

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibition

Featuring Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010  
Funded by the McKnight Foundation



 Arts Center of Saint Peter

315 South Minnesota Avenue

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 1–5 p.m.

January 21–February 20, 2011

## *A Note from Brenda Byron, Executive Director*

We are pleased to present the first Annual Artist Grantee Exhibition funded by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council and the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis. This exhibit represents eighteen artists that were awarded Emerging Artist Grants of \$1,000 each in 2009 and 2010.

As our new McKnight Foundation funded programs begin in Fiscal Year 2011 we are excited to provide our artist grantees this opportunity to be featured in a group exhibition. We are pleased to present this exhibition at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 315 S. Minnesota Avenue, from January 21 to February 20, 2011. The exhibition and reception represents the media of the artists including visual art, literature and music. **Specifically, ten visual artists are represented in the exhibition with four pieces per artist.** The literary and music artists will be featured in our Opening Reception on January 22, 2011 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. The list of performances is on the back page of this exhibition brochure. We are pleased to use the Arts Center of Saint Peter for the exhibit and the gallery is perfect because it has two levels and can accommodate over 40 pieces of art work. It's also great that they have a stage area so our artisans can perform in the lower level, during the reception.

The Regional Arts Council has a 19-year history of funding Individual Artists with grants with funding provided by the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis. We began Individual Artist Grants in 1992 and five artists were awarded \$500 project grants. The program has developed over the years and the amount and number of grants has increased based on funding from the McKnight Foundation. **A total of 182 Artist Grants have been awarded from January 1992 through November 2010.**

Prairie Lakes will continue to award nine \$1,000 Emerging Artist Grants per year, for a total of \$9,000. Our new Fellowship Program began in November 2010 and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council Board awarded ten artists a Fellowship Grant of \$3,000 each, for a total of \$30,000. The regional arts council plans to continue both of these grant programs in 2011–2012. In addition, we will be supporting the 19th Annual Prairie Lakes Regional Juried Art Exhibition, to be held at the Carnegie Art Center, Mankato from April 27 to June 9, 2011. This exhibition is an opportunity for emerging and professional artists living in the 9-county area to display their work in a professional setting. The exhibit features about 100 pieces of art work.

We share in the McKnight Foundation's goals to support and develop our communities by supporting high quality art that is broadly accessible. We continue to focus our McKnight grants on support of our professional artists in the region through an emerging artist and fellowship program and juried regional art exhibition. The regional arts council truly believes that our individual artists are at the heart of all arts activity. The council and staff believe that technical assistance, grants, and networking amongst our artists and arts organizations is crucial to the region's arts development; since the arts enrich each one of our lives. We have a vibrant arts community in south central Minnesota that plays an important role in community development and the economic development of our region.

