



Muscatine Art Center
1314 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Phone: 563-263-8282 Fax: 563- 263-4702
Melanie Alexander, Director



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Melanie Alexander
Director, Muscatine Art Center
1413 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
563-263-8282
malexander@muscatineiowa.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 31, 2023**

THREE EXCITING EXHIBITIONS OPEN AT ART CENTER IN JUNE

“Birds in Art”, “House of Cards”, Iowa watercolor society exhibition on display

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Three new exhibitions will be on display at the Muscatine Art Center starting in June. The 47th annual *Birds in Art* exhibition will open on both floors of the Stanley Gallery June 1 with the printed works of artist Philip Laber, *House of Cards*, on the second floor of the Musser McColem mansion starting June 3. The Iowa Watercolor Society Traveling Exhibition returns June 8 on the second floor of the Musser McColem mansion.



A view of Birds in Art, on view in the Stanley Gallery starting June 1.

Birds in Art will be on display through September 10 while *House of Cards* remains on view until August 6, and the Iowa Watercolor Society Traveling Exhibition will close July 30.

Birds in Art, an exhibition organized by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, is traveling to the Muscatine Art Center for the first time. Since 1976, *Birds in Art* has showcased the remarkable talents of more than 1,000 international artists, who presented their best work

Kevin Jenison, Communications Manager, City of Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Email: kjenison@muscatineiowa.gov | Phone: 563-264-1550 ext. 166



Muscatine Art Center
1314 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Phone: 563-263-8282 Fax: 563- 263-4702
Melanie Alexander, Director



interpreting birds and related subject matter. *Birds in Art* is recognized globally as the exhibition setting the standard for avian art.

This travelling exhibition features 50 entries from the 47th annual *Birds in Art* exhibition. The full exhibition of work by 118 artists was presented at the Woodson Art Museum in Wasau, Wis., from September through November 2022. Three notable jurors evaluated nearly 1,000 images from 570 artists located around the world. Bronze, acrylics, oils, watercolor, linocut, sandstone, and other mediums are represented in the traveling exhibition.



"Partisan Divide", Philip Laber, 2010.

Philip Laber, former Professor Emeritus of Art at Northwest Missouri State, will showcase his works in the Musser McCole mansion. His exhibit, *House of Cards*, is a suite of experimental printmaking that examines, and metaphorically represents, American and global cultures and politics, and the resulting consequences upon daily life edited through the eyes of a mythical and whimsical "Everyman". The works are a hybrid approach that combines traditional etching and engraving processes with digital imagining and contemporary printmaking.

In the summer of 2016, Laber retired from teaching photography, printmaking, and drawing at Northwest Missouri State to become a full-time artist. His creative interests remain experimental printmaking and photography, and more recently, exploring acrylic painting. The public will have an opportunity to meet Philip Laber on Sunday, June 25, at the Friends Annual Ice Cream Social.

The Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS) traveling exhibition features the work of 30 Iowa watercolor artists, and judges have awarded first through fifth place winners along with Honorable Mentions and a winner for the Transparent category. The Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS) was organized



Muscatine Art Center
1314 Mulberry Avenue
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Phone: 563-263-8282 Fax: 563- 263-4702
Melanie Alexander, Director



in 1977 by a small group of enthusiastic watercolorists. IWS now celebrates well over 150 members and offers the opportunity for interested painters to network with artists statewide.

Artist Jo Myers-Walker, whose watercolor is included in this year's exhibit, will host a "toast" to the late watercolorist, Carol Steinmetz. Myers-Walker will lead a watercolor floral workshop in memory of Carol Steinmetz starting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 22.

Visit www.muscatineartcenter.org for details.



"Spring Green", Jan Vander Linden, 4th place.

For further information about the exhibits click on the links below:

Birds in Art: www.lywam.org/birds-in-art

Philip Laber, *House of Cards:* www.philiplaber.com/house-of-cards-suite

Iowa Watercolor Society: www.iowawatercolorssociety.org

The Muscatine Art Center is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. The Muscatine Art Center is located at 1314 Mulberry Avenue in Muscatine, Iowa. Call 563-263-8282 for up-to-date details or visit www.muscatineartcenter.org for more information about programs and events.

###