10th Annual
Prairie Lakes Artist Grantee Exhibit
January 7 - February 6, 2020

Kimberly Baerg, Waterville
Bethel Balge, New Ulm
Betsy Byers, St. Peter
Shelley Caldwell, Delavan
Judith Forster, St. Peter
Andrea Gehrke, New Ulm
Jane Horton, Mankato
Rachel James, St. Peter
Andrew Judkins, North Mankato
John Kruse, Wells

Mika Laidlaw, Mankato
Ronda Redmond, St. Peter
Richard Robbins, Mankato
Melissa Rolnick, St. Peter
Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm
Colin Scharf, Mankato
Todd Shanafelt, Mankato
Mary Walchuk, Elysian
Reed White, North Mankato
Jack Williams, Waseca

Funding for this exhibit is provided by:

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Held at the Waseca Art Center
200 State Street North, Waseca, MN  56093
Gallery Hours:  Tues.-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Exhibiting Artists

Kimberly Baerg, Waterville
Puppet #1, Fibers - NFS
Puppet #2, Fibers - NFS

Betsy Byers, St. Peter
“Sperry Glacier 1913-2008”, Watercolor and Graphite on paper - $450
“Jackson Blackfoot”, Oil on Canvas - $2,000
“Grinnell Glacier 1911-2008”, Oil on Canvas (documentation photo)

Shelley Caldwell, Delavan
“Fixation #6”, Mixed Media - $100
“Fixation #7”, Mixed Media - $100
“Marigold (Inktober#9: precious)”, Pen - $85

Judith Forster, St. Peter
“Chef Extraordinaire”, Acrylic/Mixed Media - $100
“Compromise”, Acrylic/Mixed Media - $100
“Partners in Crime”, Acrylic/Mixed Media - $100

Jane Horton, Mankato
“Business at Sherman and Belgrade”, Acrylic - $150
“Former First National Bank”, Acrylic - $150
“Stewart Building”, Acrylic - $150

Rachel James, St. Peter
“Fall”, Mixed Media - NFS
“Spring”, Mixed Media - NFS
“Summer”, Mixed Media - NFS

Andrew Judkins, North Mankato
“Prairie Fire”, Gouache on Illustration Board - $150
“Rush River”, Gouache on Illustration Board - $150
“Seven Mile Cliff”, Gouache on Illustration Board - $150

Mika Laidlaw, Mankato
“Legacy”, Slip-cast porcelain - $1,000
“Remember”, Slip-cast porcelain - $1,000
“Waves”, Slip-cast porcelain - $1,000

Todd Shanafelt, Mankato
“Untitled”, Mixed Media - $250
“Untitled”, Mixed Media - $250
“Untitled”, Mixed Media - $250

Mary Walchuk, Elysian
“Catkins”, Photograph - $150
“Ruffles”, Photograph - $150
“So Happy!”, Colored Pencil - $200

Reed White, North Mankato
“Cupcake Series”, Oil on Canvas (documentation photo)
“Cupcake with Cherry”, Oil on Canvas (documentation photo)

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

We are pleased to present the 10th Annual Artist Grantee Exhibition with funds provided by the McKnight Foundation, in Minneapolis. Eleven visual artists are displaying their work, and three literature and six performance artists (music, dance, video, shoemaker) will be featured in the reception January 12, 2020; noted Brenda Byron, Executive Director. We are happy to collaborate with the Waseca Art Center to host this exhibition. The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has a 27 year history of funding Individual Artists with grants with funding provided by the McKnight Foundation. Prairie Lakes serves the 9-county area in south central Minnesota and we provide programs for local artists, arts organizations, community groups, and schools. In FY 2019 Prairie Lakes awarded 219 arts grants totaling $453,144. The State art grants and Arts & Cultural Heritage grants were awarded to arts organizations, community groups, schools, and youth. The McKnight Foundation supports our Artist Grant Program which awarded $44,000 to twenty-four artists in FY 2019. Details are on page 3.