# Exhibiting Artists

## **Lisa Bierer, Mankato**

*Graffiti Cloth Flowers*, Acrylic, \$250

*Graffiti Cloth Birds* Acrylic, \$250

*Judson Bottom Road*, Acrylic, \$500

*Trees*, Acrylic, \$600

## **Barbara Bjelland, St. Peter**

*Grape Vines & Sandy Toes*, Oil on Panel, \$295

*Maple Hill Church*, Oil on Panel, \$295

*Rosa*, Oil on Panel, \$195

*Wildflower Meadow*, Oil on Panel, \$225

## **Marianne Carlson, Mankato**

*Amorphous*, Acrylic and Mixed Media on Wood, \$175

*Inception*, Acrylic and Mixed Media on Wood, \$175

*Inferior Conjunction #2*, Acrylic and Mixed Media on Wood, \$85

*Proteus*, Acrylic and Mixed Media on Wood, \$400

## **Gina Hunt, Mankato**

*Ulcer*, Watercolor, \$125

*Kidney*, Watercolor and Collage, \$125

*Portal Vein*, Watercolor, NFS

*Initial Injection*, Watercolor, \$95

## **Margie Larson, Mankato**

*Airplane Blues*, Oil on Canvas, \$500

*Flying Cadillac Lady*, Acrylic on Board, \$200

*Golden Antelope*, Acrylic on Board, \$200

*Starliner*, Acrylic on Board, \$200

## **Liz Madsen, Mankato**

*A New Dawn*, Image Transfer Monoprint, \$195

*Kris' Light*, Image Transfer Monoprint, \$195

*Structure*, Image Transfer Monoprint, \$195

*The Heavenly Host*, Image Transfer Monoprint, \$195

## **Antje Meisner, Mankato**

*Beginnings*, Silver Gelatin Print, \$120

*Betrothed*, Silver Gelatin Print, \$120

*Interlude*, Silver Gelatin Print, \$120

*Transfiguration*, Silver Gelatin Print, \$150

## **Joel Moline, St. Peter**

*Blue Iris*, Monoprint, \$150

*The Red Stocking Cap*, Monoprint, \$250

*Violet*, Wood Engraving, \$90

*Violet II*, Monoprint, \$110

## **Allison Roberts, Mankato**

*Imprint*, Fiber, \$475

*Underfoot*, Fiber, \$400

*Untamed*, Fiber, \$950

*Untamed-sketch*, fiber \$400

## **Nicole Volk, Waterville**

*Colorado Self-Portrait 1*, Wax and dyes on cotton, \$150

*Comfort Willow*, Wax and dyes on silk, \$600

*Farm Cat*, Pencil Drawing, NFS

*The Elephant*, Wax and dyes on cotton, \$300

# PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010

The first Annual Artist Grantee

Exhibition funded by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council and

the McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis; represents eighteen artists that were awarded

Emerging Artist Grants of \$1,000 each in 2009 and 2010. Below is an alphabetical list of artists describing their background and how they utilized their artist grant.

**Lisa Bierer** has lived in Mankato since 1994. She studied art at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. with emphasis in intaglio printmaking. She began painting murals full time in 2000 in homes and businesses in the Mankato area. She is beginning to paint less commercially and to move into a fine art direction. She received an artist grant to participate in a workshop and purchase art supplies to create new work for an exhibition in fall 2010. In March 2011 Lisa's paintings will be on display at Infinitea gallery in Minneapolis, Minn., February 5–March 4, 2011.



**Barbara Bjelland** is a Fine Artist and Graphic Designer for Print and Web. She holds degrees in History (BA), Religion (MA), and Graphic Design (AAS). She has also completed coursework in Studio Arts at Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Gustavus Adolphus College. Barbara shares a view of the world that includes a sense of story and divine mystery. Her artwork is accessible to children, and her first children's picture book will be available Spring 2011 (at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)). Barbara works in oil pastel, charcoal and pencil. The PLRAC grant allowed Barbara to explore plein air oil painting in a 5-day intensive workshop with nationally-known artist Mary Pettis in Taylor's Falls, Minn. Barbara produced many new paintings during the workshop which are now available as originals, greeting cards and prints. Barbara enjoys the subtle colors and unique textures that can be developed with oil paint, and she looks forward to creating artwork with this versatile medium for years to come.



**Jana Bouma** is a poet and community workshop leader living in Madison Lake. Jana writes "I am especially pleased to be a part of the vibrant arts community in Mankato, where I serve as president of the Southern Minnesota Poets Society. I think art is most vital when, rather than speaking to a select audience, it is an integral part of community life. I participate frequently in area poetry readings and workshops, and my poems have appeared in journals and anthologies including *Natural Bridge*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, *2River View*, *Main Channel Voices*, and the anthology *County Lines*. Previously, I taught English for eight years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With the support of a PLRAC Emerging Artists Grant, I studied with poet Kevin Young at the 2009 Tin House Writers Workshop in Portland, Ore. The opportunity to study with a renowned poet, and to meet poets from around the country, has energized both my poetic practice and my work within the Mankato arts community."

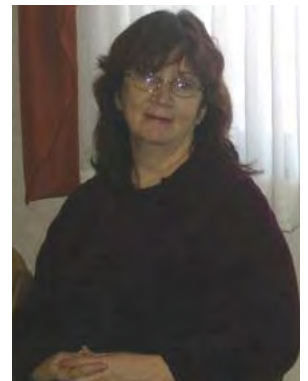


## PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010

**Marianne Carlson** is an emerging artist living in Mankato. She is also the editor of the Madelia Times-Messenger, a weekly newspaper in Madelia. Marianne received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (Painting) and her Bachelor of Arts degree (Creative Writing) from the University of Montana, Missoula. Over the past eight years, Marianne has participated in a number of group exhibitions including different regional juried art shows, themed art exhibitions and photography group shows. In November 2008 she exhibited with three other women at the Carnegie Art Center in a show called the Spirit of Life. In March 2009, Marianne participated in a group show with two other women called Come to Light at the Salir a la Luz Gallery in St. Paul. Most recently, she had a solo exhibition at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild, Mankato in August of 2010. Marianne used her grant to purchase supplies to build, paint and frame 10 paintings in a new body of work.



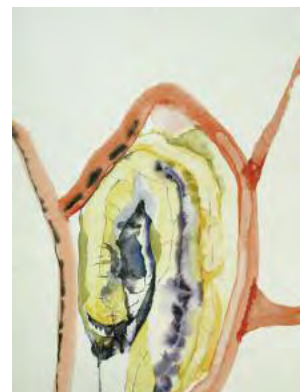
**Kathryn Cullen** is a native of southern Minnesota and after years of residing in the Twin Cities and California, she now lives in St. Peter. Kathryn attended Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she earned a Master of Art's degree in English/Creative Writing in 1990. Kathryn has worked both as a free-lance writer for various magazines and organizations, as well as on her own writing endeavors. In 2007 she took part in the Family Housing Fund Home Sweet Home poetry and art exhibition, as well as the Minnesota State Arts Board Art of Recovery. Kathryn attended the Iowa Summer Writing Festival in Iowa City in the summer of 2009 and participated in a week-long lyrical essay and poetry workshop. She continues to expand on a body of work, *Notes from the Alley*, that came from the workshop. Kathryn also enjoys helping older adults in gleaning their own stories and crafting them into memoirs.



**Nancy Eischen** is a musician and she plays the piano, organ, mandolin, guitar and now a harp. She has privately studied: piano, pipe organ, and guitar. She currently plays organ and piano for church services, harp for open houses, stride piano for fun and mandolin in a family trio. She also farms with her husband and operates a vineyard near Comfrey. After countless years of practice and lessons, Nancy felt it was time to add yet another instrument and she acquired a Lyon & Healy Prelude 38 string harp. The artist grant was used to study harp and composition with Phala Tracy at Gustavus Adolphus College. Nancy's grant has inspired her to release a solo harp CD entitled *Simple Beginnings*.



**Gina Hunt** completed her B.F.A. in Painting, Printmaking, and Art History at Minnesota State University, Mankato in December 2009. While attending MSU, she earned a research grant from the University Foundation to explore the history and techniques of encaustic painting. Gina has presented research at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Minnesota State University, Mankato. Besides her studio practice and exhibiting her art, Gina is an intern at The Soap Factory (contemporary art gallery and studios) in Minneapolis and teaches Elements and Principles of Art at Minnesota State University. Concerning the work created with the PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grant, Gina writes: "I have found a metaphorical connection between the physical act of painting and the physical experience of being alive. These paintings depict a body in transition. Informed by anatomical documents and physical pain, I make images narrated through science and experience."



## PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010

**Phillip Just** is a self-taught ceramic artist. As part of his training, Phillip participated in an Artist in Residence for 40 days in 2009 in the studio of Peter Landherr, Walnut Grove. During that time he developed and improved his techniques in wheel throwing, working with glazes and experimented with ashes and low fire clay to create new glazes. Phillip was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council in 2010 and he used his grant to purchase a used potter wheel, clay and materials to create new work. Unfortunately, he is unable to participate in the artist exhibition in January 2011.



**Margie Larson** is a Mankato Native and attended Minnesota State University, Mankato and received her degree in Art Education. She retired from a career at Minnesota State University, Mankato where she was the study abroad adviser in the International Office. She now has a studio in the Emy Frenz Art Guild in Mankato. Having the studio has greatly increased the number of paintings she produces. The atmosphere at Emy Frenz is very conducive to her creativity. In the past year she has had two shows at the Emy Frenz Art Gallery, a show at the Number Four restaurant in Mankato, and at the River Rock Cafe in St. Peter. Margie used her artist grant to take a week long workshop with California artist, Robert Burrige at the Dillmans Creative Arts Center in Lac du Flambeau, Wisc. in summer 2010. As a result, Margie presented a power-point show about her workshop experience at a Combo night at the Emy Frenz Art Guild in November and now has a show of her new work at the Unique Specialties and Classics showroom on Stadium Road in Mankato through January 2011.



**Liz Madsen**, "I am stubborn, creative, thorough, eco-friendly, and with a never say never attitude, I chose to find or create an eco-friendly image transfer process that doesn't involve chemicals and would allow me to merge my digital imagery with my printmaking. The inkjet image transfer process that I developed allowed me the opportunity to create very unique monoprints by hand, each with a visual pulse for life—each coming alive as I rub and rub and rub, over and over their backs bringing forth a completely different, but yet similar reflection of the original images. At times, it was very frustrating trying to find a plate that would let the ink release from its surface and allow an image transfer to happen. After much rubbing, I found a plate that would allow me to transfer images from my digital world to the visual print environment. The PLRAC Emerging Artist Grant allowed me the opportunity to explore larger format image transfer options. I found that there were not the options I thought, but with some creative openness, I tried a variety of paths but not with the success I had hoped. But, I am very thankful for having had the opportunity to explore these options with the PLRAC Emerging Artist Grant. It is great to have an organization out there that gives artists the chance to grow and explore art in our region."



## PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010

**Antje Meisner**, originally from Germany, has lived in the states most of her life and for the past 20 years has called the Mankato area home. Antje has exhibited her work in local galleries and was awarded a grant to purchase darkroom supplies and to mat and frame works for an exhibition at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild Gallery in Mankato. The images represented in the exhibit are from a larger body of work entitled *Once There Was*. This series explores the idea of fairytale as photograph. Antje writes "The motifs found in mythos are an intriguing and simultaneous mix of the beautiful and ominous. I hope to provide a visual narrative of the grace, darkness, and mystique that are often at the core of these tales. These photographs have been shot in film, then processed and printed in a traditional wet-darkroom. I am drawn to the craft of photography and take pleasure in the intimate experience and human touch that this time-honored process allows."



**Joel Moline** is a lifelong resident of Minnesota. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education and Master of Education degree in Art Education and deaf education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Joel taught at the Minnesota School for the Deaf from 1966–70 and in the St. Peter Public Schools from 1971–2000. Since retiring in 2000 Joel has taught printmaking, ceramics, and bookbinding classes through the Arts Center of Saint Peter. He has been creating wood engravings for 18 years and has recently been exploring monotype. Color is becoming increasingly important in his work and he has been exploring how relief prints (wood engraving and linoleum cuts) and monotypes can be combined to create monoprints. Joel used his artist grant to attend the Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop to expand his knowledge of monotype techniques. For the past two years he has been using the knowledge gained from the workshop to create monotypes combining the two print methods.



**Denise (Wilbur) Neushwander-Frink** is a playwright and has worked as an ally in the self-advocacy movement for 16 years. This is a leadership development and organizing movement for people with developmental and intellectual disability labels. Wilbur has worked together with groups to write and perform plays that highlight issues that people face in their lives. These groups work to educate society about disability issues in entertaining ways but also want to show positive solutions to the issues. We think abundantly about the gifts and talents all people have within them and how they can share these gifts. Wilbur works with two theatre groups as ally director, The United We Stand Players of New Ulm and Aktion Club Theatre of Mankato. She also works with children in Mankato helping them write and perform plays about issues they are concerned about. *Soph and the Nana*, Wilbur's most recent play written for Aktion Club Theatre utilizing her artist grant will be performed in July of 2011 at Mankato West High School.



**Allison Roberts** is a fiber artist and she creates pieces that explore expressive line by combining the planned and the improvisational. The impulse of line draws on a life of observation and absorption of visual line from a variety of sources: natural, industrial, and symbolic. Allison writes "I enjoy taking a more improvisational approach to the monotype image then allowing time to decide how to enhance the piece with stitched line, partial prints, and reassembly. I have been working on developing smaller, framed pieces this year. The smaller scale allows me to explore new ways of using of combining techniques as well as developing ideas. Some of these framed pieces become fiber 'sketches' for larger wall pieces."

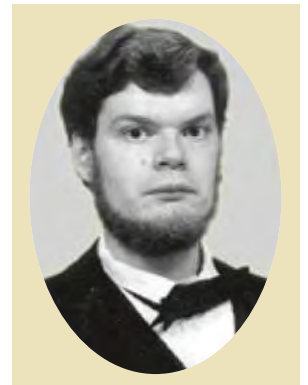


## PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grantees from 2009 and 2010

**Michelle Roche** is a performing musician and instrumental music instructor in the Mankato area. A graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, Michelle holds a degree in Music Education with an emphasis in Percussion Performance. Michelle is a licensed instrumental music teacher. She has been a band director with the Maple River School District, instructed for the Govenaires and Waseca Marching Jays' frontline, and served as clinician for band camps and honor bands in Decorah, Austin, and New Ulm. Michelle currently teaches private piano and percussion lessons in the Mankato area. She performs locally with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps, and That's What She Said. The Emerging Artist Grant has allowed her to purchase Finale music notation software to compose original works and arrange traditional music for piano, marimba, flute/marimba, and percussion ensemble to be performed in the Mankato area.



**Bryce Stenzel** is a native of Mankato. He attended Minnesota State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Teaching Degree for Social Studies in 1990. He is licensed to teach grades 5–12. In addition, Bryce earned a Master of Arts Degree in History in 1995. He has both full and part-time teaching experience. Currently, he is the Education Director at House of Hope, Inc. in Mankato. In addition to his classroom experiences, Bryce has authored several books on local history topics. He has portrayed Abraham Lincoln, as a costumed historical interpreter to audiences of all ages since 1989. Bryce has combined his passion for history, his experience working with students, and his writing ability into the production of this dramatic play, *...His Truth Is Marching On...* which was produced in 2010 to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency on November 6, 1860.



**Nicole Volk** grew up in Faribault and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She taught at surrounding art centers, Trinity Lutheran School and the FCI-Waseca before working for the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School District. For a decade, her personal art reflected her academic training in painting, drawing, and some ceramics. In 2008 she took a weekend workshop in batik and has been using cloth, wax and dyes to make her art since. Nicole used her artist grant in 2009 and traveled to Colorado to learn batik from Jonathan Evans and Beth McCoy. She shared gallery space with a Northfield ceramist in March 2010 for a show at the Paradise Center for the Arts in Faribault. Receiving the grant has given her the confidence to continue seeking grants, scholarships and residencies that will aid in refining her use of materials in batik.



**Autumn Zander** is a pianist and an active performer and teacher in southern Minnesota. She holds a Masters of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a Bachelors of Music degree in Piano Performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisc. In the continued pursuit of learning new repertoire, exploring new musical paths, and sharing this music with audiences, Autumn spent August of 2010 studying the French Impressionistic repertoire of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel with renowned pianist, teacher, and scholar Paul Roberts in Ambialet, France with her artist grant. Private lessons and master classes focused on the specific technical and stylistic characteristics as well as the historic context of the repertoire.



# Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, Inc.

Prairie Lakes serves the nine county area in south central Minnesota. We provide services and programs for the development of the local artists, arts organizations and art audiences. The council administers several grant programs with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature and the McKnight Foundation.

**In FY 2010 Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council awarded 201 arts grants totaling \$385,430.** Grants of \$56,430 in general State funds; \$34,000 in McKnight funding; and \$295,000 in Arts and Cultural Heritage (ACH) funding. The three categories of ACH funding and the amounts awarded were: (1) Arts & Arts Access \$234,410, (2) Arts Education \$45,670 and (3) Arts & Cultural Heritage \$14,920.

A majority of the grant making that Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) does with its state money is to sustain arts organizations and arts activity in our region through community groups and school arts activities. We have high quality music activities, both instrumental and vocal and about 50% of the grants awarded by PLRAC represent this discipline. Theater and visual art activities are the next most active at about 20%. Dance and literature activities represent about 5% each of activities and therefore, we continue to categorize these disciplines as underserved in our region.

For several years the board has addressed funding both established arts organizations and new activities. Therefore, in order to spread the funds out more and fund more arts activities and organizations the board has placed maximums on all grant programs and also recommends partial funding of grants, in some programs, as necessary. In general, the quality of arts activities presented in grant applications in our region is very high.

The board consists of thirteen members who represent a variety of art disciplines and are actively involved in the arts in their community. One member is selected from each of the nine counties and one representative from each city over 10,000. Their primary function is to serve as a panel for arts funding applications and to make policy decisions. Every two years a biennial plan for the region is developed and is submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board, to receive state legislative funding.

## Board Members

Blue Earth County	Rachael Hanel, Madison Lake
Brown County	Denice Evers, Springfield
Faribault County	Lill Robinson, Blue Earth
LeSueur County	Bette Traxler, LeCenter
Martin County	Bonnie Taplin, Fairmont
Nicollet County	Don Myers, St. Peter
Sibley County	Marie Kreft, Arlington
Waseca County	Mary Jenatscheck, Waseca
Watonwan County	Joe McCabe, St. James
City of Fairmont	Judy Berkeland
City of Mankato	Mary Motter
City of New Ulm	Judy Martens
City of North Mankato	Pat Potzler

## Staff

Brenda Byron	Executive Director
Cindy Lewer	Program Manager
Pam Trumbull	Administrative Assistant



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# Opening Reception

JANUARY 22, 2011

2:00–5:00 p.m.

## 2:30 p.m. Program

### Introductions and Presentation of Artists

Rachael Hanel,  
President of Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

Brenda Byron,  
Executive Director

### Literary and Music Performances

continue after Program

3:00 p.m. Jana Bouma, poetry

3:15 p.m. Kathryn Cullen, poetry

3:30 p.m. Bryce Stenzel, excerpt from  
Abraham Lincoln Play  
*...His Truth is Marching On...*  
with student performers

3:45 p.m. Denise Neushwander-Frink,  
excerpt from *Social Justice  
Theatre in the Self-Advocacy  
Movement: Soph and Nana.*

4:00 p.m. Nancy Eischen, harp

4:15 p.m. Michelle Roche, flute/marimba duo