



ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, November 04, 2025
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Arts & Culture Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, at 3:45pm, in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

SETTING THE AGENDA:

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVE MINUTES:

- [1.](#) Approve the October 7th, 2025, Minutes

FINANCIALS:

- [2.](#) Approve Financials for October 2025

BUSINESS:

- [3.](#) Budget Items
4. Human Rights Commission
5. MacRostie Happenings
6. Mayor's Art Award
7. Commissioner Terms 2026

UPDATES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 07, 2025
3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Arts & Culture Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, at 3:45pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Hedlund at 3:48pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Kari Hedlund
Commissioner Aaron Squadroni
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa
Commissioner Angie Miskovich
Commissioner Sara Slaubaugh
Commissioner Nancy Jacobson
City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel
MacRostie Program Manager, Emily Carlson

ABSENT

Commissioner Jennifer Gorman
Commissioner Myrna Peterson
Commissioner Derek Fox

PUBLIC INPUT: (if anyone wishes to address the Commission)

David Marty, who resides across the street from the Ice Lake Swing Sculpture came to the meeting to let the Commission know that they are delighted to have the artwork across the street.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Miskovich to approve the agenda. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve Minutes from September 2nd, 2025

Motion made by Commissioner Lamppa, Seconded by Commissioner Slaubaugh to approve the September 2nd, 2025, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

FINANCIALS:

2. No change to Financials for September 2025

BUSINESS:

3. Human Rights Commission

This item was tabled.

4. MacRostie Happenings

Macroctie Program Manager, Emily Carlson, said that there are new galleries that have opened up and one at the Reif as well. There is a studio tour Saturday and they are planning for the upcoming Holiday Shop and Wreath Auction.

Commissioner Squadroni arrived at 4pm.

5. Children's Light Drawings

There is no movement with this item and the Commissioners decided to push it out to January 2026. However, the Commission did discuss what to do with the funds that were earmarked for the Children's Light Drawings. Some options discussed were, youth sponsorships, various school sponsorships, signs and rock benches as art. The Commission will bring more ideas in November and be prepared to make a decision.

6. Mayor's Art Award

Macroctie Program Manager, Emily Carlson reminded the Commission that they need to submit two nominations for the Mayors Art Award. So far there have been two submissions already, Rapids Brewing and Stained Glass. Please have your nominations ready for the November 4th, 2025, Meeting.

UPDATES:

7. Riverfest 2025 Review

The Fire in the Village participated in Riverfest and they had good attention and it was a good experience.

8. Greg Mueller

So far, the responses regarding the Ice Lake Swing and its sign, have been good. Commissioner Hedlund believes that the statue by the river would also be better received if it too had a sign, with some history. City Liaison, City Administrator, Tom Pagel said he will get something together and reminded the Commission that the ribbon cutting will be on October 20th, 2025, at 4:00pm.

9. Worksession Recap

Commission Chair Hedlund would like to formerly present the documents that they worked on from the Worksession such as the Art Placement Plan, the Adoption and Acquisition Plan, the Roadmap and the Implementation Plan to the City Council. She would then like them to be uploaded to the city website.

In 2026, the Commission can begin to decide on the area for the next neighborhood art project, probably in SE or SW. The 2027 Project money (% of) will not be available until 2028.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

10. Crystal Lake Art Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Oct 20, 2025, 4pm

This was mentioned under Item #8.

Reminder to redo Commissioner's Terms for January 2026.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

3. Budget Items
4. Human Rights Commission
5. Mayor's Art Award

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Squadroni, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson to adjourn at 4:25pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Hedlund, Commissioner Squadroni, Commissioner Lamppa, Commissioner Miskovich, Commissioner Slaubaugh, Commissioner Jacobson

