



# PARAMOUNT

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## *Shaping Identity*

GROUP ART EXHIBITION



9 Individual Artists

Gallery Saint Germain

May 2 - 28, 2022

ARTIST RECEPTION

THU, MAY 5TH || 7 - 9PM

# Exhibition Description

*Identity is the reason.*

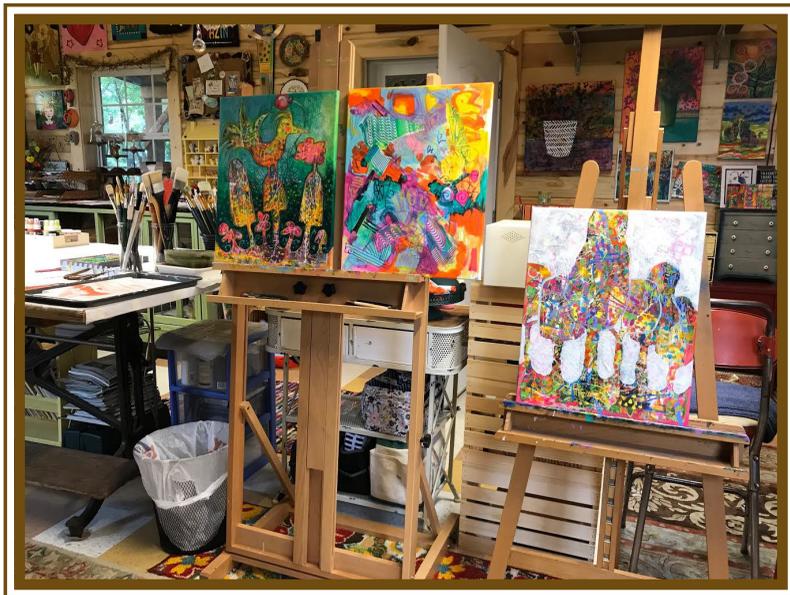
*Art was the method.*

*Self-exploration & expression were the results.*

In 2021, a group of ten individuals met at the Whitney Senior Center for a series of six classes led by instructor and artist Paige LaDue Henry. The course was designed to explore participant's identity through the lens of a creative workshop.

The artwork currently on display in Gallery Saint Germain is the culmination of their experience – visually representing the essence of self in a collection of three-dimensional art.





# PAIGE LADUE HENRY

*Instructing Artist*

## **Artist Statement 2021**

*Art is the foundation of my DNA. It is my identity, motivation, and major inspiration in life. Creating art is necessary for my mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing. I love to create art, study art, view art, talk about art and surround myself with art and creativity.*

*I am intensely inspired by color, texture, art museums, vintage wallpaper, tapestries, textiles, pattern, surface design, carpets, clouds, sunsets, illustration, Asian art, Moorish architecture, African batik, Art Nouveau, costume design, antique jewelry, vintage books and fashion magazines, Portuguese and Italian tiles, yarn, paint, tools, salvage yards, hardware stores, birds, fairies, forests, fantasy, unicorns, feathers, outer space, bohemia, and the list could go on and on and on. I do not restrict my sources of inspiration but let them flow into my being and influence my visual art. Art is imagination after all.*

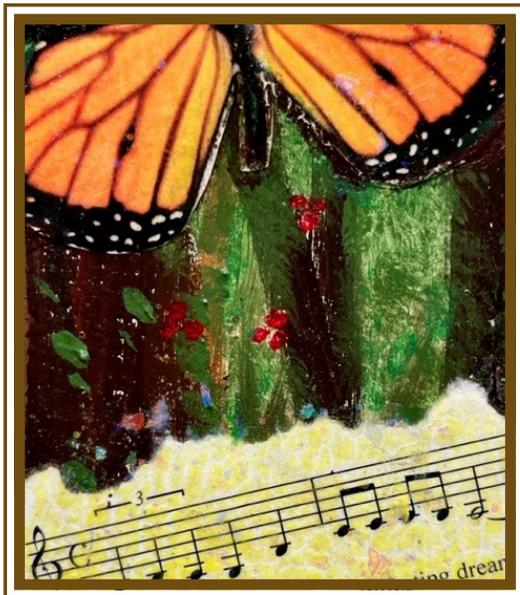
*Many times, as I am painting, I imagine I am creating new universes, worlds and neighborhoods on my canvas. It's like you can travel the painting and explore a variety of communities created by all the layers and mediums I use.*

