

WINTER NEWS AND UPDATES

Yes, The Gallery of Wisconsin Art still exists, and yes, it has been far too long since the last Newsletter. Sorry.

Am not telling you anything you don't already know, but what a busy and crazy year 2020 has been!

The brick and mortar gallery closed in West Bend, and considering everything that has gone on this year, it was a true blessing. I moved my home and online gallery to Mequon, and it's working out great! Samantha Landre (my former Assistant) leads the Cedarburg Art Museum as Museum Director, and is doing absolutely wonderful things for that organization. And although its been a truly horrible year, the gallery is thriving and experiencing it's best year ever! Really!

The website is getting more and more traffic every month and awareness of the gallery continues to build. I think sheltering at home and word-of-mouth during these COVID days has driven more people to the internet. Certainly, there is an economic crisis, but I believe that serious collectors of quality artwork are not as affected.

The biggest increase for the Gallery this year comes in the area of Early Wisconsin and the historic Artwork of Wisconsin 1900-1960. Collectors searching for the work of notable early Wisconsin artists will find them at GOWA online.

Online galleries are especially effective - when people know who or what they are searching. Collecting the work of early Wisconsin artists appears to be greater than its ever been! Many new and younger buyers are entering the market and building collections focused on the early regional work from Wisconsin.

Contemporary artists may find online galleries to be less effective, but requests and inquiries come through the GOWA website every week! Buyers seek to reconnect with artists and find out what they are doing, buy something new, and often arrange nice commissions. GOWA remains an effective resource for contemporary artists looking for greater exposure, promotion, online presence, and representation from a reputable gallery.

Regardless, thank you for your ongoing support, and the very best news of course GOWA lives on-line!

FEATURED ARTIST

Valerie Mangion

"A Contemporary Midwest Magic Regionalist"

Tucked into the hills of the Driftless Region, artist Valerie Mangion lives on a 58 acre farm with her husband, Ellis Felker, four cats, a dog and a horse. There, she paints in a sunny studio on the second floor of their 104 year old farmhouse outside of Boaz, WI.

Valerie, 62, grew up in two different suburbs of Chicago. She got her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana, after which she spent two years living in Chicago. She feels blessed to have learned so much from her painting professor, Jerry Savage. It was he who drummed into her head the concept, “no form, no content,” that is, no one cares what you’re saying if your vehicle for saying it is an amateurish, badly done painting. At that time, Val’s ideas far outstripped her painting ability. Her painting journey has been largely about learning to paint better, to make paintings that are worthy of her ideas.

She counts the Chicago Imagists as a major influence and was lucky enough to take figure drawing classes at Loop College (now Harold Washington College) under Seymour Rosofsky, one of her favorite artists of all time. Seymour was part of the “Monster Roster” — Chicago artists for whom a striking image was all-important.

After a bad break-up, Valerie moved to Seattle, WA, when she was 23. She had always been an animal lover. But it was in Seattle that she became a vegetarian and an animal rights activist. Her paintings from that period are very angry, sad, political cries of despair about man’s inhumanity to animals. Nowadays she has traded being screamed at while protesting in person, to being a steady, reliable petition-signer, email sender and occasional check writer to counter a vast array of abuses which continue to bother her.



"Thinking About Vivisection", oil on canvas (60x60"), ca. 1987/88

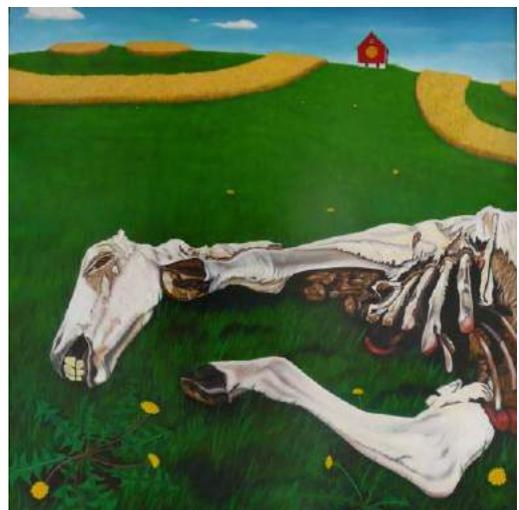


"Guardian Clouds", oil on panel - 36" x 46" - 2002

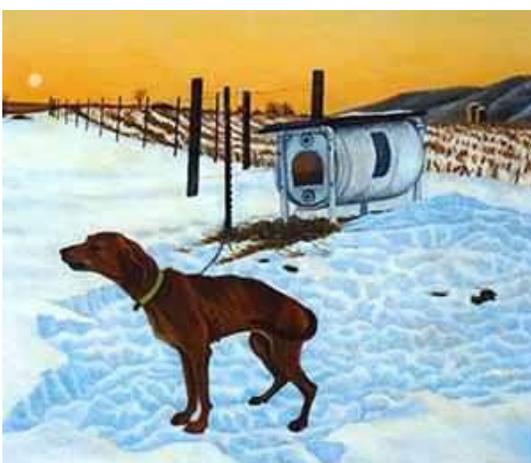
Valerie calls herself a “Midwest Magic Realist.” Her narrative images, which most often include animals and landscape elements, reflect the beauty of the Driftless region - often symbolically merged with the less palatable realities of life. They tend toward the surreal, as opposed to being straightforward depictions of landscapes.