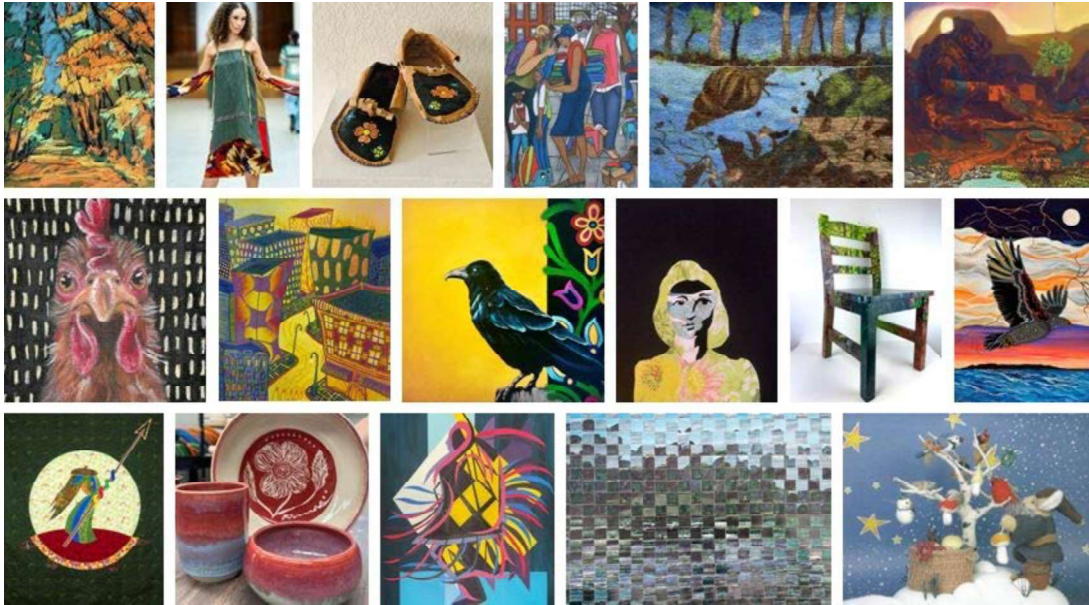
Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

ACCOUNT	ENTITY	DATE	MEMO	AMOUNT
003215 003215 - Arts & Culture Expenditures		1/1/2025	BUDGET	\$ 7,500.00
003215 003215 - Arts & Culture Expenditures	V04370 MACROSTIE ART CENTER	9/22/2025	09012501 FEE - POP-UP BOOTH RIVERFEST 9-6-25	(500.00)
				<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>



MacRostie Art Center

Sponsorship at the MAC | 2026



Welcome to the MAC's 2026 season! We are excited to announce next year's exhibitions and events. Each exhibit runs for two months in one of our three gallery spaces and includes a First Friday opening reception with the featured artist(s). 2026 will be special because it represents our 60th year as an organization.

This year we are excited to introduce a **new sponsorship opportunity for our educational programs**. MAC has year-round classes for learners of all ages and abilities, and sponsorship will help us offer more ways to support the adult and youth educational programming at the MAC through things such as a sliding scale payment options, support for field trips or school-based programs, and more.

If the sponsorships listed here don't fit your budget or you'd like to explore ways to share sponsorship with another MAC supporter, don't hesitate to reach out. We value your commitment to our arts community and look forward to partnering in whatever way works for you in the coming year.

Thanks for being a part of bringing high quality arts experiences to our community!

*All sponsorships are available on a first come, first served basis.
Contact Katie at 218-326-2697 or katie@macrostieartcenter.org to reserve yours today!
Visit bit.ly/2026macsponsors for up-to-date info on available sponsorships.*



MacRostie Art Center

Exhibit and Events Sponsorships | 2026

Exhibition and Events Benefits include:

- Name or logo on exhibition or event promotions: media announcements, posters, event placards, website, social media pages, and email newsletter.
- Advocate Member benefits for individual, family, or family-owned business sponsors: 10% discount on artwork, discounts on classes, and a “Gift of Art”

Exhibit Sponsorship | \$900

Sponsor a full exhibit! Exhibit sponsorship helps offset the costs of presenting an exhibit. You can support the artists who make the MAC Exhibitions Program an exceptional part of our arts experience.

See pages 4 – 20 in the sponsor packet to learn more about each of the exhibits coming to our galleries in 2026.



NEW: Annual Juried Exhibition Prize Sponsorship | \$150 - \$500

Be a part of the MAC’s most popular annual exhibit by sponsoring one of the prizes awarded to artists. Prize sponsorships are available in both 2-D and 3-D categories and the sponsor’s name/logo will be posted next to the winning artwork throughout the exhibition.