*I love to combine acrylic paint, papers, oil pastel and almost any painting or drawing medium I can get my hands on. Layer after layer, I build up the texture and history of the piece. So, acrylic mixed media on canvas or panels suits me just fine.*

*My "styles" are many, varied, evolving, and therein lies my grand art adventure!*

*I cannot restrict myself to one style, medium, theme or genre, what fun would that be?!*

*I find art, all forms of art so mysterious, so "deep". It's almost impossible for me to articulate the feelings I have for self-expression. And at the end of a day in the studio, that is some of what I try to incorporate in my art, mystery.*



# CHRIS ST. GERMAIN - STARSEED

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale • 612.968.0629 • Chris777mill@gmail.com

## Artist Statement

*A totem is a self-portrait of a human journey in as broad or as narrow terms as the artist sees it. Native American totems tell multi-generational journeys of entire tribes, including battles, leaders, even interaction with Star Fathers.*

*An artist creates what she knows. So, every work of art is at least partly autobiographical, and largely representational. This identity totem is by its nature intended to be personal.*

*Transformation is boldly highlighted in the piece, especially in the butterflies, the imagery of gold the element of alchemy, and the personal animal totems of the artist.*

*Eagle = courage, strength, fierceness, dominance*

*Phoenix = immortality, enlightenment, illumination, re-invention, reincarnation*

*Owl = wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, cleverness*

*Unicorn = most powerful animal, purity, service, feminine energy, stewardship of the health of the Earth and of water*

*As the artist, I have highlighted the power of writing books and music and the transformational aspect of the Laws of Attraction; even referencing the title of my Broadway play in progress, "Tools for Manifesting Dreams," my non-fiction work "The Clear Path," and the quintessential source of LOA wisdom, U.S. Andersen's landmark work "Three Magic Words." There is a double bow to the missing link in the scientific sourcing of human DNA in the twice inclusion of the "Seven Sisters of the Pleiades" against the heavy background of forest, trees, and sky of the Earth. The second version of the "Seven Sisters" only appears at night, or when the artwork is in the dark, as the second set of stars actually lights up.*

*This totem is infused with positive vibrations associated with the various lessons of the story the artist tells, which concern humanity, its future relationship with the cosmos, especially the vibrations of abundance, peace, and prosperity for all.*



# LINDA SCHMIDT

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*This piece is an expression of memories, of love, and of meaningful moments experienced in my life. Nature is my life source as indicated by the water, earth, sun, and plant images in the work.*

*I chose the overall colors of deep dark green and bright orange because it reminds me of hills covered in dark green forests of pine and the splashes of bright orange maples mixed in. It is the combination that gives me joy.*

*The ribbon of blue passing through all three pieces symbolizes the flow of a river as water has always been a part of my life; beginning when I was just two years old and nearly drowned. Saved by my eight-year-old brother after I jumped into the deep water to fetch my fallen stocking. Look for the image of a sock on water.*

*Other loves and memories are represented in my children's names, time spent in Europe, my respect for elephants, and more.*

*My life has known many wonders.*

*Thank you for viewing.*



# NANCY OESTREICH

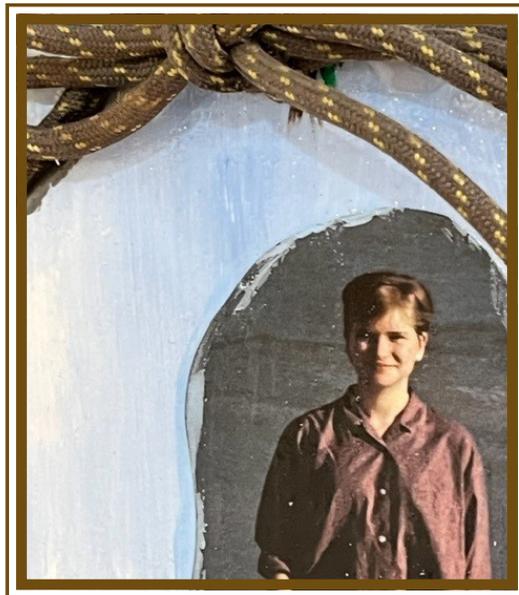
Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Bio

