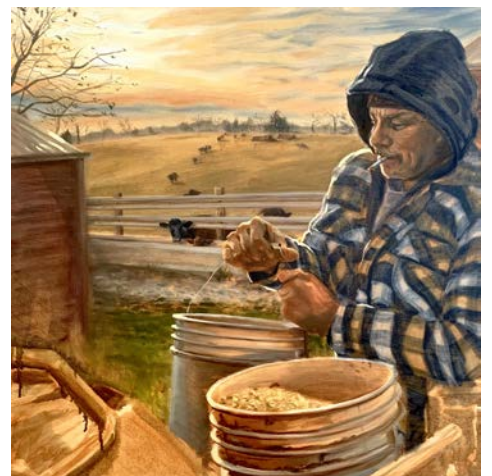


BIENNIAL31

CEDARHURST CENTER FOR THE ARTS
JUNE 27 ★ SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



*Southern Illinois defines
Midwest culture as this
biennial shows,
celebrating 64 artists,
from 43 cities & towns,
with 80 works of art of
great diversity and
creative imagination
reflecting the region's
vibrant people and their
communities.*



WELCOME

Southern Illinois is not defined by what we hear on the news. Mass and social media stereotypes prevail seemingly trying to define the nation's diverse regions. The Biennial has consistently presented different aesthetic perspectives than the media; artists across southern Illinois represent multicultural diversity in their artworks that reflect the widespread Midwest values of fairness and community.

Entries were up for the third Biennial in a row following 2020. Themes in this year's biennial define the moment. All themes are traditional, yet feature an artist's individual talents and innovation. Mythology was a noticeable increase this year. Pure abstraction is a consistent genre, as are nature, especially plants, animals, communities in general, family, farming, urban scenes, and themes of religion.

Local artist, curator, writer, and this year's juror Michael Aldag did an outstanding job selecting 80 works from the 322 entered. Please read Michael's thoughtful and informative analysis of the Biennial on the following page.

We thank our sponsors, Hunt and Donna Bonan, WSIU, and Bill and Sylvia Howard.

Awards will be posted online at Cedarhurst.org after the June 27 opening.

A final word concerning the artwork to the right, Mark Donham's *Too Many Headlines*. Though the drawing's complexity may say something about today's world, take hope, the sun shines over it all.

Rusty Freeman, Director of Visual Arts
June 15, 2025

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MARK DONHAM, Brookport, IL, *Too Many Headlines*

ON THE COVER: clockwise from the top left:

SHEILA LAMBERSON, Bloomington, IL, *Proximal Isolation*;

MICHAEL ANDERSON, Belleville, IL, *Girl with a Rose Tattoo*;

NISHA CLARY, Belleville, IL, *Alexis, Ayvilyn, & Alayna*;

CHLOE FLANIGAN, Mt. Vernon, IL, *Feeding Cows*;

MIMI HUANG, St. Charles, IL, *Mother & Child*;

DANIEL OVERTURF, Murphysboro, IL; *Dave and Carl, Choctaw Mountain*;

KEITH PEARSON, Mt. Vernon, IL, *Summer Treat*

JUROR STATEMENT

Michael Aldag, Mt. Vernon, IL

We're living in a time where politics has become the new religion. This a highly-politicized, divisive world. Family members and friends cut ties because of opposing views or party affiliations. There's an over-saturation of stories from news commentators and podcasters that are aimed to tickle the ears of their target audiences. Civil dialogue and discussion boards are abandoned and replaced by groupthink and echo chambers.

Technology also continues to pervade our lives, decreasing more personal interactions. Meaningful face-to-face conversations give way to gifs and emojis. And with artificial intelligence (AI) becoming more prevalent, this only looks to escalate.

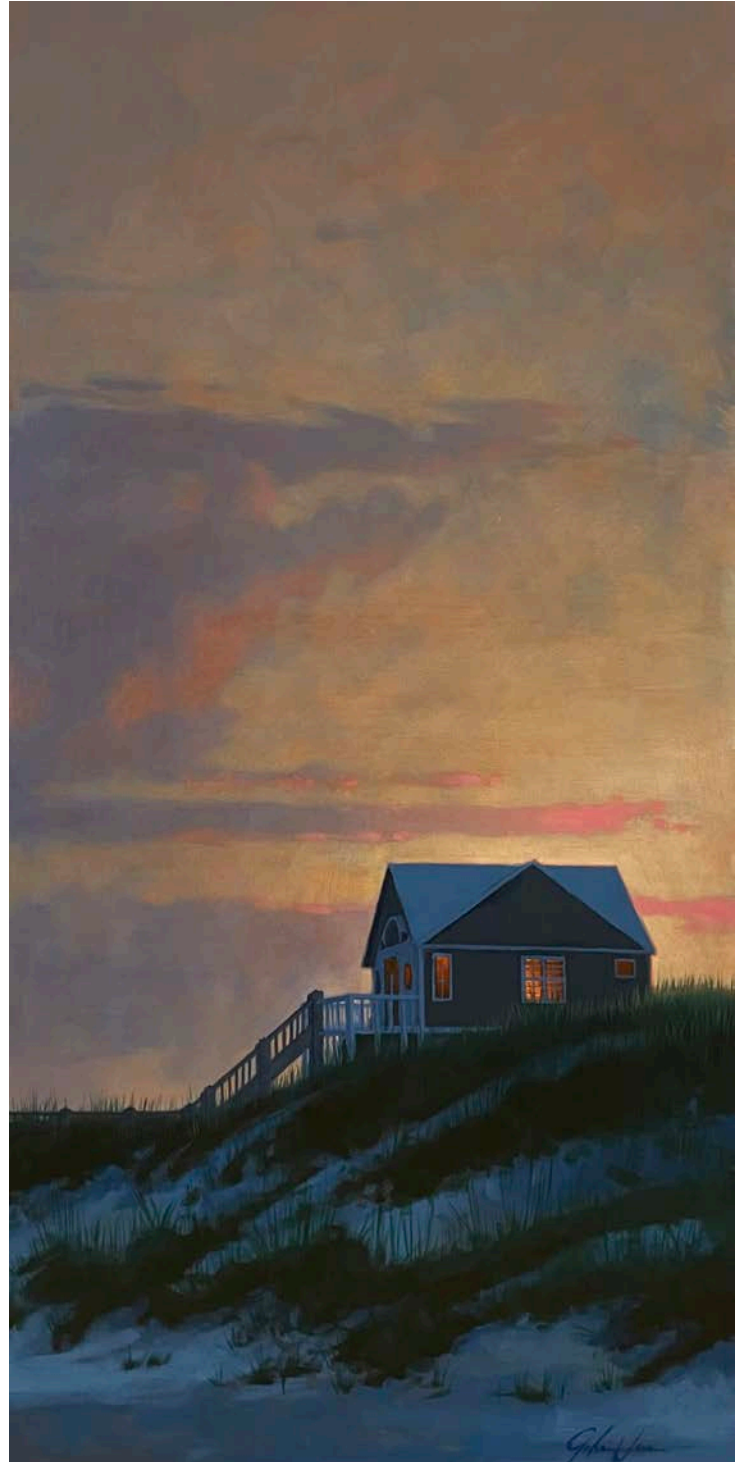
These factors, along with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, have certainly aided in the formation of this intense, isolating environment. You feel the impact of it expressed in many of the artworks in this exhibit, such as *Too Many Headlines*, *Proximal Isolation*, and *Prone*.