"Ancestral Horse", oil on panel, 38" x 46" - 2005



"Bucolic Farm Scene", oil on panel, 48" x 48" - 1996



"Dogs' Houses: The Vizsla", oil on paper - Image size 9" x 10 1/2" - 2000



"Dogs' Houses: I Live In a Tub", oil on paper - Image size 7.5" x 10.5" - 2000

Valerie goes back and forth between doing “stand alone” paintings, often self-portraits, and working in series. Her first series, completed in the 1990’s, was called “Dogs’ Houses: How Country Dogs Live.” Her goal was to get people to notice, and care about, the overlooked, sad rural dogs who live their entire meager lives chained to make-shift structures, largely ignored even by the people who are supposed to love and care for them.

The second series Valerie embarked on is called “The Egypt Series.” These images, completed between 2006-2011, combine Egyptian stylistic conventions with her own narrative style. She feels a kinship with the ancient Egyptian artists who used narrative images of animals to convey complex ideas about Life, Death and an assumed Afterlife.



“Fire in the Snow”, oil on panel - 36”x 48” - 2011

In 2011, Val bought a trail camera, which she started placing all around the farm in order to learn more about the wildlife with whom she and Ellis share their land. Two years later, she did her first painting based on images taken by her trail camera. The surreal nature of infrared night vision digital photos and the odd white eyeballs recorded by the camera captured her imagination. Night Vision imagery is an intermittent part of her painting practice from now on. Val had a solo show of her Night Vision series at the James Watrous Gallery in Madison, WI, in 2016.



“Night Vision: Giraffe Deer”, oil on panel - 12” x 16” - 2015

As that show was winding down, Val developed a bad case of frozen shoulder, which kept her from painting for ten months. She then spent another summer and fall, as she recovered, doing small paintings as gifts for family members.



"The Fawn", oil on panel - 29 3/4" x 36" - 2019

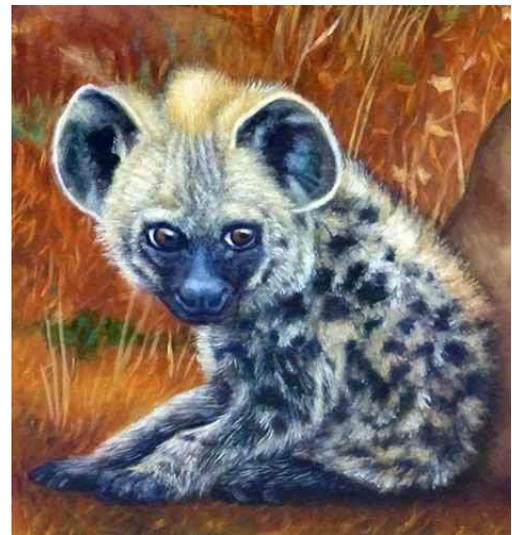


"Thunder Hooves", oil on paper - 12.5" x 9" - 2002

Recently, Val has been working on a new series informed by the major problem of our time: climate change. This topic is broad and overwhelming. At the moment, Valerie is focusing on individual animals and how they are coping with, and feeling about, their changed environments. Her animal rights background has given her a keen sense of empathy toward individuals, not just "species." In particular, Val is exploring what it might be like to be an animal mother with a vulnerable baby during these frightening times.



"Pomme de Terre", oil on panel - 42" x 48" - 2018



Detail, "Pomme de Terre"



Enlightened One, Oil on panel, 36" x 48" - 2020

Valerie's beloved dog, Katie, died in April, near the beginning of the stay at home order. Of course, this event became the subject for Val's latest painting titled "Enlightened One". Val says "Katie was the only being I know who was capable of loving Donald Trump and Joe Biden equally. She would greet all who came to the door with a toy in her mouth and a joyously wagging tail. Katie loved swimming in the creek, then drying off in the breeze". The painting is a beautiful tribute to her beloved pets and the Driftless Region she loves.

More of Valerie's work, as well as a blog containing many excerpts from the journals she has kept since she was 17 can be found on her website at www.ValerieMangion.com.