*In 1968, I arrived in Minnesota from the Tidewater area of Virginia, moving from the bounding main of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay, to the land of sky-blue waters. Happy to be here!*

## ART

*Asian simplicity and minimal artifice represents the natural world and the miracles of water. Ancient peoples' tattoo runes go hand in hand with the sea's natural heirlooms.*



# JOE CHOVAN

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Bio

*My career has been in the field of compensation and benefits for large corporations. I received a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and a M.S. in Industrial Administration from Perdue University. Order by mess and math have ruled my life. Leaving something of a historical record (totem) for my grandchildren and replacing an autobiography that I never wrote but thought about doing.*

## Artist Statement

*Activities during my life are being displayed here:*

*Bird hunting – pheasant #6, ruffed grouse #7 ½ & 8, turkey #4*

*Sailing #2922 a Thistle JES on Lake Michigan*

*Fly fishing for trout and smallmouth bass*

*Cross country skiing*

*Ping pong*

*Tennis*

*Pickleball*

*Solo canoe*

*Bike touring*

*Family – Kathryn, Ellen, Suzanne*

*Airstream #3444 camping*

*Backpacking – North Country Trail, Superior Hiking Trail, Ice Age Trail, Appalachian Trail*

*ACA member & instructor for the American Compensation Association*

*Lutheran Christian*



# JULIE JOPLIN

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*Who are you when life hands you a radical departure from the life you have know?*

*This workshop gave me an opportunity to explore a new identify. To rediscover the preciousness of family and friends; birds and gardens; an environment that needs my attention.*

*Thank you, Paige, for insisting that we indeed are artists, "she persisted."*



# KAREN HENNEMAN

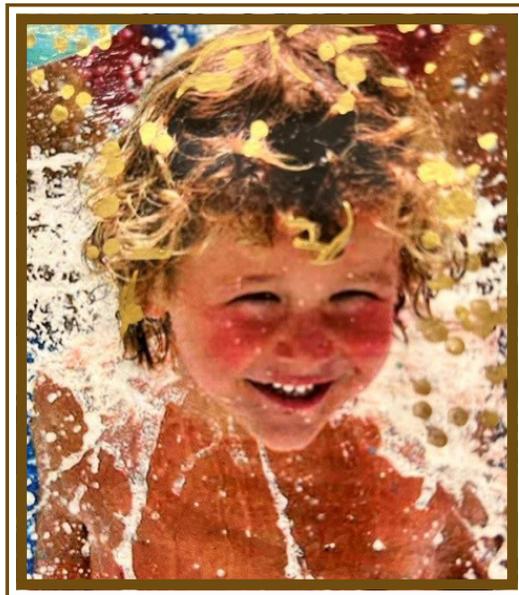
Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*The Identity Totem was a challenging and exciting experience for me. When I came to this art class, I had no idea what to do. My first idea was to use the cross my mother received when she was in hospice. It is a fluid shape, almost like a body shape as well. I wanted to paint it blue and have white clouds floating across it. Mom lived to be almost 99 years old and towards the last years her eyesight was very poor, but she could see the clouds in the sky and would remark on them all the time. She is definitely part of my identity.*

*Below the cross is a "Z" shape that comes from a Navajo sand painting with symbols of three coins, for the trinity, my nursing pen and cross from my life as a registered nurse and Pastor's wife. As I got into the creative intuition aspect of searching for symbols the spiral became an important part of my identity. Being part of the universe, the stars and moon and water and earth are important to me. The picture of two women's feet are symbols of the great female friends I have as well as for my sister.*

*The shortest totem is of a poem I wrote that I liked. I like quiet and peaceful places, the mystery of the night sky. The mystery of who we are at the center of our being like the center of a spiral.*



# ERIKA ASCHMANN

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*Meditating on this beautiful blue plant.*

