminder to be receptive to the beauty and mystery of life that's worth fighting for. It's still here. Every day. Stay open, be soft. Be brave, be bold. Take a chance. As a lifelong naturalist and painter, I see and experience the world in a multifaceted context where scientific foundations intersect with raw creativity and impulse. I want the viewer of my paintings to feel a dynamic encounter with living energy. Whether artist or viewer, each life experience, mine and yours, is part of every artwork while Nature reminds us that we are all part of something larger.

## Any upcoming exhibitions, shows, or art happenings?

Yes! I was recently selected to Best of 2024: Painting, by Saatchi Art, the world's leading online gallery. My work can be found in hundreds of collections worldwide, including the National Gallery of Costa Rica. I've licensed my work to designers and consultants for many projects.

I'd like to get my work into more local collections. I meet with fellow artists and naturalists through events and volunteer initiatives. I participate in Wisconsin art exhibitions.

I've always got paintings in the works and I'm always looking for opportunities to exhibit, and dare I say, sell my work. I have upcoming projects that I'll be announcing soon—stay tuned!

## Can we buy your work? If so, where/how?

Yes! Please see my website. Follow me on Instagram for what's new in the studio. If you're interested in a piece, or would like to discuss a large commission, representation in your gallery, or have any other questions about my work, reach out through my website or social media. ■

[michellelouis.com](http://michellelouis.com)

[instagram.com/mlouisart](https://www.instagram.com/mlouisart)

[facebook.com/michelleLouisArt](https://www.facebook.com/michelleLouisArt)

### Photos:

Artist in studio with *Magic Carpet Ride*, 2025, 54H x 126W inches, on canvas  
*Dusk*, 2024, 70H x 90W inches, on canvas  
*Remember This*, 2025, 38H x 65W inches, on canvas



# MEMBER NEWS

## DALE VAN MINSEL

I am pleased to announce that my photograph, titled "Greenspace," has been selected for inclusion in the Alive In the Arts 30th Anniversary Juried Art Exhibition at the Plymouth Arts Center. The exhibition will be held on Friday, May 2, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

*Plymouth Arts Center  
520 East Mill St.  
Plymouth WI 53073*



## DENISE PRESNELL

My oil and cold wax painting, "Confabulation" has been juried into the 30th Annual "Alive in the Arts" exhibition being held in the Plymouth Arts Center's Gallery 110 North. The exhibition runs May 2nd - August 1st with a reception/award ceremony on Friday, May 2nd.

*Gallery 110 North  
520 E. Mill Street  
Plymouth WI 53073*

My oil and cold wax painting, "Symbiosis" has been juried into MVA Gallery's national juried exhibition - "The Grandeur of Color". The exhibition runs from June 8th - July 3rd, 2025. The gallery is located in Bethlehem, PA.

*MVA Gallery  
35 E. Elizabeth St., Ste. 313  
Bethlehem PA 18018*



## JEFF STERN

Jeff Stern is very pleased to have had his oil painting "October Corn" recognized as "Best In Show" for this juried exhibition, being shown March 1, 2025 - April 22, 2025.

*Gallery Q Artists Cooperative  
1108 Main St.  
Stevens Point WI 54481*



## CRISTIAN ANDERSSON

The Lawton Gallery, located at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, is excited to present CommonPlace\*, an exhibition of works by photographers David Graham and Terri Warpinski. Training their lenses on NE Wisconsin, these artists present two very different ways of looking at a similar location. \*The commonly found or seen; ordinary, unremarkable.

Warpinski, through black and white, nature-based photography—at times displayed as large-scale installations—in the series Restless Earth writes that her work:

"...draws attention to her home ground in the Great Lakes Watershed and the urgent necessity for ecological recovery, restoration and re-wilding in response to our global environmental crisis."

Graham takes a different approach. His vibrant color images are at times humorous or quirky but always steeped in a feeling of the everyday. He describes his subjects as:

"...the odd, unusual, and striking... explor[ing] how Americans express themselves through their environments—whether public or private, whether they are by the side of the road or in the backyard. The result is a series of photographs which delve into the complex weave of image, symbol, and reality that we see as America at its finest." Exhibition runs March 6th–April 18th, 2025. Closing reception April 17th from 4–7pm. Regular gallery hours are Monday–Saturday 10am–3pm. Closed Sunday. Closed the week of March 17th for spring break

*UWGB Lawton Gallery  
2420 Nicolet Drive  
Green Bay WI 54311*



## MICHAEL KNAPSTEIN

WVA Member Michael Knapstein will have 11 photographs exhibited in Gallery One at the Overture Center for the Arts in downtown Madison, Wisconsin. The exhibit will run from March 11 thru June 8. An opening reception and talk will be held on April 24th from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. The artist talk will begin at 6 pm.

*201 State Street  
Madison WI 53703*



## KAREN GOETZINGER

Karen Goetzinger has had three of her large abstract paintings juried into The BIG Show at The Art Garage in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The BIG Show celebrates the grandeur and scale of contemporary art and will be on view from March 6 – April 12, 2025.

*The Art Garage  
1400 Cedar Street  
Green Bay WI 54302*



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