1st Prize: \$500

2nd Prize: \$300

3rd Prize: \$150

Event Sponsorship | \$500

Sponsor one of our annual events in 2026:

The Downtown Art Fair, our popular summer event which is taking place on Saturday, July 11, 2026, with live music, food, art activities, and dozens of artist vendors on the grounds of Old Central School.

The Fall Studio Tour, a self-guided tour of local artists’ studios across Itasca County at the height of the fall color season. This will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2026.



First Friday Sponsorship | \$300

Sponsor one of our monthly First Friday Art Walk events. Sponsorship supports the cost of the performing artists and refreshments that help make First Fridays a highlight of the local arts calendar.

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MacRostie Art Center

Education Sponsorships 2026

Education Sponsorship Benefits include:

- Name or logo on all event promotion: media announcements, posters, placards in the studios, website, social media pages, and email newsletter
- Advocate Member benefits for individual, family, or family-owned business sponsors: 10% discount on artwork, discounts on classes, and a "Gift of Art"

NEW: Adult Education | \$300-\$1,500

Sponsor our adult art education programs! Education sponsorship helps offset the costs of class fees, materials, and more. You can support the artists who teach at the MAC, as well as the students who sign up to take their classes.

- Adult Education Spring (Feb-May 2026): \$750
- Adult Education Summer (June-August 2026): \$300
- Adult Education Fall/Winter (September 2026 -January 2027): \$750
- **Sponsor Adult Education for the whole year: \$1,500***

*Additional benefit: 4 free class vouchers to use or share.



NEW: Youth Education | \$300-\$1,500

Sponsor our youth art education programs! Education sponsorship helps offset the costs of class fees, materials, and more. You can support the artists who teach at the MAC, as well as the students who sign up to take their classes. This also goes towards supporting field trips with local elementary/middle schools in the area.

- Youth Education Spring (Feb-May 2026): \$750
- Youth Education Summer (June-August 2026): \$300
- Youth Education Fall/Winter (September 2026 -January 2027): \$750
- **Sponsor Youth Education for the whole year: \$1,500***

*Additional benefit: 4 free class vouchers to use or share.



Second Saturdays Family Create | \$500

Second Saturdays are a free family day at the MAC where we offer drop-in art activities for all ages. Sponsorship covers the full year of these monthly events.

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MacRostie Art Center

JANUARY – FEBRUARY
MINNESOTA GALLERY



MAC 2D Open Studio Artists | Mixed Media | Grand Rapids, MN

This exhibition will showcase the works of artists who participate in MacRostie Art Center's open studio program. The open studio artists meet weekly with the goal of helping each other to improve their art through discussion and constructive feedback. All water-based artists are welcome.





MacRostie Art Center

FEBRUARY - MARCH
MACROSTIE GALLERY



Amber Buckanaga & James Harvin | Fashion & Performance | Twin Cities, MN

Amber Buckanaga is a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and was raised on the Mille Lacs Band Reservation. She has exhibited and shown fashion collections at New York Fashion Week as well as locally with multiple organizations and Tribal gatherings. James Harvin is an Afro-Indigenous (Black/Nahua/Rappahannock Descendant) musician, poet, and designer from Harlem, NY. He now resides in the Twin Cities and continues to perform and design clothes for the Duality Collection; the brand he co-founded with his partner, Amber Buckanaga.





MacRostie Art Center

MARCH – APRIL
GIINAWIND GALLERY



ISD 318 Anishinaabe Gikinoo'amaadiwin | Mixed Media | Grand Rapids, MN

ISD 318's Anishinaabe Gikinoo'amaadiwin program offers social, emotional, physical, and economic support towards graduation to students of Native descent and helps them practice life skills through the Seven Grandfather Teachings.





MacRostie Art Center

MARCH – APRIL
MINNESOTA GALLERY



Carolyn Olson | Pastel Drawings | Duluth, MN

This exhibition will feature large-scale pastel drawings exploring positive community-based themes such as mutual aid and chosen family. The artist, Carolyn Olson, retired in 2019 from a thirty year teaching career with St. Louis County Public Schools.