In reaction to these factors, there's a yearning for peaceful refuge as well as relationship. Evident in *Beach House*, *St. Francis of Assisi*, and *Honor and Respect*. Some artists also depict signs of resilience and hope, as shown in *We Thought Her Lost*, *Ethereal Vow*, and *Morning Light*.

I'm reminded of a quote by famed dancer Twyla Tharp, "art is the only way to run away without leaving home." Art is a great escape. The world you live in doesn't have to be the one you dwell on.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as the juror for this major regional competition. I know how it feels to be a part of this show, and to go through the process of entering and waiting to learn of the selections. Being able to view the works created by fellow artists and thus learning more about the efforts, sentiments, and visions expressed in these pieces is both relatable and humbling. So, judging a show like this was not an easy task nor one that I took lightly.

Thank you to all the artists who entered this competition. For your willingness, and boldness, in sharing your voice with our creative community.



JOHN URSO, O'Fallon, IL, *Beach House*



PAUL ELLEDGE, Bluford, IL, *Credere*



APRIL GOEKE, Herrin, IL, *Midnight Bath*

EMILY SIMPSON, Mattoon, IL, *Diana the Huntress*

TRISTEN HAHN, Charleston, IL, *Big Blue*

JERRY MONTEITH, Cobden, IL, *Ode to My Trees*

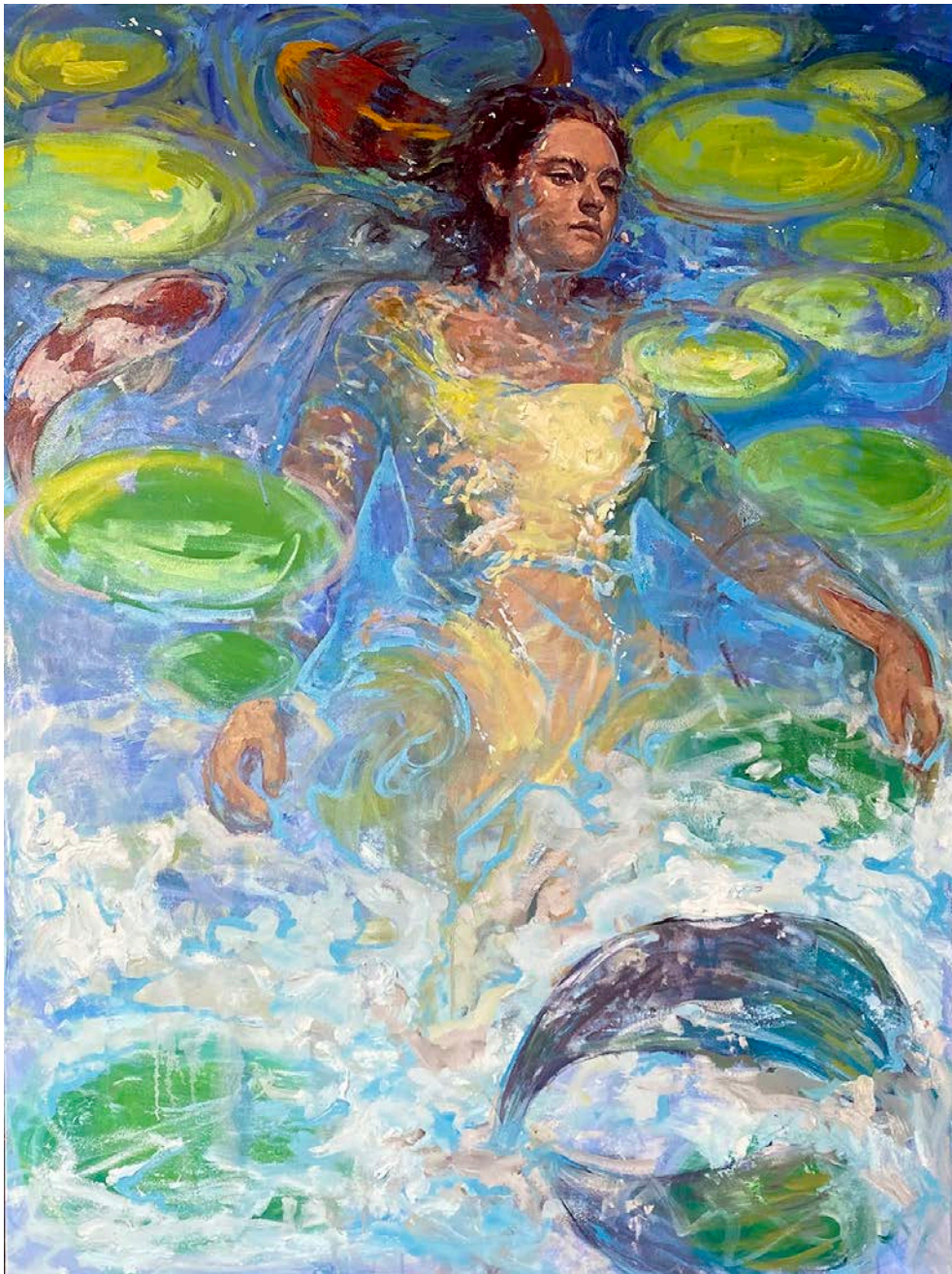


JANET DONAHUE, Carterville, IL, *Dream Lake*

JILL KETTLER, Freeburg, IL, *Native Land*

CONNIE CAVEGLIA MIELKE, O'Fallon, IL, *The Ethereal Nature of Dreams*





MELISSA TYCHONIEVICH, St Louis, MO, *Ophelia's Mermaid*

DELISA HALE, Mt Vernon, IL, *Early Spring*

SUSAN HEIM, Highland, IL, *Cheveyo*

TERRY LAY, St Louis, MO, *No Stone Standing Revisited*





MARTHA BRIANA, Makanda, IL, *Tailswoman*

REBECCA MUELLER WILLIAMS, Johnston City, IL, *We Thought Her Lost*

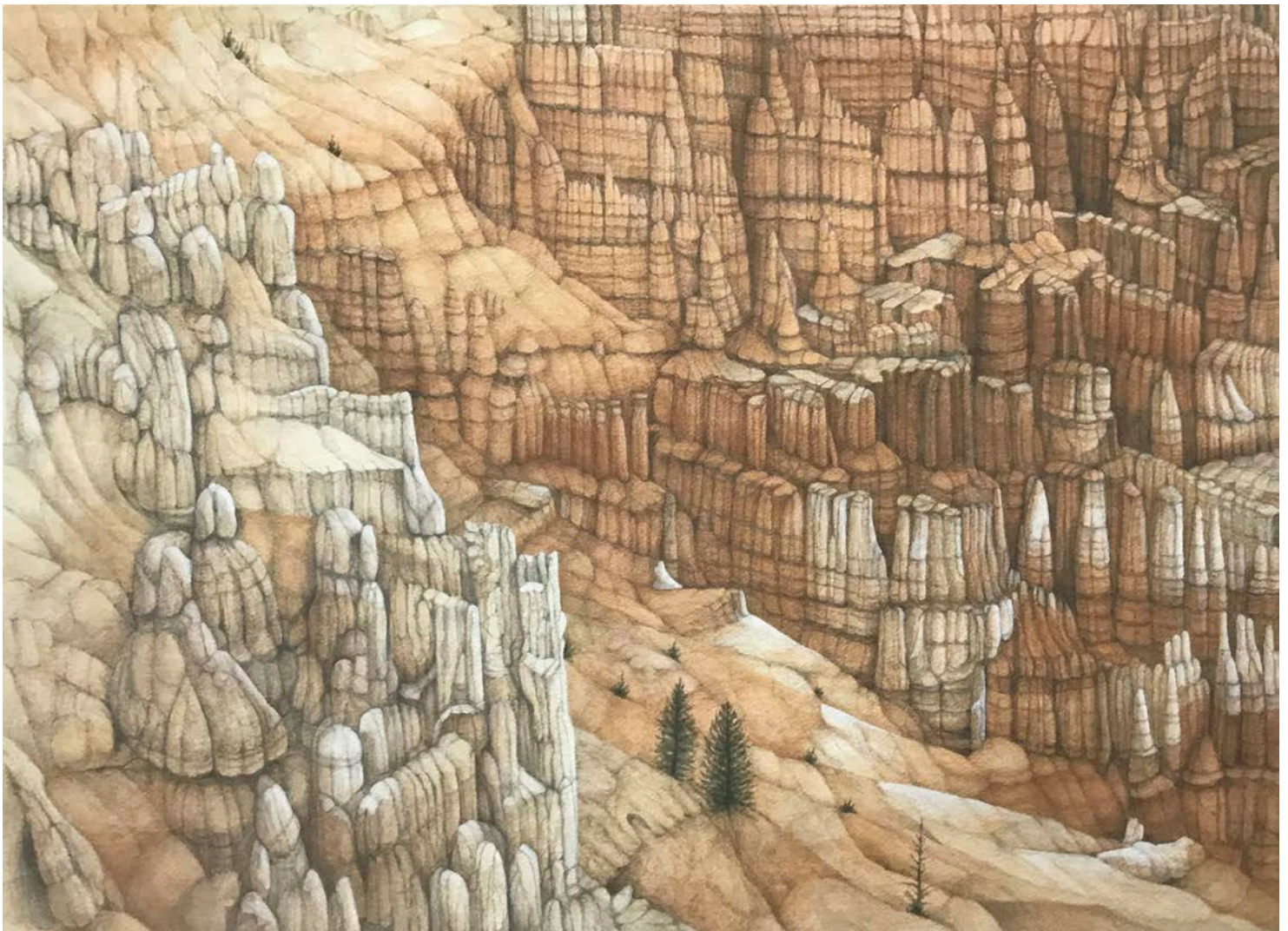
EMILY BALES, Charleston, IL, *Vesselhead*