*Head in the stars*

*Water in every cell*

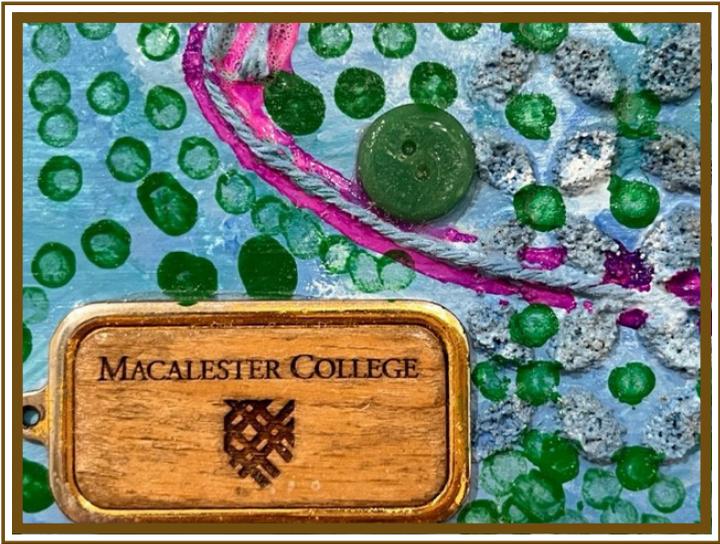
*Water ripples through my life like the sound of a flute.*

*Sixty-five percent made of water, no wonder I find ecstasy playing in water, drinking, splashing, swimming, and white-water canoeing. My reverence for water is deep and abiding.*

## Artist Bio

*Although I have lived on the banks of the Mississippi River in Central Minnesota and am fascinated by abundantly flowing water, I grew up in the California desert where water is precious. Earning a B.S. in Environmental Planning and Management, a Master's in Landscape Architecture degree, certificates in from the Advanced Management Institute for Architects and Engineers, I became a (CA DWR) Certified Master Water Auditor. My graduate thesis was on the topic of Desert Development and Watershed Management. My professional irrigation plans, and Xeriscape designs focused on the use of native plants. As an Engineering Project Manager for Engineering-Science, a multinational engineering consulting firm, I specialized in water quality and wastewater reclamation. I became a Flood Hazard Mitigation Specialist for FEMA and, for 11 years, I was the Water Conservation Representative of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (East Bay Mud).*

*I love to swim, liking nothing better than backpacking or whitewater canoeing on free-flowing waters. Currently I am choreographing a musical to describe the journey of water as it goes from the mountains to the sea, from the standpoint of, you guessed it, my totem, WATER.*



# CARLA J. LONG - ABUNDANCE

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*The title of this 3-piece totem pole is "Abundance."*

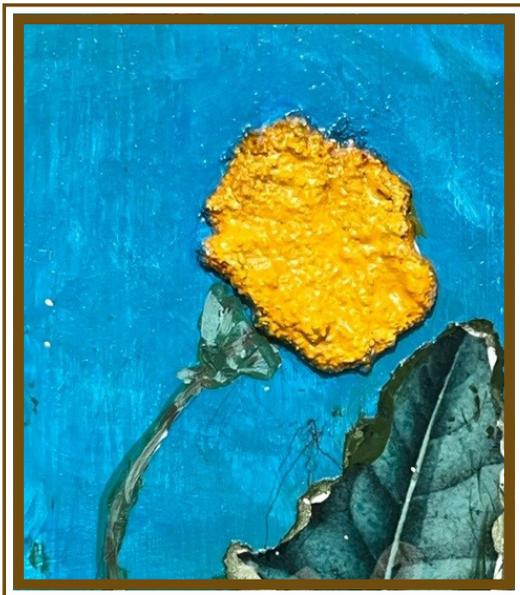
*I created this totem pole because there has been so much generosity in my life. I live a life of abundance. People have been so good to me, and lavished me with so many blessings, peace, goodwill, and most of all, LOVE!*

*The top two boards have a lot of texture I created with the supplies that were made available to me. My daughters, and my dog, and I are on the top board, because that is what means the most to me right now. The 2D totem has a lot of my own personal history on it. The college I graduated from, the country I did a study abroad in, my name, and the Statue of Liberty, and the wonderful time I had in NYC with my youngest daughter, and the college my oldest daughter graduated from. Those items were all old key chains I had collected through the years.*

