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Moments in Time
RUTH JENSEN MCGRATH

HISTORIC LOBBY, MAIN FLOOR

DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

RUTH JENSEN MCCGRATH

Moments in Time

Artist Statement

My creative process is broken down into three key activities.

- Thinking about what I want to make.
- Preparing to make it.
- Actually making the art.

Inspiration can come unexpectedly, often while working on other projects.

I pay attention to the awesome, the spectacular, and the ordinary. Five to ten seconds at a time, then the moment is over.

Preparing for a new project is where it gets real. So many options and decisions are necessary at this stage.

Making a new piece requires me to envision the finished painting before it begins. It can be a period filled with self doubt when the painting does not progress the way I envisioned it, and excitement and satisfaction when it evolves to meet my expectations.

Captured thoughts, distant remembered images.
This is the world through my eyes.
Real and imagined.

McGrath CATALOG

Morning Glory



Oil on canvas
36" x 24"
\$695.00

Starting my day
with a sunrise walk.

A Fair Day



Oil on canvas
18" x 24"
\$150.00

Dozens of fluffy
clouds tumble
across the sky over
an idealized
landscape.

Looking Up



Oil on canvas
36" x 24"
\$695.00

A cumulus cloud
floats over the
countryside.

Adventures Ahead



Oil on canvas
18" x 24"
\$150.00

Depicting the
anticipation of a
road trip.

Riding High



Oil on canvas
48" x 24"
\$795.00

Atmospheric and
aerial perspective
give the viewer a
feeling of
experiencing these
clouds from high in
the air.

Glorious Morning



Oil on canvas
24" x 18"
\$195.00

Feathery clouds
stretch out over a
bright blue sky. The
landscape below lit
by the morning sun.

Somewhere



Acrylic and water
mixable oil on
canvas.
72" x 36"-
(Two canvases)
\$995.00

Open to
interpretation by
the viewer.

Perfect Day



Oil on canvas
30" x 15"
\$295.00

A scene created
from memories of
traveling through
North Carolina in
the late summer.

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Moody Blue



Oil on linen board
16" x 20"
\$295.00

My first nocturne.

Saint Cecilia in the Winter Garden



Oil on canvas
11" x 14"
\$120.00

Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of music. She is a welcome site in the winter garden.

Winter Dream



Oil on canvas
24" x 18"
\$295.00

A dreamy winter night walk. The full moon illuminating the snowy landscape. Right outside my studio door.

Slumbering Oak



Oil on canvas
18" x 24"
\$195.00

The moonlight illuminates the hibernating king on the hill.

Frosty Morn - Looking West



Oil on canvas
20" x 10"
\$120.00

An appreciation for a crisp morning in the country. The white frost against a soupy gray sky. The promise of a snowy day.

Looking North



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$95.00

A lone tree in the field. A scene played out in thousands of winter farm fields across Minnesota.

Milky Sky



Oil on canvas
20" x 10"
\$120.00

Sunlight fighting to get through the blanket of cotton clouds. The light that filters through lights up the golden grasses. Welcome color on the snowy field.

Sunrise Walk



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

Nothing quite as electrifying as witnessing the perfect moment in time.

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Cloud - #1



Oil on canvas
paper mounted on
cradled board.
10" x 8"
\$85.00

We drifted apart
clouds on different
winds

Morning Sunlight



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

First light

Cloud-#2



Oil on cradled
board
10" x 8"
\$85.00

Long we fight to
hold on our misty
grips

Sorrowful Sky



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

Lavenders skies
make me feel sad
and grateful at the
same time.

Cloud-#3



Oil on cradled
board
10" x 8"
\$85.00

But in the end we
were again clouds
and different winds.
-Atticus

The Long Way



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

The long way home
is often the best
way home.

Dreamland



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

God shed his light
on thee.

Small Pond



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

A small pond is a
great place to
reflect.

McGrath CATALOG

Drifter



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$75.00

A large cloud drifts aimlessly. As though it has all day.