ALEX PARADOWSKI, Granite City, IL, *Prone*



JAN KAPPES, Charleston, IL, *Garden Chaotica*

TABITHA TRIPP, Anna, IL, *From the River*



TERRY LAY, St Louis, MO, *Silent City No. 5*



CHELSEA TAMPLIN, St Louis, MO, *Morning Light*

ROBERT TREECE, Claremont, IL, *White Spider*

APRIL GOEKE, Herrin, IL, *Buoyant*

CHRIS BERTI, Urbana, IL, *Sublime Fruit*



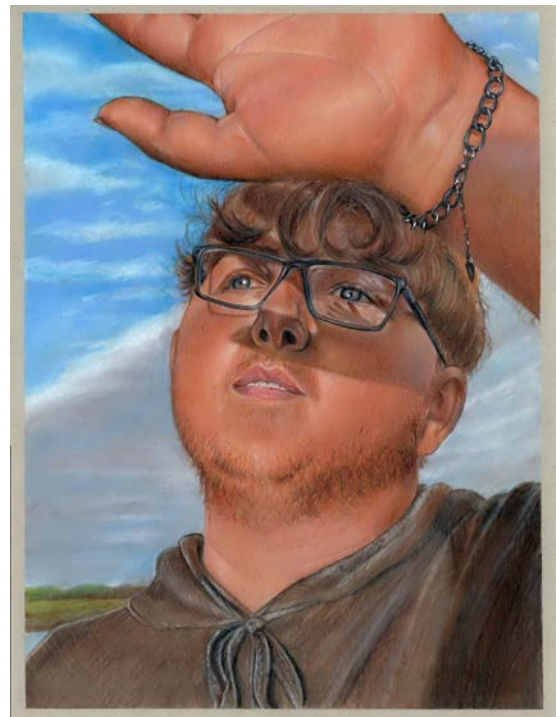
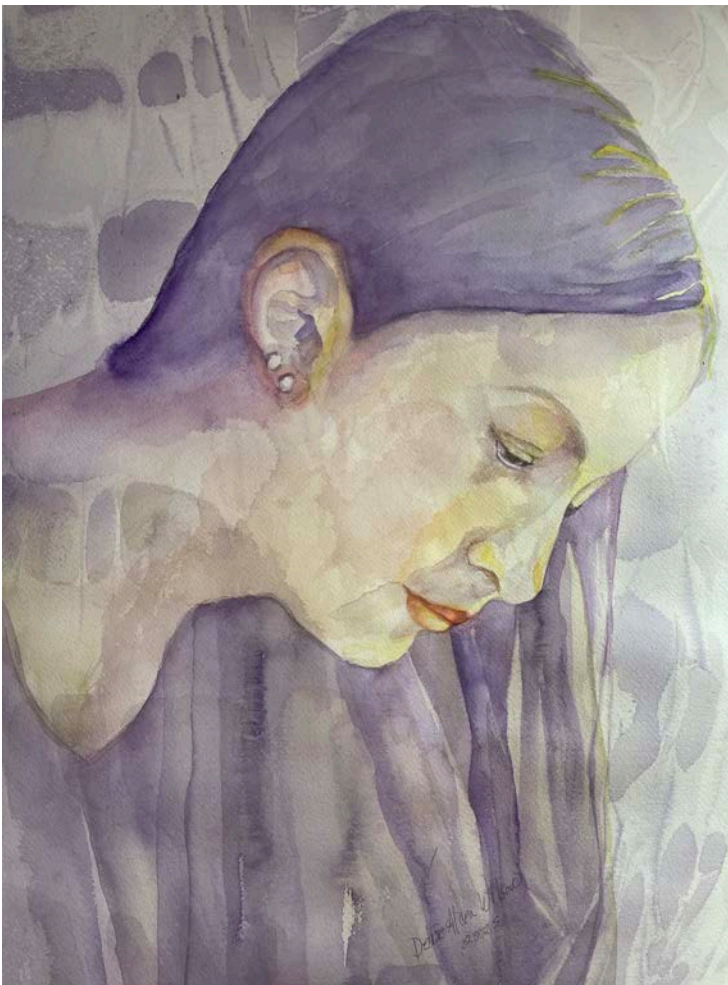


