

## "It's fine Art, so live with it!"

Another perspective – to all the hosts and viewers of the wildly popular DIY TV shows.



To whom this may concern;

Congratulations! The DIY home remodel and decoration shows sure are popular. There are over 100 listed, like "Love it or List it", "Fixer Upper", "Property Brothers", "Flip or Flop", "Trading Spaces", "Design on a Dime", etc. etc. It's great that these shows help homeowners see all the creative ways they can make living spaces more hip, friendly, and enjoyable.

But I've observed something disturbing. The interior designs and meticulously staged homes are clean, stark, and impersonal. I shiver at the all the shabby, designer-chic "things" hanging on your walls. Old, weathered, and rusty stuff has now become objet d'arte. Much is just cheap, mass-produced, and knock-off reproductions. Few rooms ever show any original artwork! Real artwork. Why is that?

In your hallways, I see shiny mirrors without a person – but what about paintings full of colorful characters with rich, meaningful stories? Like a Janet Roberts, a Colleen Kassner, a Patrick Doughman, a Ken Stark, a Forrest Flower, or a Ray Gloeckler?

Over your living room sofa, you place a sad empty dismembered clock - without a face or indication of time! On the coffee table there are stacks of unread magazines and generic baskets. How I wish I saw a historic Santos Zingale, Fred Berman, or Gerrit Sinclair painting. If it's a contemporary pad, how about a Richard Lazzaro, Pamela Anderson, Claudette Lee-Roseland, or Dan Fleming painting loaded with bright color, symbolism, and feel-good energy? On the tables, I want to see a Bruce Breckenridge ceramic sculpture, a Ron Zdroik wooden vessel, or a hand-woven set of nesting bowls by Ken Sipes.

In your dining room you hang glass-less, paint chipped window frames without a scene to highlight? Why not original paintings like a big aromatic Francesco Spicuzza bouquet, a Patrick Farrell still life, an Arthur Thrall symphony, a Thomas Dietrich shoreline, or a Carol Rowan field of flowers? Maybe a grouping of intriguing-yet-familiar photographs by Michael Knapstein, Jack Long, Sarah Risley, or Martin Keey?

Replace that old cracked cabbage cutter and plastic plant on the dining table with blown glass art by Steven Ferren and Audrey Handler. Or maybe utilitarian ceramics by John Dietrich and Chris Leung, or a charger by internationally acclaimed Don Reitz?

In your kitchen, just dump the old weathered signs without any *real* purpose (people don't really sell eggs, gas or pharmaceuticals out of their kitchen anyway). Replace with something playfully attractive like a Bruce Fortney holstein, a Joan Hollnagel pun painting, an Al Buss Snort, or a "Mop" by Melissa Dorn Richards.

In your libraries and offices, you have shelves of painted books, machine-part bookends, chalk boards that are never used and old seltzer bottles? How about historic prints by Robert von Neumann, Paul Hammersmith, or Robert Hodgell? Maybe a Guido Brink sculpture, or an Aaron Bohrod trompe l'oeil, or maybe an explosively colorful Susan Hale farmscape or a "what-the-hell-are-we doing-to-our-planet" paintings by Valerie Mangion?

Be bold in your bedrooms! Instead of a single solitary letter "M", a quote someone else authored, or candle holders without candles. I recommend the bravely passionate abstracts by Gwen Granzow or Terry Firkins.

Outside, go beyond the rusty tractor wheel trellis, window planters, and the roofless gazebos. Feature garden-sized sculptures by Teresa Lind, Tom Lidtke, Nathan Hatch or an eclectic Gary John Gresl installation!

And above all else, PLEASE no more lonely, painted, empty picture frames cluttered into groupings longing for a picture to hold! Your message is that art isn't important, just the frame! Really? (FYI, an empty frame is NOT a piece of art. Art is that part in the middle - what the frame protects!) And, although we can't list all the masters in our gallery, please fill those sad empty frames with the exceptional work of Steven Gerhartz, Virgi Driscoll, Chuck Weber, Colette Ody-Smith, Thomas Buchs, Jeffrey Darrow, Jean Crane, Jane Gates, etc, etc. ....