A link to our monthly Newsletter and online applications is available on our website: www.plrac.org.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council
105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093
plrac@hickorytech.net * (507) 833-8721
Exhibiting Artists

Artist Grantees that are Media, Multi-Discipline, Musicians or Writers will present at the Reception on January 12, 2020.

Literature:
Ronda Redmond, St. Peter; Richard Robbins, Mankato; and Jack Williams, Waseca.

Performers:
Bethel Balge, New Ulm, Music; Andrea Gehrke, New Ulm, Music; John Kruse, Wells, Music; Melissa Rolnick, St. Peter, Dance; Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm, Shoemaker; and Colin Scharf, Mankato, Filmmaker.

ARTWORK IN EXHIBIT IS FOR SALE

If you are interested in making a purchase, contact the Waseca Art Center. The art center will receive a Commission Fee of 30%, which will be deducted from the price of any works sold during the exhibition. The buyer will pay the art center the listed price, and at the end of the exhibition they will send a check for 70% to the artist.

All artwork purchased will remain in the exhibit until its conclusion. The purchaser may make arrangements for pickup after the exhibit ends.

Thank You to the Waseca Art Center for hosting our 10th Annual PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibit!

We especially want to thank Andrew Breck, Executive Director of the Waseca Art Center, who assisted us in coordinating this exhibition and hanging the artwork.

The Waseca Art Center is a nonprofit organization that offers the opportunity for all people to understand and value the arts. Through exhibits and programs, we present a welcoming and diverse experience that encourages questioning, creativity, and critical thinking. We sponsor art classes, weekly art appreciation discussions and a spring concert series. The WAC has two gallery spaces which each host one exhibit per month. The WAC Exhibition Committee is currently seeking proposals for solo and group exhibitions for 2020-2021.

For further information contact: Andrew Breck, Executive Director, (507) 835-1701, info@waescaartscouncil.org, www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Opening Reception

Sunday, January 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

1:15 p.m.  **Program Begins**

- **Introduction by Brenda Byron**, Executive Director of Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. All artists will be introduced and briefly discuss their work or perform.

1:20 p.m.  Shelley Caldwell, Delavan
1:25 p.m.  Judith Forster, St. Peter
1:30 p.m.  Jane Horton, Mankato
1:35 p.m.  Rachel James, St. Peter

1:40 p.m.  Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm - Shoemaker
1:50 p.m.  Ronda Redmond, St. Peter - Writer
2:00 p.m.  Richard Robbins, Mankato - Writer

2:10 p.m.  Andrew Judkins, North Mankato
2:15 p.m.  Mika Laidlaw, Mankato
2:20 p.m.  Todd Shanafelt, Mankato
2:25 p.m.  Mary Walchuk, Elysyian
2:30 p.m.  Andrea Gehrke, New Ulm - Musician

2:45 p.m.  **Intermission** (10 minutes)

2:55 p.m.  Bethel Balge, New Ulm – Musician, music video presented
3:10 p.m.  Colin Scharf, Mankato – Filmmaker, excerpt from film shown
3:25 p.m.  Jack Williams, Waseca - Writer

3:35 p.m.  Reed White, North Mankato
3:40 p.m.  Melissa Rolnick, St. Peter
3:45 p.m.  John Kruse, Wells - Musician

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**The Exhibit of Artwork takes place on first floor, which is handicapped accessible.**
The Program will take place in the Schultz Auditorium on the second floor of the Waseca Art Center. Please note that this 2nd floor space is not handicapped accessible. However, we will Live Stream on Facebook the Artists Program to the first floor Lobby, which is handicapped accessible, for those that need it.
Please contact the PLRAC office if you need an accommodation.

**This exhibit is made possible by funds Prairie Lakes received from the McKnight Foundation.**

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**THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION**
Artwork Displayed

Betsy Byers, St. Peter, Oil

Kimberly Baerg, Waterville, Fibers

Shelley Caldwell, Delavan, Mixed Media

Judith Forster, St. Peter, Mixed Media

Jane Horton, Mankato, Acrylic
Artwork Displayed

Rachel James, St. Peter
Mixed Media

Andrew Judkins, North Mankato
Gouache

Reed White, North Mankato
Oil

Mika Laidlaw, Mankato, Slip-cast porcelain

Mary Walchuk, Elysian, Colored Pencil

Todd Shanafelt, Mankato
Mixed Media
Photo Captions:


Middle: Brenda Byron and musicians John Kruse and Andrea Gehrke.