MADISON ALTHOFF, Addieville, IL, *They Were Both Naked and Not Ashamed*

DOROTHY BENNETT, Charleston, IL, *Elemental Women II*

TOM REDDISH, Marion, IL, *Saint Francis of Assisi*





JOHN URSO, O'Fallon, IL, *Morning Glow*

TYEE BECKHAM, Opdyke, IL, *The Stillness That Watched it Come*

DEBBIE WILSON, Mt Vernon, IL, *Melancholy*

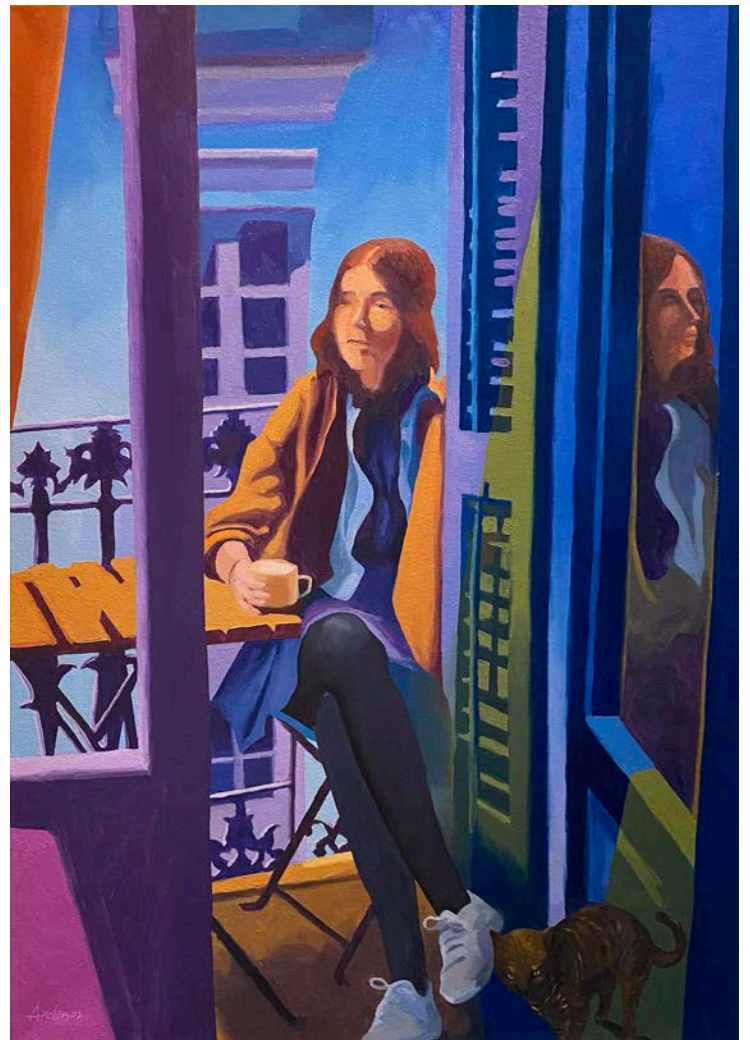


ROBERT KETCHENS, O'Fallon, IL, *A Fast Train Out*



ROBERT KETCHENS, O'Fallon, IL, *Honor and Respect*

MICHAEL ANDERSON, Belleville, IL, *A Moment to Herself*





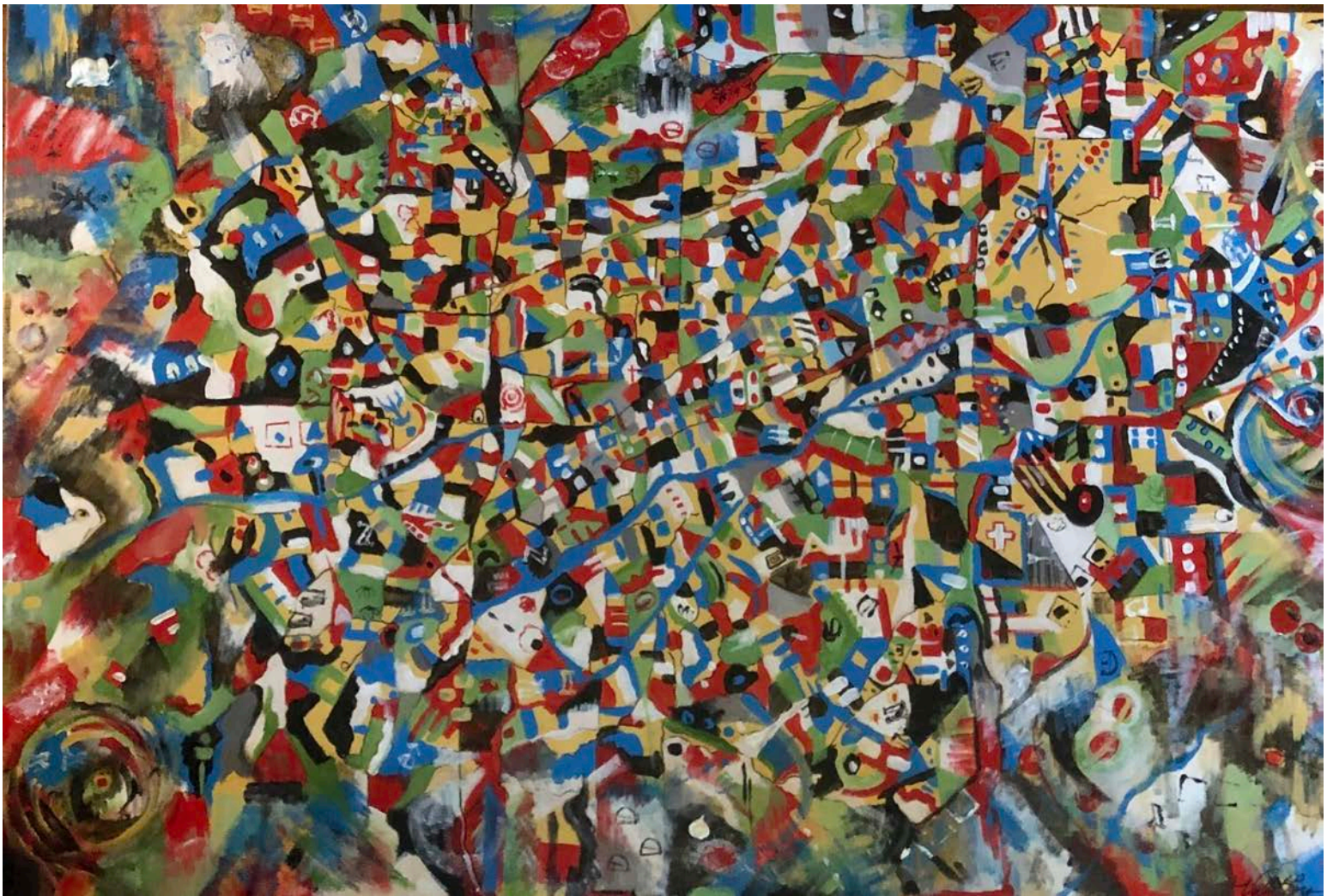
STEPHEN LEET, Creve Coeur, MO, *L 'Eclisse Masculine Feminine*

JEANE VOGEL, St Louis, MO, *Communicate Triptych*

ALYSSA ESCHBACH, Kell, IL, *Enduring Oath*

ALYSSA ESCHBACH, Kell, IL, *Ethereal Vow*

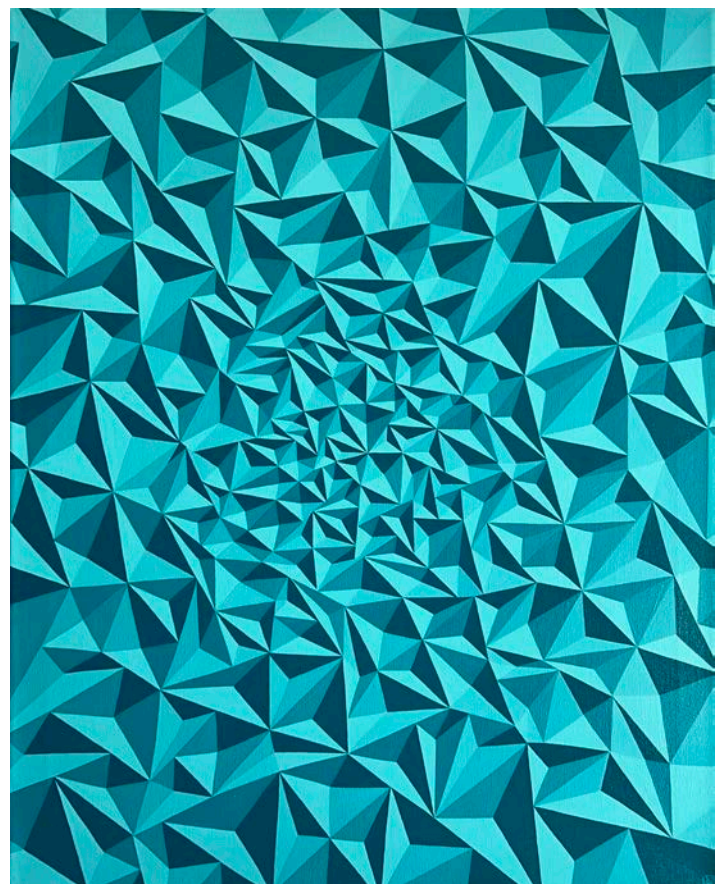
CASCADE ALMOND, Carbondale, IL, *At the Price of Oblivion* (18 sec. video)



VALERIE FRY, Marion, IL, *Ta'a'tsoh so'dilnil bi daho'ini* (*All Pathways Eventually Lead Home*)