Would you please include original 2D and 3D artwork in your DIY TV homes, made by real artists - on real stretched canvases - with real gooey paint? Artwork made by REAL PEOPLE, whether self-taught or university degreed. Art that's truly one-of-a-kind, important, telling, insightful, and meaningful. Art that makes you feel, laugh, cry, ponder, dream, or just smile and think? Not artwork made by machines, but art that is hand-made and produced right here in Wisconsin

which supports our local economy, enriches our fine lives and our important artistic community.

Your generic designs may appeal to wider audiences, but for people who don't understand, it appears that simple, cold, and impersonal is what is fashionable and trendy. Please understand the negative impact this has.

Start by adding one or two nice original pieces of art and build around it. That's what we recommend for beginning art buyers. Please add some real life personality, character, authenticity, and humanity to your homes.

You can do this, Mr. or Ms. DIY-er! If you want help, we are here for you. Just ask. Be brave.

After all, **"It's fine art, so live with it!"**



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### Until August 31 - Still time to come see 1/2 of the Duo

The League of Milwaukee Artists has left the building to make space for the upcoming Plein Air events, but you can still catch the Cedarburg Artists Guild in the upper gallery. You will be amazed at the artistic talent that blesses us in this area. All artwork is available and affordably priced.

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**Featured Dynamic Duo Artist: Chuck Weber**

## Awarded Best in Show

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Congratulations Chuck Weber for "Genesis" oil painting and "Pinocchio" wood carving!

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**August 16 – August 18 – Next Week!**

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**LMA** LEAGUE OF MILWAUKEE ARTISTS  
Presents

**West Bend Plein Air and Art Fair**  
August 16th thru 19th

Hosted by the Gallery of Wisconsin Art, 303 Water Street

The streets and parks of West Bend will fill with Plein Air (outdoor) artists during a three-day art competition that will capture the city on canvas. Plus, a special "Paint the Market" event will record the sights and unique atmosphere of the West Bend Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 18th.

**GO WA** Awards Reception open to the public!  
Saturday, August 18th, 4pm - 7pm at the Gallery of Wisconsin Art  
All art will be for sale

**Art Fair OPEN**  
Saturday, August 18th, 9am - 5pm  
Sunday, August 19th, 10am - 5pm

EPIC CREATIVE  
BLICK art materials  
WEST BEND AREA CHAMBER  
John & Kine Torinus  
BALANCE  
HORIZON BANK  
The Natural Choice

## 1. Plein Air Event

The League of Milwaukee Artists is hosting the 2018 West Bend Plein Air and "Paint the Farmers Market" competition. Over 35 Painters from all over the state will be capturing the beauty of West Bend. Here is a very unique opportunity to watch an artist in action and purchase an original painting of the area! The special attraction at next week's Farmers Market will be all of the artists painting among the market and capturing the robust activities on canvas.

After the paintings are completed, they will all be displayed in the lower level of The Gallery of Wisconsin Art. Paintings will be affordably priced and available for purchase at the Gallery - starting Saturday August 18 and running through Saturday Sept 1!

If you are willing to volunteer or help out, you can contact the LMA or the Gallery.

For more information and to apply (better hurry up) as a painter, see the [LMA website](#) or [PLEIN AIR PROSPECTUS](#).

## 2. Art Fair Next Weekend!

Outdoors at the Gallery of Wisconsin Art, the LMA and Gallery will be co-hosting the 1st Annual Plein Air ART FAIR. 20 Artists from Wisconsin will be selling their creative work. Click [Here](#) to learn how to be part of the Fair.

The Art Fair is Saturday August 18, 9-5 and Sunday August 19, 10-5. About a dozen artists will have booths full of original art for your home. And the Gallery will be open all weekend.

### 3. 25% Off Gallery Sale!!!! Weekend Special Only

Joining in on all the extra-special creative activity of next week's West Bend Plein Air and Art Fair, the Gallery of Wisconsin Art will be holding a very special, very short, two day 25% off sale on most items in inventory! (20% off jewelry and reductions on other items).

Plein Air paintings are not included in this sale.

**Gallery Sale August 18 and 19th ONLY.**

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### 4. PLEIN AIR Painting Sale

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Plein Air painters will display their paintings in the Gallery's lower level. Paintings will be affordably priced and available for purchase at the Gallery - starting Saturday August 18 and running through Saturday Sept 1!

Sept. 8 - Oct. 27:

## "REMEMBER"

**REMEMBER**  
Special People, Places, and Things We Can't Forget.  
September 8 - October 26, 2018  
Opening Reception - Saturday, Sept 8, 4 - 7pm

Colleen Kassner  
Patrick Doughman  
Janet Roberts  
Philip "Philo" Kassner  
Darlene Rzesutarski  
Gary John Gresh

**GALLERY OF WISCONSIN ART**  
303 Water St., West Bend, WI 53095  
Info@GalleryofWisconsinArt.com  
www.GalleryOfWisconsinArt.com

**OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY**  
10:00am - 5:00pm  
and by appointment

**Gallery of Wisconsin Art**

"Remember" is a small group show celebrating the Special People, Places and Things we just can't forget! Based on the memorable people and places lovingly etched in our memory.

The amazing grouping of notable and well-recognized Milwaukee artists include [Colleen Kassner](#), [Phil Kassner](#), [Janet Roberts](#), [Patrick Doughman](#), [Darlene \(Lolly\) Wesenberg Rzezotarski](#), and [Gary John Gresl](#). Individually, these artists dance in similar circles, but collectively assembled they present an even deeper and more colorful perspective of growing up and inhaling the cultural dimensions of southeast Wisconsin and its rich historic heritage.

Featuring over a years worth of new work by Colleen Kassner, her fascination with time and place inspired these current explorations. **"Ghosts of Goldman's"** (Department Store) located on Mitchel Street in Milwaukee was the springboard for her current oeuvre, "Nostalgia". Themes include a 1955 West Bend parade; Bohemian Milwaukee; a popular lunch counter, a historic carousel, a smoky night-club, an endangered theater, etc.

Kassner states, "When we are all gone, when our children's children are gone, we become memory. We become timeless."

*(Hey, can we side-chat for just a second? The Gallery of Wisconsin Art prides itself in the shows we've assembled to date. Honestly I have to say, this one is truly extra, extra special! Please do not miss it!)*

**Opening Reception is Saturday Sept 8, 4-7pm. Come and meet all of these amazing artists!**

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Sept. 8 - Oct. 27:

## "Community Mosaic"



In the Upper Gallery, the [Volunteer Center's Community Mosaic Project](#) will be featured on one wall. 320ish 6" x 6" canvas squares will jointly create a "Community Mosaic". The theme this year is about Social Good, Doing Good and Volunteerism. All squares will be available for purchase. Funds raised will be support Volunteer Center programming in Washington County.

Squares are still available if you can help create a 6"x6" work of art. Pick up your squares NOW at the HUB Coffee Cafe. And don't forget, all finished squares MUST BE RETURNED to the Volunteer Center or HUB by August 27!

## "Community Creative"

Sharing the Upper Gallery's theme of community will be an exhibition of select artists with roots in West Bend and the near vicinity. Showcasing creative talent from the area, featured artists include:

[Martin Keey](#), - Photography

[Mary Ulm Mayhew](#) - Paintings

[Ann Meyer](#) - Paintings

[Melissa Dorn Richards](#) - Paintings

[Steven Gerhartz](#) - Paintings

[Tom Lidtke](#) - Sculpture

[Terri Lockwood](#) - Encaustic Paintings

[Susan Steinhafel](#) - Prints

[Doug Witz](#) - Mixed Media Sculptures

*PLUS* select work from our inventory by [Charles Dwyer](#) and Daniel Gerhartz!!!

Watch your emails, for more information coming on this show!

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**Nov. 3 - Dec. 28:**

## Wisconsin Pastel Artists (WPA) Exhibition

plus Pastels by Early Wisconsin Artists – especially featuring Carol Rowan!

Over 100 pastel paintings on exhibition by the WPA – and all for sale at the Gallery.

More info coming soon.

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# NEW IN THE GALLERY

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## Double the Dietrichs

### Uniting of Father and Son Artists, Tom and John Dietrich



Ceramic Ware by [John Dietrich](#)



[Tom Dietrich](#), "Edge of Woods"

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The Gallery is proud to now feature the artwork of father and son artists, Tom and John Dietrich.

Tom Dietrich (1912 - 1998) painted for over seven decades, 30 years of which he was an artist in residence at Lawrence College in Wisconsin. He was most known for his regionalist style and has over 1,000 paintings in public and private collections nationwide. GOWA is happy to represent over 10 pieces. [Read more >>>](#)

John Dietrich, represented by over two dozen ceramic pieces at the Gallery, has been creating functional pottery and decorative ceramics for 50 years. *"I love to take an inert material, clay, and through shape, color and movement -impart life."* John Dietrich.

The artistic bloodline actually reaches much deeper! Available work includes paintings by Margaret Dietrich (Tom's wife and John's mother) and select collaborations of John Dietrich and his wife Diane McNeil who together operate Ellison Bay Pottery, Studios and Gallery. Stop and visit them when you are in Door County, or online at: [www.EllisonBayPotteryStudios.com](http://www.EllisonBayPotteryStudios.com)

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## Last Chance to Purchase Gerhartz!

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["Somewhere near Adare" by Daniel Gerhartz](#)



["Gathering Lilacs" by Daniel Gerhartz](#)

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Two paintings by Kewaskum native and internationally renown painter, Daniel Gerhartz, are still on exhibit and available for purchase. Both are oil paintings on linen, measure 30"x40", and date to early 1990s. Daniel Gerhartz was featured at the [Museum of Wisconsin Art](#) (just across the street) with a mid-career exhibition featuring over 30 paintings. This is a rare opportunity to acquire a piece by an exceptional local artist. (Note: prices reduced)

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## HOW TO JOIN THE GALLERY TEAM

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**NEW ARTISTS.** If you are interested in becoming part of the GOWA Creative team or participating in a specific show, please click [HERE](#) for upcoming calls for artists and directions on how to apply.

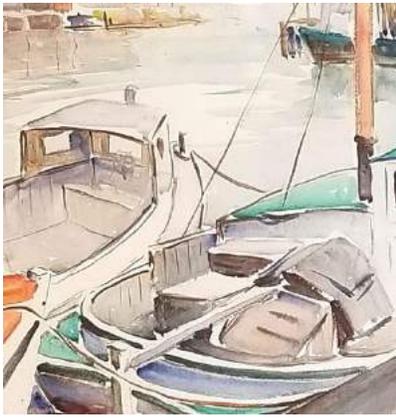
**CURRENT GALLERY ARTISTS APPLYING FOR A NEW SHOW.** If you have already done the above, already have Gallery representation, and wish to be part of any upcoming show, simply email images of your available artwork for that show - along with titles, media, dimensions, and retail prices to [info@galleryofwisconsinart.com](mailto:info@galleryofwisconsinart.com). **Check the website for call deadlines.**

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## SEEKING CONSIGNMENTS

**Artwork by Early Wisconsin Artists Wanted**

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[Emily Groom](#), [Untitled](#), n.d.



[Aaron Bohrod](#), [Untitled \(Birds Still-life\)](#), n.d.



[Schomer Lichtner](#), [Untitled \(Ballerina with Tutu\)](#), n.d.

**We CONSIGN, SELL, and even BUY artwork by early Wisconsin artists!**

We represent entire estates and/or we help families sell a single painting. Whether you have just one "old painting" that used to hang over Grandpa's sofa, or an entire attic full of Grandma's paintings, we can help you sell them! We ALSO represent a large network of collectors and buyers that may want your (unwanted?) artwork!

Likewise, if YOU seek work by a specific artist, let us know, and we will notify you when art is available!

**ARTISTS WANTED:**

Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of Wisconsin artists whose work the Gallery of Wisconsin Art is interested in representing, consigning (or possibly purchasing). If you do not see the name of an artist whose work you wish to consign, please email us anyway! We are always interested in promoting great work by all Wisconsin artists!

**TO CONSIGN.** Simply email [info@galleryofwisconsinart.com](mailto:info@galleryofwisconsinart.com) with images of the artwork (front and back). Indicate the artist's name, dimensions, and medium of each piece. Include the desired price of the artwork - or we can help you put a value on the piece. For a full list of submission requirements, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@galleryofwisconsinart.com](mailto:info@galleryofwisconsinart.com).

**[BROWSE ARTWORKS ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE](#)**

**Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and by appointment.**

**Admission is always free and all art work is available for purchase (highly recommended ; )**



**Gallery of Wisconsin Art**

303 Water St., West Bend, WI 53095

414-333-1942

[info@galleryofwisconsinart.com](mailto:info@galleryofwisconsinart.com)

[www.GalleryofWisconsinArt.com](http://www.GalleryofWisconsinArt.com)