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS



Chuck Bauer



Bruce Breckenridge



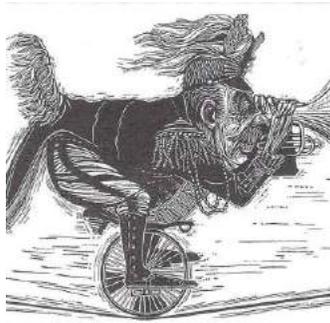
Al Buss



Patrick Doughman



Terry Firkins



Ray Gloeckler



Gwen Granzow



Martin Keey



Richard Lazzaro



Claudette Lee-Roseland



Valerie Mangion



Jack Pachuta



Anthony Pazos



Liz Phillips



Jewell Riano-Bradley



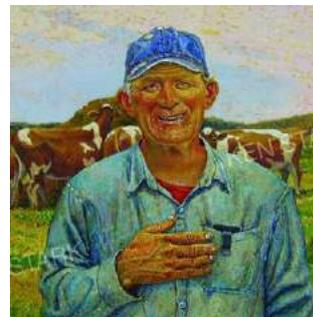
Janet Roberts



Susi Schuele



Colette Ody Smith



Ken Stark



Jerry Steingraeber



Mark Weller

CALLING ARTISTS AND CONSIGNORS

WEB LISTING & PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2021 SIGN UP NOW!

Are you a contemporary artist looking for representation and promotion by the Gallery of Wisconsin Art? Would you like to be listed on the GOWA website? The [2021 Promotion Agreement](#) is now available to download from the website (under the SUBMISSIONS tab). Representation is very affordable, and basically covers my cost of maintaining the website. Artists can be contacted by customers directly, and there is **NO COMMISSION** if you handle all the communications and the sale!

BENEFITS OF THE PROMOTIONAL LISTING OPPORTUNITY INCLUDE:

1. **ENDORSEMENT** by the Gallery of Wisconsin Art at www.GalleryofWisconsinArt.com
 2. **NATIONWIDE EXPOSURE ON WEBSITE** - www.masterpieceonline.com (check it out).
 3. **ARTIST PAGE** – Includes artist bio, statement, etc. Awards and past exhibition records allowed but not current or upcoming exhibitions, shows, or fairs. Updates to the web listing allowed once per year.
 4. **ARTIST PHOTO** - featured in listing
 5. **ARTWORK SAMPLES** – Up to 14 pieces of artwork on your page. Artist to provide photos. Artwork should be available for purchase. Listings to include title of work, short description, dimension, price.
 6. **ARTIST'S DIRECT CONTACT INFO** (unless contact through Gallery is preferred)
Artist's direct web address, email address and phone number. For privacy, no street address.
 7. **NEWSLETTER OPPORTUNITY** – As time allows (hopefully monthly starting 2021), gallery owner welcomes artists to be featured in the Gallery Newsletter **"WI ART NEWS"** (This online publication). Artists will supply information, photos, and help write articles. Featured monthly artist is **ONLY** available to artists and estates who are signed up.
 8. **NEWSLETTER LISTING** - All GOWA artists will be listed and/or promoted in this online Newsletter **"WI ART NEWS"** which has circulation to over 3000 contacts!
 9. **SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION** – If someone is searching for you, they will find you on the internet near the top of their search!
- *** **FOR ARTISTS ALREADY ON THE GALLERY WEBSITE** - watch your mail/email for a special 2021 offer! Coming soon!
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EARLY HISTORIC ESTATES WE REPRESENT

We are honored to represent these important Early Wisconsin estates. More work is available, if we know your interest or limitations like, subject, price, size, era, etc. If you don't find what you are looking for below, let us know, and we might be able to get it for you. We can also work with dealers offering a wide range of early Wisconsin Artists.



Fred Berman



Tom Dietrich



Raymond Gloeckler



Robert Hodgell



Carol Rowan



Arthur Thrall



Santos Zingale

More next month!

EXCLUSIVE OFFERING BY GOWA

RARE MARY NOHL ARTWORK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Mary Nohl was one of the most important and iconic artists in Milwaukee's history. Born in Milwaukee in 1914, she showed exceptional creativity from an early age - building small structures with discarded materials, including old toys and clothes.

She attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, but quickly transferred to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1934 and graduated in 1939 with a focus on pottery, sculpture, and painting.

After college, she started as an art teacher in Baltimore, but moved back to Milwaukee and began teaching at North Division High School and Steuben Middle School. In 1948, Nohl's family purchased a summer home on Beach Drive in Fox Point, on the shore of Lake Michigan.