Bottom Left: Brenda Byron and visual artist Reed White.

Bottom Right: Jack Williams, writer.
Colin Scharf, Mankato, discussed the excerpt of his film that was shown.

Richard Robbins, Mankato, read from his poetry.

Ronda Redmond, St. Peter, read from her poetry.

Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm, discussed and demonstrated her shoemaking.
Here is a list of the Prairie Lakes Artist Grantees from FY 2018 and a brief description of their projects. In general, artists may use the grant for their music careers and studio time, visual art supplies, equipment, matting & framing, attending a writing workshop, studying with a mentor, etc. Artists that are interested in applying for a grant in the future should contact the PLRAC office. Upcoming deadlines include: January 15 for the $1,000 Career Development Grant and the Mid-Career Artist grant of $3,000 is due September 15, 2020.

**Kimberly Baerg, Waterville.** Kimberly is a visual artist and used the grant to create a play that featured a full-face mask and costume of Vincent Van Gogh, and coordinating shadow puppets. She purchased a projector and other supplies. She presented the play at the Village Community Center in Waterville, April 2019.

**Bethel Balge, New Ulm.** Bethel is a classical pianist and used the grant to conduct a professional photo session, to study and practice the piano, and to purchase an Apple 12.9 inch iPad Pro for uploading music and digitally turning pages at concerts. She presented a recital in Trinity Chapel at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, June 2019.

**Betsy Byers, St. Peter.** Betsy is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase supplies to produce a body of work that addresses climate change. She had an exhibition of oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings inspired by the rapidly melting glaciers in Glacier National Park at Rosalux Gallery in Minneapolis in February 2018.

**Shelley Caldwell, Delavan.** Shelley is a visual artist and used the grant to create a mixed media installation piece including pen and ink, cut paper, and live plants. She purchased supplies to create the artwork and paid for publicity and travel. She exhibited the installation piece at the Waseca Art Center, March-April 2018.

**Judith Forster, St. Peter.** Judith is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase supplies and create fourteen large mixed media portraits and three large abstract seascapes. She had an exhibition of the new work at the St. Peter Food Co-op, December 2018.

**Andrea (Lyn) Gehrke, New Ulm.** Andrea is musician and used the grant to help offset the cost of producing a new album. She paid stipends to additional musicians and for the CD cover. She performed two concerts featuring songs from the new album at the Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm in April and May 2018.

**Jane Horton, Mankato.** Jane is a visual artist working primarily in acrylics. She used the grant to purchase painting and framing supplies. The subjects of her new work were buildings and landmarks in the Mankato and North Mankato area. She had an exhibit of this work at the Carnegie Art Center, June 2019.

**Rachel James, St. Peter.** Rachel is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase supplies and create an immersive installation about forageable plants that grow in Minnesota and changes in nature that occur with the seasons. She exhibited the installation at the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato, July 2019.
**Artist Grantees**

**Andrew Judkins, North Mankato.** Andrew is a painter and used the grant to create a series of gouache landscape paintings as well as other landscape paintings in acrylic and oil. He paid to have 20-25 gouache paintings framed and purchased panels for oil paintings. He exhibited the new work at the Carnegie Art Center, the Owatonna Art Center, and the Waseca Art Center, June-July 2019.

**John Kruse, Wells.** John is a musician and used the grant to record a new album of ten original and public domain songs written about various American folk characters and historical themes. He purchased five microphones to use during the recording. He presented concerts at the Mankato Farmers Market, June 2018.

**Mika Laidlaw, Mankato.** Mika is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase a Vent-Sure kiln ventilation system, plastic bats for creating and carrying ceramic sculptures, mold-making straps to secure slip casting system, and ceramic materials. She experimented with these new materials to create a body of ceramic sculptures. She took a research trip to study Asian art and visited museums, temples, shrines, universities and art institutions in Japan. She had exhibitions of the new work at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, the Qarma Building in Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, as well as a local exhibition at the Centennial Student Union Gallery at Minnesota State University, Mankato in March 2019.

**Jerry Mollenhauer, Elysian.** Jerry is a writer and used the grant to hire a professional editor for his historical fiction novel about the lives and times of a rural Minnesota family from the late 19th century when August Runstadtl immigrated to the United States from Germany. He had a reading of the novel at the Arts Center of Saint Peter Center, August 2019.

**Ronda Redmond, St. Peter.** Ronda is a poet and used the grant to map out a young adult story to complete a collection of poems for a poetry-as-novel book. She purchased a laptop computer and paid contest fees. She presented a reading of the new poems at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, December 2018.

**Richard Robbins, Mankato.** Richard is a writer and used the grant to present readings of his current book of poems, “Body Turn to Rain: New and Selected Poems”, and to have creative time to complete other poems to submit to publishers. He had a reading of the new work at Poor Farm Studios in Mankato in November 2018 and several other readings in other states and countries.

**Melissa Rolnick, St. Peter.** Melissa is a dancer/choreographer and used the grant to cultivate dance as an "art practice" with older adults. During the spring of 2018 she facilitated dance and choreographic classes with older adults at the VINE Faith in Action Center in Mankato, MN. She did a public presentation describing the work at the VINE Faith in Action Center, June 2018.

**Pegeen Rozeske, New Ulm.** Pegeen is a cordwainer (shoemaker) and historical re-enactor and used the grant to travel to presentations. She created shoes and boots and explained the tools, materials, and processes in presentations at the Minnesota State Fair; the Kiesling House, New Ulm; McGowan’s HistoryFest, Mankato; the Mankato Makerspace; the Mankato Area Home School Group; and other locations, October-December 2018.

**Colin Scharf, Mankato.** Colin is a filmmaker and used the grant to complete his independent film, “The Marmal Chronicles”, a pseudo-documentary horror film set in a fictional Minnesota town. He purchased microphones, a boom pole, and recorder to increase the film’s professionalism and a two-year subscription to the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite for photo and film editing. He presented the premiere of the film at Poor Farm Studios in Mankato, October 2019.
**Jessica Server, Mankato.** Jessica is a writer and used the grant to purchase a laptop computer and work on her first book of poetry, titled “The Growing Season.” She held a reading of her work at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, December 2018.

**Todd Shanafelt, Mankato.** Todd is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase supplies to create approximately 24 new sculptures. Twelve new sculptural works were exhibited at the Waseca Art Center in March 2018 and another twelve works at the Rural America Contemporary Artists Gallery located in the lower level of Poor Farm Studios in September 2018. These venues were chosen for their connection to nature, agriculture, and our changing demographics.

**Mary Solberg, St. Peter.** Mary is a stained-glass artist and used the grant to create new work and to get her work better known throughout the region. She also purchased stained glass supplies and equipment. She exhibited the new work at the Thrivent Financial Office in St. Peter, June 2019.

**Mary Walchuk, Elysian.** Mary is a photographer and used the grant to print, mat, and frame 30-50 photos and drawings for her first exhibit. She exhibited the work at the Waseca Art Center, Oct.-Nov. 2018.

**Reed White, North Mankato.** Reed is a visual artist and used the grant to purchase art supplies to create 4 large scale oil paintings of treats, such as cupcakes, cakes, etc. He exhibited the work at River Rock Coffee Shop in St. Peter, September 2018, since it is not an art gallery and it exposed people to art who may not visit art galleries.

**Edward (Jack) Williams, Waseca.** Jack is a writer and re-wrote his play “My Life, as I Remember It” into a series of short stories. He used the artist grant to take the “Writing for Absolute Beginners” class at The Loft in Minneapolis, November-December 2017. He also purchased a laptop computer, hired an editor and proofreader, hired a graphic designer to complete the book cover, and took a research trip to Ely Minnesota. He had readings at the Waseca Arts Center in November 2018 and the Piragis Northwoods Bookstore in Ely, December 2018.

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**Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**
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