MacRostie Art Center

APRIL – MAY
MACROSTIE GALLERY



Kristen Anderson, Susan Hawkinson, & Loree Miltich | Fiber Art & Poetry | Bigfork, MN; Grand Rapids, MN

In the natural world, pockets of ecosystem diversity that retain biodiversity and resilience amid changing conditions are referred to as 'Refugia'. In northern Minnesota, our refugia are wetlands and, in particular, seasonal ponds. Kristen Anderson will display a series of felt tapestries representing this concept. Loree Miltich and Susan Hawkinson have composed an ekphrastic, double-voice poem that considers the remarkable life held in seasonal ponds and their essential role in the ecosystem of northern Minnesota. This poem will be read at the opening and displayed on the wall.





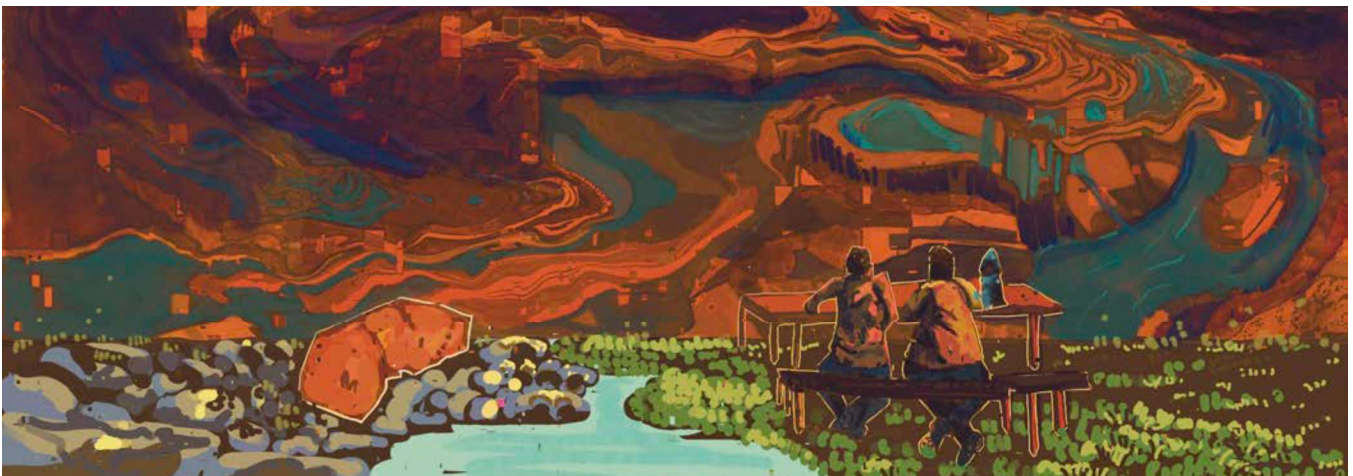
MacRostie Art Center

MAY – JUNE
GIINAWIND GALLERY



Pono Asuncion | Digital & Mixed Media | Minneapolis, MN

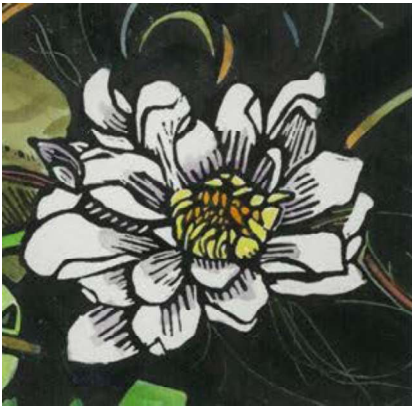
Pono Asuncion (b. 1996, ze/they) is a self- and community-taught multimedia and interdisciplinary Maker, Storyteller, Illustrator, and Culture Bearer. Ze is of several diasporic lineages. What they know: they are of Kanaka people whose land is currently annexed by the imperial forces of the united states of america. They are of Taino and Samtoy rebels and rebellions. They are of Indigenous peoples of Benin and Togo. Pono is based in Bdeóta Othúnwe, close to the shores of Wíta Tópa. Ze lives in a little blue cottage full of plants and errant paint with their wife Miriam.