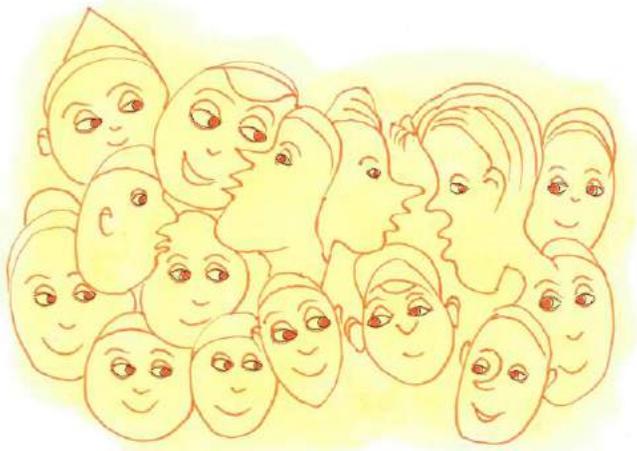
Mary later inherited the Fox Point house and a considerable amount of money, which allowed her to focus solely on art. She altered the home by painting almost everything, designing unique furniture, and added unique sculptures throughout her house - creating an unusual, eccentric aesthetic. The most dramatic and notable additions occurred outside. She created dozens of larger than life size sculptures, out of wood, stone, and concrete resembling animals, Easter Island stone heads, and exaggerated characters.

Over thirty years the pieces of art in Nohl's yard and home grew considerably, as did the public's awareness of her "eccentricity". Unfortunately, some started calling her home the "Witch's House". More importantly, Nohl's home and artistic style attracted a large amount of positive acclaim from the Milwaukee art scene and understanding residents in the community.

Nohl passed in 2001 and in her will, left her home and collection to The Kohler Foundation which has been restoring the property.

Artwork by Mary Nohl artwork is impossible to find or buy - up to now! But a close personal friend of Mary's, had assembled a large collection of objects over the years including color drawings, pottery, ceramic sculpture, sketches, jewelry, etc. GOWA recently acquired the collection and is making it available on our online gallery! Almost all items are signed, and very reasonably priced.

[Check out the large collection of items AVAILABLE on the website.](#) (Hint: Buy them quick, these are selling fast!)



MIRAY NGHL



MIRAY NGHL

– GOWA BUYS AND SELLS –

EARLY WISCONSIN ARTWORK WANTED!

Are you looking to down size, or have you inherited a bunch of "old paintings" from your grandparents? Don't know where to go, or what to do, or who to talk to about them? Well, GOWA may be able to help! We have a large network of Collectors always looking for quality artwork at reasonable prices by Early Wisconsin Artists (1900 - 1960ish). Check out ["CONSIGNING OR SELLING"](#) on the website under the Submissions Tab (Early/Regional section). There, you can also find a list of artists of special interest to collectors.

Our Mission is to preserve, promote, and be the go-to-place for "good old Wisconsin artwork". Rather than artwork ending up under valued in a rummage sale, flea market, or even worse - the trash, we might be able to help find a good second (or third) home for them. Send an email to: info@GalleryofWisconsinArt.com and include photos (Front, back, signature, details, notations or labels on back, etc.). Please include a detailed description of the piece (artist name, media, size, condition, provenance, age, and your asking price).

The GOOD NEWS is that we may be able to turn them into cash for you. The BAD NEWS is probably no old Wisconsin artwork is going to make you rich. However, there are a few artists, styles, subjects and periods that are in demand and can bring good prices. We would love to see what you have available, and will always offer our best, fair and reasonable price. Be realistic and keep in mind that a gallery needs to make some money too. We might be able to find a collector for you!

CEDARBURG ART MUSEUM SPONSORS HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ART BOOK – COMING SOON!

A Creative Place:

The History of Wisconsin Art



This groundbreaking book - *A Creative Place: The History of Wisconsin Art* - will span Wisconsin's art from thousands of years ago to the end of the twentieth century. Readers will enjoy experiencing Wisconsin history through various forms of art including effigy mounds, petroglyphs, pottery, paintings, fiber arts, folk art, printmaking, sculptures and so much more.

The book will be richly illustrated with more than 300 art images representing hundreds of artists who call Wisconsin home. It is organized telling the story of art placed in context with Wisconsin's general history:

- Art of First Nations
- Early Euro-American Explorers
- The Great Cultural Expansion and Milwaukee's Panorama Painters

- The Advent of Modernism

- Pluralism: Closing Out the Century

Six chapters, including vivid art images, will tell the story of art placed in context with Wisconsin's general history which helped shape Wisconsin art. Your generous gift will help bring this book to life!

Anticipated Book Completion: Spring 2021

YOU can be among those who support the deeper understanding of Wisconsin's rich visual art legacy through the publication of this book. Through the support of the Cedarburg Art Museum, organizations and individual donors, the book is well on its way to becoming reality!

PLEASE consider making a donation to support this important project - the first in Wisconsin!

[CLICK HERE to go to the Cedarburg Art Museum website:](#) Learn more about the book, and make a donation!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2021 to you!



Gallery of Wisconsin Art

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Thank You for Supporting Wisconsin Artists!

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