GABE DRUEKE, Smithton, IL, *Blue Facet*

AMIR HAMAMY TOOSI, Glen Carbon, IL, *Zoopraxiscope* Series 1/4





WILLIAM SIMEONE, Carbondale, IL, *Wrangell Mountains, Alaska*



JEANNE PHILIP, Millstadt, IL, *Fish or Fiction*

BARBARA REARDON, Murphysboro, IL,
Majestic Phoenix

JOSIE WOODROME, Texico, IL, *Biting My
Tongue*



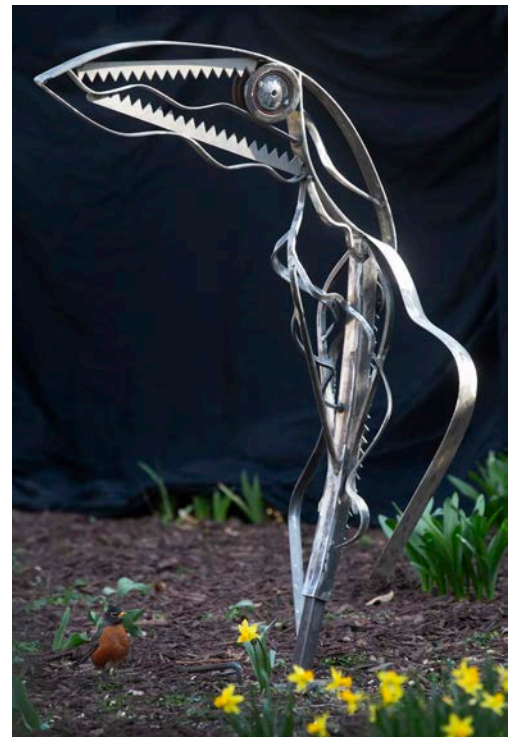


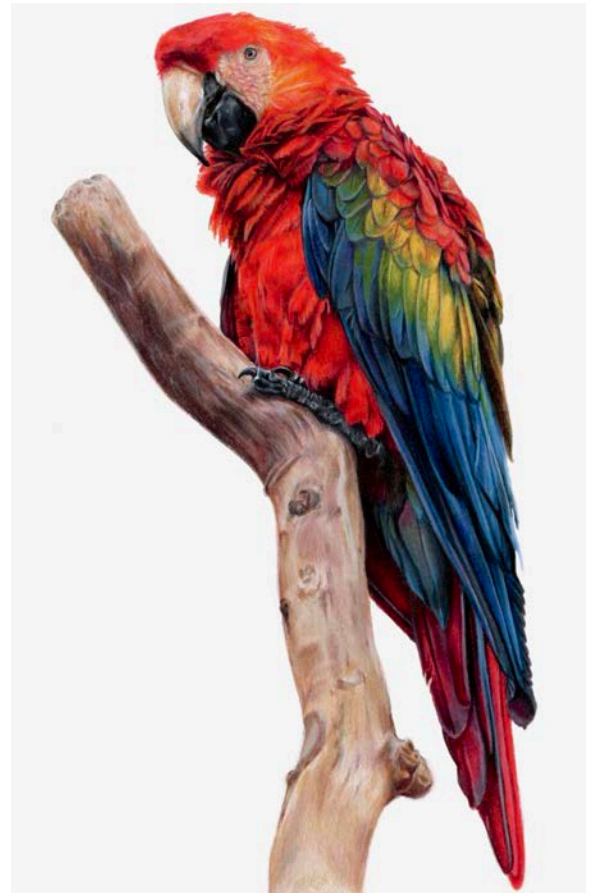
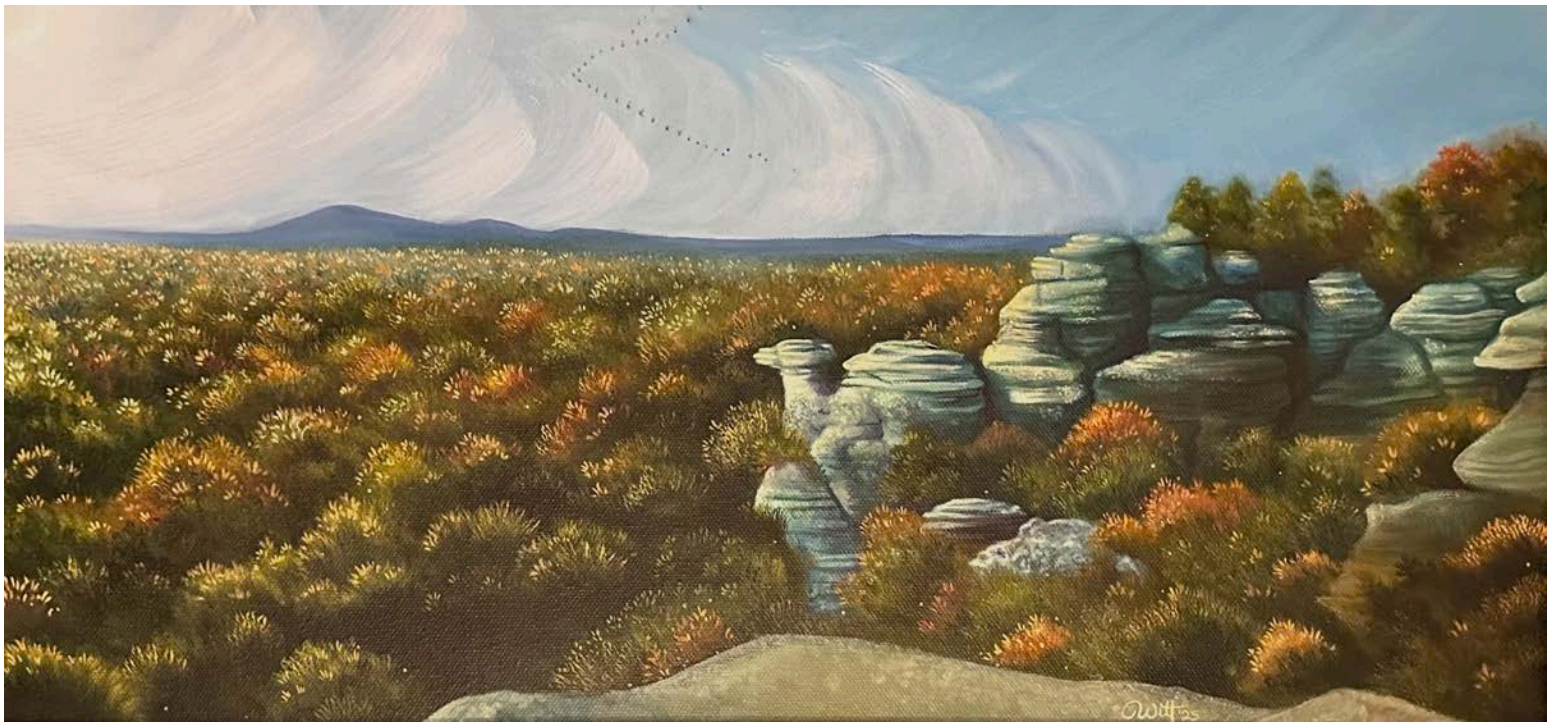
JOSIE WOODROME, Texico, IL, *Family Recipes*

MIRANDA WAGMAN, Alton, IL, *Hope Remains When Blooms Fade*

KAREN ELSHOUT, St Louis, MO, *Toucan Rex*

LISA BOWLIN, Benton, IL, *Sewing Drawer*





PHAEDRA WITT, Centraillia, IL, *A Camel in a Sea of Trees*

TYEE BECKHAM, Opdyke, IL, *Moment of Rest*

JAN KAPPES, Charleston, IL, *RFD #2*

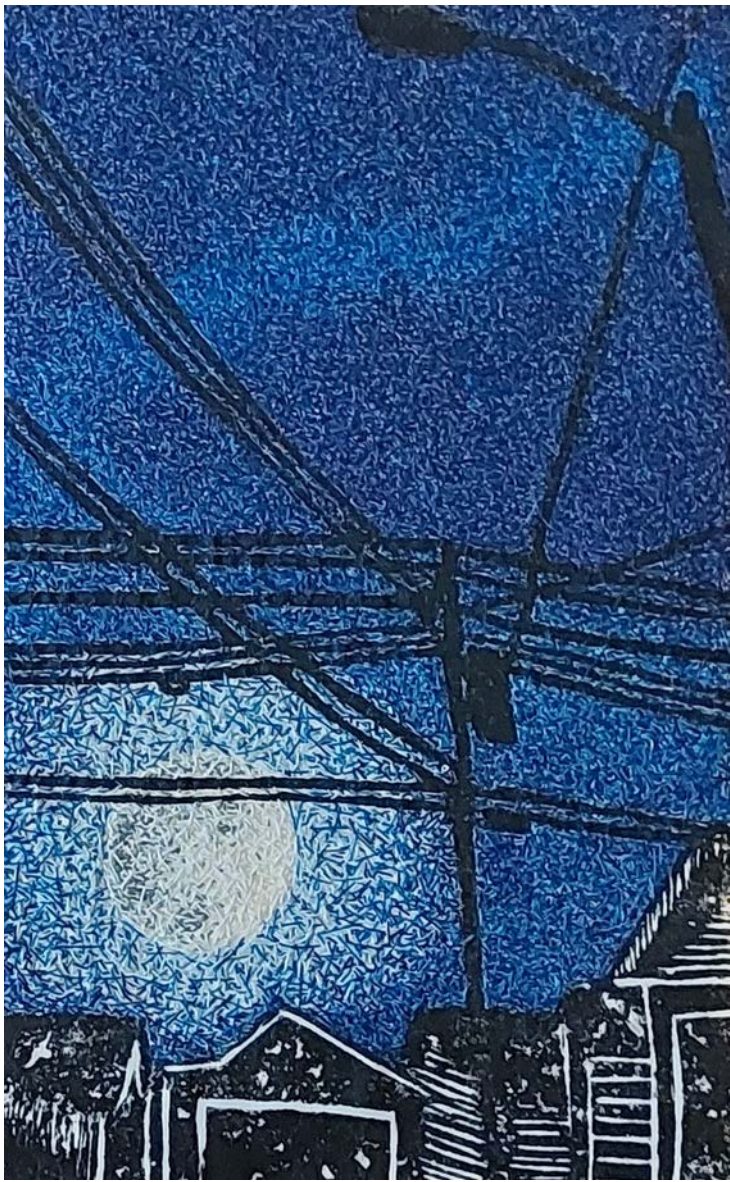


LEASHA OVERTURF, Bluford, IL, *The Noise In My Head from the Life Collage Series*