MacRostie Art Center

MAY – JUNE
MINNESOTA GALLERY



Little Big Show | All Mediums | Many Artists

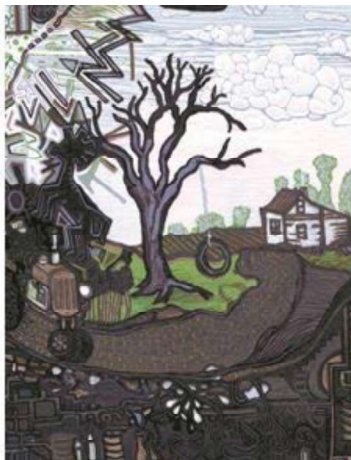
Sometimes big ideas come in small packages. Now in its eighteenth year, the popular LITTLE BIG SHOW annually includes over 50 different artists from across Minnesota and beyond. Every piece submitted must be 10" or smaller in any dimension and priced at \$100 or less. 2026's featured artist will be Rebecca Gramdorf, a farmer and artist living in Hermantown, MN.





MacRostie Art Center

JUNE - JULY
MACROSTIE GALLERY



Eric Johnson | Printmaking | Hillsboro, ND

Eric Johnson is a reduction block printmaker whose goal is to provide an escape into a feeling of wonder and miracle from a world that is often full of misery, negative happenstance, and mundane tasks. He teaches Art and Art History at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, and Humanities at Mayville State University.





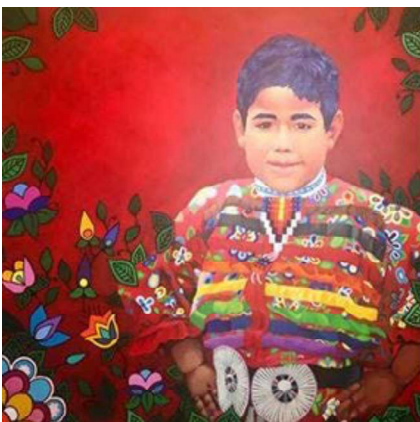
MacRostie Art Center

JULY – AUGUST
GIINAWIND GALLERY



Hillary Kempenich | Painting & Design | Grand Forks, ND

Hillary Kempenich is a multidisciplinary Anishinnabe artist, cultural advocate, and speaker with intertribal roots. A proud member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, her work is rooted in ancestral knowledge while embracing contemporary expression. Through paint, textiles, and design, she invites viewers into a world where beauty and truth live side by side—resilient, bold, and necessary.





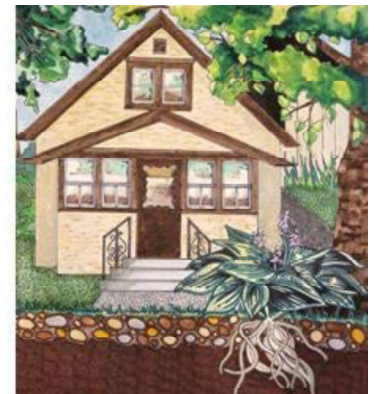
MacRostie Art Center

JULY - AUGUST
MINNESOTA GALLERY



Lea Friesen, Mary Jones-Snell, Summer Scharringhausen | Mixed Media | Grand Rapids, MN; Twin Cities, MN

Lea Friesen is a longtime local artist working in multiple disciplines and mediums. Her body of work will include small-scale, intimate portraits created using a variety of image-making techniques – collage, printmaking, and painting. Mary Jones-Snell is a local artist whose work is rooted in surrealism and modern illustrative styles. Her creations, rendered in pen and watercolors, delve into the profound themes of life, death, and childhood fairytales. Scharringhausen is a mixed media artist, a person who believes in the power of art and peace, a wife and a mother, and a person who experiences God in nature. She works from her home studio and outdoors, creating artwork that tells the truth and celebrates community.





MacRostie Art Center

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER
MACROSTIE GALLERY



34th Annual Juried Art Exhibition | Selected Artists

The MAC's annual juried show celebrates its 34th year. This perennial favorite will feature artwork by emerging and established regional artists selected by a juror. The exhibit is open to artists from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota in both two- and three-dimensional categories. This annual event celebrates variety and rewards excellence among regional artists.





MacRostie Art Center

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER
GIINAWIND GALLERY



Sam Zimmerman | Painting | Duluth, MN

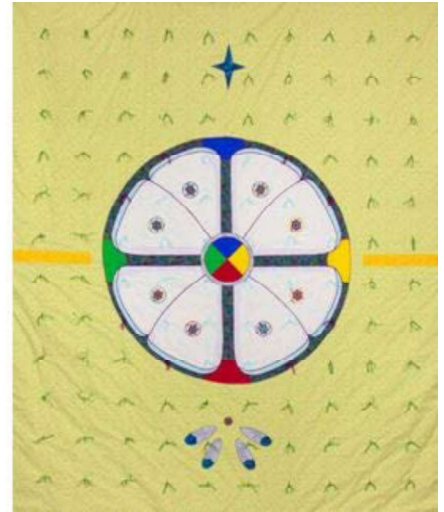
Sam Zimmerman / Zhaawanoogizhik, a Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe direct descendant, pairs his paintings of northern landscapes and traditional clan animals with stories in Ojibwemowin and English to share cultural teachings about Ojibwe sky knowledge. His work is a celebration of the dark sky, natural history, and contemporary storytelling.





MacRostie Art Center

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
MINNESOTA GALLERY



Rick Kagigebi & Eliza Klarer | Quiltmaking | Detroit Lakes, MN

Rick Kagigebi and Eliza Klarer will exhibit and celebrate appliquéd mural blankets made through their year of working together as mentor and mentee. Beginning in the spring of 2025, Rick and Eliza began meeting regularly at the Concordia College Science Station classroom at Long Lake, Detroit Lakes MN. Throughout their time together, Rick teaches both technical aspects and cultural considerations for the appliquéd mural blankets he's been making for decades.





MacRostie Art Center

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER
MACROSTIE GALLERY



MAC Pottery Studio Artists | Ceramics | Grand Rapids, MN

Local potters and ceramic artists from our very own MAC Pottery Studio are coming together to share the incredible variety of work that makes our community so unique. This exhibit features contributions from 20 artists, showcasing pieces made from various types of clay, including both wheel-thrown, hand built and sculptural forms. Visitors can expect to see a wide range of glaze techniques and color as well as striking examples of raku.





MacRostie Art Center

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER
GIINAWIND GALLERY



Group Exhibition | All Mediums

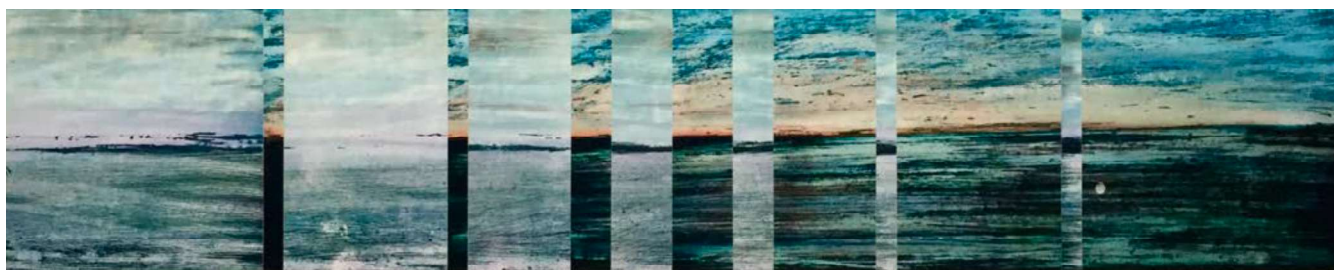
In Ojibwemowin, the word “giinawind” means “we” or “us” in the manner of inclusion. This group exhibition will offer a celebration of this idea, presenting works by many regional Indigenous artists working in a variety of mediums and at a range of stages in their artistic journeys.





MacRostie Art Center

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER
MINNESOTA GALLERY



David Browne | Mixed Media | Grand Rapids, MN

In this exhibition, David Browne will present traditional landscape paintings that are deconstructed and reworked in order to explore scientific and mathematical concepts such as the space-time continuum and Fibonacci sequence. Browne is a local artist and educator.





MacRostie Art Center

DECEMBER – JANUARY
MACROSTIE GALLERY



Northern Spirit Shop | Annual Holiday Marketplace

Every holiday season, the MacRostie Gallery is transformed into the Northern Spirit Shop. Opening the day after Thanksgiving, this annual exhibition celebrates the diverse and talented artists that live and work in northern Minnesota. It's an opportunity for community members to purchase unique, handmade gifts that support both regional artists and MacRostie Art Center.