Sauk River - Kayak Paradise



Oil on board
9" x 12"
\$95.00

Sauk River near Whitney park in Saint Cloud, Boy Scout camp. A favorite spot for kayakers.

Sauk River - Below the footbridge



Oil on canvas
10" x 10"
\$95.00

An area near Whitney Park in Saint cloud. This was once referred to as Boy Scout camp.

Blazing Beauty



Oil on linen board
12" x 9"
\$95.00

A maple tree on the edge of a field showing off all its seasonal beauty.

Mississippi River - #1



Oil on canvas
board
12 x 9"
\$95.00

Mississippi River at Municipal Park in Sauk Rapids.

Solo



Oil on canvas
board
12" x 9"
\$95.00

I saw this large cloud floating effortlessly over the Gulf of Mexico while on vacation. I knew I had to capture it.

Daybreak



Oil on board
9" x 12"
\$95.00

Late summer. The sunrise cast a warm glow on the farm land. In contrast, the building and oat field shows off its cool blanket of morning dew.

Taking Flight



Oil on canvas
12" x 9"
\$95.00

Although it may look contrived it is exactly the way nature formed it. It looks so much like a big bird. One of the reasons why I love watching clouds.

McGrath CATALOG

Mississippi Low Down - #1



Acrylic on canvas
9" x 12"
\$95.00

During the drought of 2021 in Central Minnesota. Most people have not seen the water this low in their lifetime.

Misty Morning



Oil on board
9" x 12"
\$95.00

The oxymoron here clearly says explore this mystifying field. While the barbed wire fence sends a different message.

Mississippi Low Down - #2



Acrylic on canvas
9" x 12"
\$95.00

A fisherman stands in the middle of the river. During most summers this area was reachable only by boat.

September Wildflowers



Oil on linen board
9" x 12"
\$95.00

Another example of "Moments in Time". I was fortunate to paint these wildflowers that appeared on the road where I live. A week later all that was left were brown dried sticks.

Mississippi Low Down - #3



Acrylic on canvas
9" x 12"
\$95.00

Wing dams built by the Army Corps of Engineers, usually deep below the surface are used to direct the flow of the water to the center of the river. The drought exposed them.

Casual Garden



Oil on linen board
9" x 12"
\$95.00

A new garden spot was dug up and planted with annual flower seeds. They were meant to hold the space open for a more permanent perennial garden. All gardeners know that planning the garden is half the fun.

Mississippi Low Down - #4



Acrylic on canvas
9" x 12"
\$95.00

Under the Bridge of Hope in Sauk Rapids. The bridge cast a deep shadow on this hot summer day. The sun highlighting the exposed rocks emphasized how little water flowed in the Mississippi river on that day.

About my Art

For 50 years I used my creativity in my career. Work has always been centered around creating for other people.

I painted for most of my life as a hobby. Watercolor and acrylic were my mediums.



In 2020, during the lockdown days of the pandemic, I started taking an online class that introduced me to painting with oils. I felt like I finally found my niche. I painted feverishly, knowing the only way to hone my skills as an oil painter was to put miles on my brush. I formulated a secret plan to do 100 paintings in 100 days. I didn't announce my intention until just before number 90. I wanted to be sure I was able to actually do it. I did.

Every so often I do an exercise in daily painting like 10 paintings in 10 days, or "Create 28" which is a February event to make a painting every day of that month. These are smaller paintings ranging in size from 5" x 7" to 9" x 12".

I take a different approach to large paintings. These projects are painted in very thin transparent layers. Letting the paint dry between each layer. They can take anywhere from weeks to months to complete.

Now I have the opportunity to work in my studio solely for pleasure.

I walk daily and always have my camera in my pocket for reference photos. I paint whatever inspires me. I am often moved to paint the landscapes around me. The long shadows of morning or late afternoon. The changing seasons and the vast farmland or woodlands. The sky, with its ever changing clouds, with the landscape below for a feeling of aerial perspective.

At times I paint from my imagination, which is actually much more difficult than using a photo.

It is my pleasure to share these works of art with you.