MADDIE AUNGER, Brentwood, MO, *Shallow Relief*

JANET DONAHUE, Carterville, IL, *Symmetry Chain of Rocks Bridge*





ROXANNE PHILLIPS, St Louis, MO, *Lovely Luna*

JOHN DENHOUTER, Edwardsville, IL, *Winter Blues*

SHEILA LAMBERSON, Bloomington, IL, *Bus Barn*

JEANNE PHILIP, Millstadt, IL, *Tale Spin*

ROBERT TREECE, Claremont, IL, *Rollin Fatties*

MARTHA BRIANA, Makanda, IL, *Fruit Girl*

GABE DRUEKE, Smithton, IL, *Launch Code*

LAURA O'DONNELL, Urbana, IL, *Pier*



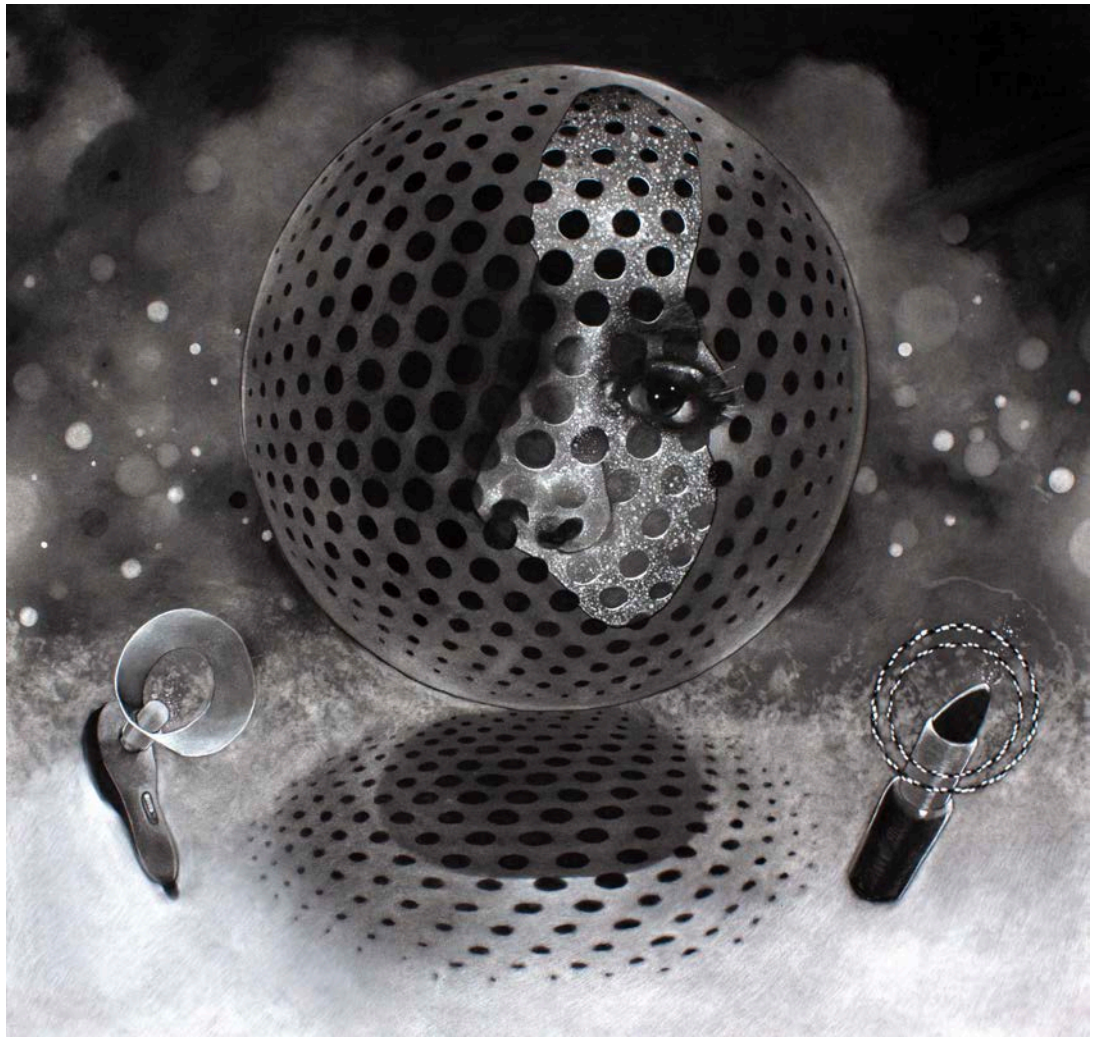


BILL ABENDROTH, Highland, IL,
High Octane

JERRY MONTEITH, Cobden, IL,
Upthrust

ELDON BENZ, Carbondale, IL,
Energy Leak Balanced Series



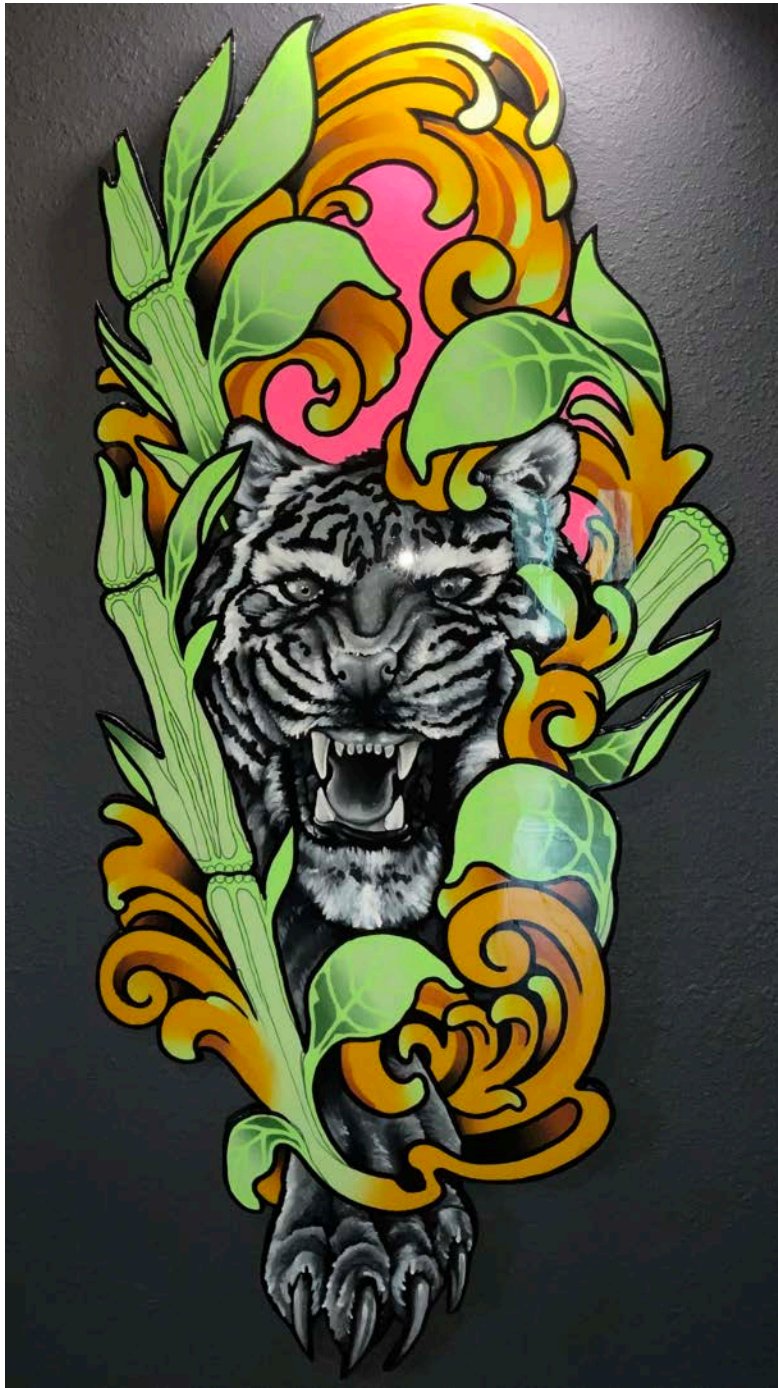


RANDY SIMMONS, Paducah, KY,
The Sound of Loneliness

ROGER BEAN, Morton, IL, *Croquet*

STEVEN MARTIN, Carterville, IL,
Woodhenge





RONNIE THREEWITT, Royalton, IL, *Healing*

GRACE WALKER, Effingham, IL, 03/30

NATHAN PEARCE, Fairfield, IL, *High & Lonesome*