*I like butterflies, I like to pray, I like brightly colored buttons, I like the zig zag of LIFE! I like the fact that life always goes on. I like flowers. Textures I chose included magnets I made, that represent the colors I like - colors of nature, the sea, the ocean blue water, the soft purple blanket, and the mellow green of LIFE. I chose the photos, features, and elements in my piece, because that is who I am: A child of God first, a mom second, and a single woman third. The dots on each piece represent water to me. Water I hear at the lake home, bubbles I see when children play, and bubbles that arise from the fish up north.*

## Artist Bio

*I am a very self-sufficient 63-year-old woman who is a graduate for the College of St. Benedicts, and I worked in religious education, youth ministry, special education, and cashiering at Coborn's. I'm passionate about my family (my two daughters) and my family of origin, and time spent at the cabin enjoying my siblings. I was inspired to explore personal identity through art because my life has been difficult. I have had mental health concern all my life, and I have had to struggle through them, and keep pushing forward. It hasn't been easy! But art brings out the best in me! I can relate to it the easiest. I had a good art teacher in high school, and she taught me that in art, there are no mistakes!*



# MARLENE DEVOE - CONNECTED TO NATURE AND SPIRIT

Wood • 2"x4' • Not For Sale

## Artist Statement

*Who am I? How did I become who I am? For some answers I need to go back to my beginnings on a farm in Michigan where I became connected to both nature and spirit living with a beautiful lake in front of the farm and a lovely huge hill behind it. Springtime covered the hill with beautiful wild dandelions full of their glorious golden yellow color and wild nature. I had a secret hiding place by the hill, away from my large family. In the secret place I would find and pick things from nature such as the dandelions and make beautiful arrangements and rearrangements. I had no art supplies nor were there art classes in school, so nature was my place to design art. The dandelions evoke in me to this day that feeling of beauty and belongingness with a connection to the natural world. On the hillside along with the dandelions I would see the beautiful fields with the grasses waving in the wind changing colors as the clouds crossed the sun and produced shadows in the fields. A beautiful tree sat majestically on top of the hill filling me with awe. Once or twice while I was sitting by that hill, I saw the northern lights resulting in me being elevated to that spiritual unknown dimension of the universe. But one day my idyllic life ended when my father committed suicide in the garage by that tree on top of the hill. The broken trees represent those breaks or disruptions in my life as ultimately viewed through the round cut off trunk. This one round piece of trunk came to me with therapeutic visual imagination. I imagined myself deep down at the bottom of the roots of the tree in a cave and saw my father sitting there in a rocking chair. He held me, loved me, and showed me all the wonders that were available for everything I could ever need in my life such as all the seeds, honeycombs, and materials it would take to grow whatever I wanted. Then he told me it was time to go, and he held me up into the sunlight where there was a cut piece of trunk polished and varnished to a sheen containing beautiful rings, an absolute beautiful piece of art. This is what I could make of my life! My mother held us together always as represented by her beautiful incredible handwriting telling stories of everyday life. She was as amazing as her handwriting which is displayed in a letter to me which she wrote in her eighties. She and I had in common a love of sewing and flower gardening as represented by the buttons and geranium pots. The precious pieces of handwritten letters are dispersed on the totem holding everything together on the just as my mother did during her life. My spiritual nature led me to further explore the mind and I ended up getting a doctorate degree in psychology. The sky the clouds the stars, the occasional brilliance of the northern lights are all dimensions I compared to the connection of nature and the mind or spirit and the unknown, a place to explore. All that I am emerged from these simple beginnings.*



**STARTING MON, MAY 9TH**  
**NOW OPEN MONDAYS!**

Gift Gallery and Gallery Saint Germain

# OPEN HOURS



Sunday CLOSED

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Monday 11AM - 5PM

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Tuesday 11AM - 5PM

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Wednesday 11AM - 5PM

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Thursday 11AM - 5PM

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Friday 11AM - 5PM

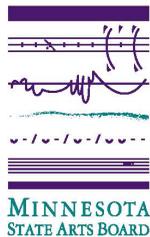
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Saturday 11AM - 2PM

\* Open One Hour Before Paramount Performances

@PARAMOUNTARTSMN





This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION