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Central Illinois Landscapes: Permanent Art Collection by Illinois Artists

Eastern Illinois University

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Central Illinois Landscapes



Permanent Art Collection
Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University

Central Illinois Landscapes

Art Collection by Illinois Artists



Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
December 2015

Kevin Booton (1957-)

Kevin Booton of Springfield received a B.F.A. from the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH, in 1979. Since 1981, he has painted and shown watercolors regionally and nationally in juried exhibitions and juried art fairs. Booton grew up on a farm near Biggsville in West Central Illinois. His paintings, representational and abstract, reflect his origins and concentrate on the Midwestern landscape and its environs.

Booton's application of paint and his graphic use of the white paper combine to form sparkling light-filled compositions. His abstracts are studio creations dealing with composition, color and texture; they reflect contrasts and juxtaposition of shapes in the landscape.



Past Time
1998
59" x 39"
watercolor

*Located in
the Northwest
Reading Room
on the 3000
level*



2001 Landscape
2001
39" x 29" watercolor

*Located in the Witters Conference
Room on the 4000 level*



Untitled Landscape 2001
2001
39" x 29" watercolor

*Located in the Witters Conference
Room on the 4000 level*

Rick Boschulte (1958-)

Rick Boschulte of Eureka was born in Rochester, MN, and received a B.F.A. in painting from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1981. He earned an M.S.A. and M.F.A. in



*Corn Crib at
Dusk: Spring*
1996
20" x 12"
watercolor

*Located in the South
Reading Room on the
4000 level*

painting from Illinois State University in Normal. Boschulte has lived in the Midwest all of his life and has grown very fond of the understated, often overlooked beauty that can be found here. "I find the simple statistics of the Midwestern landscape as profound in their silence as the more exuberant natural splendors found in other regions of the country," he said.



Witness: Winter Sunset
2001
20" x 12" watercolor

*Located in the South Reading Room
on the 4000 level*

James D. Butler (1945-)

James Butler of Bloomington received an M.F.A. in painting and printmaking from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He has displayed work in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Chicago Art Institute, the British Museum in London, Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and many other venues. Butler has a passion for painting the Upper Midwest landscape, particularly the Mississippi River region. He stated: "For me, looking at art is a perceptual event. Finding a way to create in paint an experience that might parallel what I see is a significant part of the magic of art for me."



Hannibal Flooded, 1993
132" x 66" oil on canvas

Located in the Northwest Reading Room on the 3000 level

Larry D. Calhoun (1937-2015)

Larry Calhoun of Jacksonville worked in clay, wood, pastels, watercolor and oil. He earned an B.A. in art from Illinois Wesleyan University and a master's degree in art from the University of Iowa. He taught at several colleges and universities, retiring from MacMurray College. He chose most of his subjects while on bicycle or canoe trips around Illinois. He also worked in New Mexico and Tuscany, Italy.

He said of his work: "I do not intend the paintings to be passive in composition nor color. Ideally, I see them greeting patrons in their homes after an ordinary work day and causing an uplifting and refreshing mood change to start the evening. It works that way for me."



*Illinois
Morning
1997
43" x 29"
pastel
on paper*

*Located in the
e-classroom on
the 4000 level*

William Crook Jr. (1949-)

William Crook Jr. of Springfield has been a familiar sight on the streets and roads of the Springfield area since the mid-1970s as he sketches the changing panorama of life in the contemporary Midwest. He studied printmaking at Sangamon State University, earned a master's degree in painting from



Shawnee, 1997
26" x 20" watercolor

Located near the Library Technology Services department on the 4000 level

Illinois State University in Normal in 1990 and has been an artistic contributor to the *Illinois Times* since its beginning in 1975.

Crook's work, *Shawnee*, is of a sandstone cliff in the Shawnee National Forest near Eddyville, IL. He painted the scene on location, and the image appeared as the cover art of the 1997 book, *Geology Underfoot in Illinois*, by Raymond Wiggers.

Michael Dubina (1962-)

Michael Dubina of Bloomington has been a landscape artist for more than 30 years.

His parents lived off the land in the Ukraine before immigrating to America during World War II. His father's poetry about the beauty

of his homeland has inspired Dubina to see the Midwest landscape through the eyes of a romanticist. He stated: "The beauty of the Illinois landscape, with its expansive horizon that seems to stretch forever and a light quality that transcends the ordinary, inspires me."



Wet Fields
2000
66" x 40"
oil on canvas

*Located in the South
Reading Room on the
4000 level*



Tato at Dusk
2000
60" x 38"
oil on canvas

*Located in the South Reading
Room on the 4000 level*

Robert Gadomski (1946-)

Robert Gadomski of Homewood is inspired by Chicago's South Side neighborhoods and southern suburbs, where he has lived most of his life. He chooses to paint quirky urban, suburban, rural landscapes and still lifes. "The reasons for choosing a certain subject to paint are based on personal experience, observation, conscious mental thought and dream imagery," he said. "I have an intimate acquaintance with a sense of grid patterning and sensory overload that is inherent to urban living. Anyone living in a major city is aware of the surreal atmosphere of urbanization."



*Vegetation
Transubstantiation*
1999
44" x 40"
acrylic on canvas

*Located in the Atrium Overlook
East on the 3000 level*

Winifred Godfrey (1944-)

Winifred Godfrey of Chicago earned a B.S. and M.F.A. in art from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Most well known for her floral paintings, Godfrey also has a national following for her work in portraiture and other subjects.

She stated: "I hope that viewers look beyond the obvious, beyond their set expectations of flowers. I like the feeling of being enveloped by the flowers, of being so lost in the flower that you see the lights and the form rather than the flower itself. I think my paintings evoke a time of solitude."



*White
Gladiolus*
2001
34" x 60"
oil on canvas

*Located in
the Witters
Conference Room
on the 4000 level*

Harold Gregor (1929-)

Harold Gregor of Bloomington was born in Detroit, MI, and received a B.S. from Wayne State University, an M.S. from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. From 1970 to 1995 he was a distinguished professor of art at Illinois State University, Normal.

He stated: “When I am painting a landscape, my decisions are concerned with light, metaphorical suggestion and viewer impact. Anything enjoyed aesthetically gains in value, and if the bountiful agriscene of the Midwest can be seen as intrinsically beautiful, it is more likely to be respected as the wonderfully generative resource that it is.”



*Illinois
Flatscape #71
2001
46" x 36"
acrylic on canvas*

*Located near the
Library Technology
Services department
on the 4000 level*

Michael Johnson (1949-)

Michael Johnson of Mt. Carroll grew up in a rural area outside Chicago, was educated in New England and is self-taught in photography. He has concentrated his efforts on justifying the aesthetic concerns of 17th century Dutch landscape painters with the technical qualities of lenses, cameras and chemistry developed in the early 20th century.

Johnson has had to explain to more than one curious landowner why he is standing by the side of the road with his camera: he's waiting for the light to cover a distant hill and the shadows to dip behind the trees. He has spent hours waiting for the right play of light on the land, a method that contributed to his familiarity of the Midwestern landscape.



Straw Bales,

Storm Sky

1991

35" x 25"

silver gelatin print

*Located in the North
Reading Room on the
4000 level*



Barn Interior
1987
35" x 25"
silver gelatin print

*Located in the North
Reading Room on the
4000 level*



*Lane,
Derinda Center*
1996
35" x 25"
silver gelatin print

*Located in the North
Reading Room on the
4000 level*

Larry Kanfer (1956-)

Larry Kanfer of Cham-paign spent his childhood in Portland, OR, admiring the rugged visual contrasts of the Northwest landscape. When his family moved to the Midwest in 1973, he explored the rich traditions and seasonal cycles of the prairie. He is known for his intimate photographic exploration of the American landscapes, featuring our own Illinois “Prairiescapes,” as well as coast-to-coast and

European images. Central to his work is the symbiotic relationship between the land and its inhabitants – how they each affect the other, particularly over the passage of time.

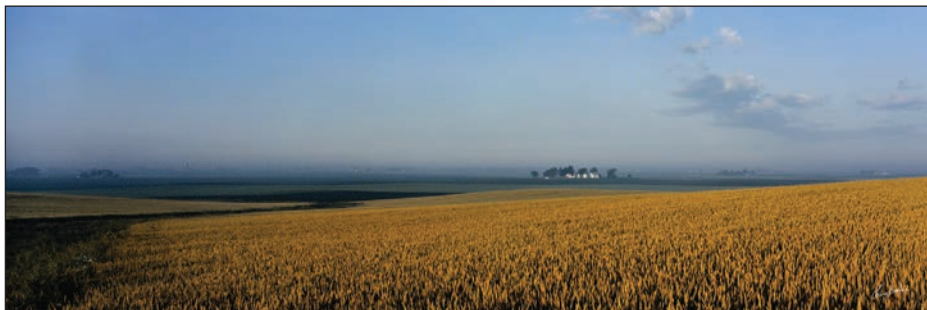


Farewell to Light
1996
16" x 16"
color photograph

*Located in the Atrium
Overlook West on the
3000 level*

Far and Away
1997
47" x 16"
color photograph
(giclée print)

*Located in the
administration office
on the 4000 level*



Jeffrey A. Little (1962-)

Jeffrey Little of Bloomington grew up in Tuscola and spent time at his grandmother's home outside of Charleston. Much of the subject matter in his work came from the surrounding area. He stated: "My paintings are based on actual places that I know and love."

"The landscape has incredible potential for creating emotional responses," Little stated. "The problem is, after viewing a beautiful sunset or a powerful storm, we quickly move back into our own little world of worries, responsibilities and pleasure. The challenge and job of painting landscapes is to capture that heightened moment and preserve it."

Large Pasture is based on a scene outside Congerville, IL, with a sunset inspired by one he viewed near Champaign.



Large Pasture
2001
66" x 42"
oil on canvas

*Located in
the Ballenger
Teachers Center
on the 3000 level*

James F. McComb (1938-2015)

James McComb of Chicago grew up in New York but spent most of his adult life in the Midwest. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1961, and after a career in advertising design, he focused on his art of painting, establishing a studio in Union Pier, MI. McComb said his rural background shaped both the character of his life and his paintings.

“I have sought the grit and abrasion of long days and wearying work that have molded the best of rural character. In this farm country area, the polish quickly wears off things, and the real texture and substance is revealed. I have pulled my paintings from those things which are enduring. The paintings are statements about nature and of a life and values that are quietly slipping away.”

Apple Boat
2000
29" x 21"
watercolor

*Located in
the Dean's
Conference
Room on the
4000 level*



Rhondal McKinney (1948-)

Rhondal McKinney of Normal was born and raised in southern Illinois in the 1950s and '60s. After attending college to study math and working as a railroad brakeman, he eventually discovered a love of photography that led to a life in academia. McKinney is professor emeritus of photography at Illinois State University.

He stated: "This photograph is from a series of panoramic views of Illinois farms and farm families. My purpose was simply to document these families as representatives of a group that won't be around forever. When I did this work I was thinking about 19th century photographers and their work with farm families. They tried to make their photographs show everything – people, buildings, animals and, of course, the land."



Illinois Farm Family #1317

1985

50" x 8"

silver gelatin print

Located in the southwest stacks on the 3000 level

Simes Studios (est. 1988)

Simes Studios in Chicago specializes in the traditional art of fine decorative painting. In the manner of the famous Renaissance workshops of the 15th century, Simes Studios, directed by Jorge and Cindy Simes, is a synthesis of individual artistic talents and specialties of a group of fine artists.

Regarding his work for the library collection, Jorge Simes said: "What I have always found compelling about trompe l'oeil devices is that they carry on the age-old quest of man to represent nature and the real world by painterly means." These faux paintings can be found on the end panels of six magazine racks in the atrium on the 1000 level.

Each portrays an historical element important to Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University or the Charleston area.



Faux paintings

2002

12 trompe l'oeil niches, 23" x 35" each

Located in the atrium on the 1000 level

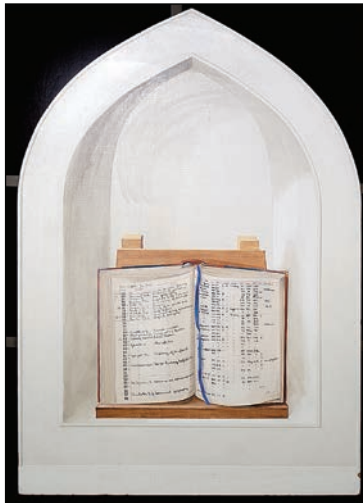
This 72-foot statue of President Abraham Lincoln has greeted visitors to the Charleston area since 1968.



This painting depicts a portrait of Eastern Illinois University President Robert Buzzard. He and Mary Booth were instrumental in efforts to fund Booth Library, and he was known for his extensive iris gardens on campus.



Booth Library's original 1899 accession book – the predecessor of the card catalog and later the online catalog – is depicted here.



This niche honors Eastern's dedication to student publications and includes a 1950 Warbler yearbook.



Lorelei Sims (1962-)

Lorelei Sims of Charleston earned a B.A. in sculpture and art education from Eastern Illinois University and then opened her studio, Five Points Blacksmith Shop, in Charleston. She is nationally known for her artwork and art demonstrations. Sims is inspired by the work of her great-grandfather, Soren Zachariason, a seventh-generation coppersmith from Denmark.

She stated: “I was amazed that pieces so beautiful and intricate could be made by hand. Inspired by his work and sensing a genetic memory passed down from my maternal ancestors, I found myself beckoned by metal. I found a great connection of energy in the processes of heating and forming hot iron, and my interaction with the medium.”



Woodland Spring
2002
64" x 36"
forged metal

*Located in the atrium on the
1000 level*



Prairie Summer

2002

96" x 87"

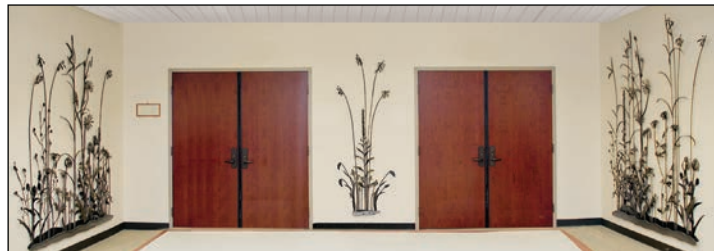
96" x 87"

30" x 87"

forged metal

Located near the Witters

Conference Room on the 4000 level



Bernie White-Hatcher (1944-)

Bernie White-Hatcher of Springfield received a B.A. in communications, majoring in fine art and design, and an M.A. in arts management from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She has worked as a draftsman and drafting supervisor; a graphic designer; and as part-time adjunct faculty in arts and education at Lincoln Land Community College. Now retired, she concentrates on painting, which she has enjoyed since the late '60s.

She stated: "The Midwest landscape has been, and continues to be, so much a part of my visual environment. My hope is that when viewing my work, one will experience what I do when making it, a waking consciousness of the deep commune we share with nature and a greater appreciation for this land we inhabit and are privileged to call home."



Longview Five
2000
72" x 32"
acrylic on canvas

Located on the 4000 level

James R. Winn (1949-)

James Winn of Sycamore was born in Hannibal, MO, and received a B.S., M.S. and M.F.A. from Illinois State University in Normal. His works are part of many public collections, including

The Art Institute of Chicago and the Illinois State Library. His work is based on photos he has taken of landscapes near his home, with a focus on the skies.



Downpour

1998

26" x 14"

acrylic on paper

*Located in the South
Reading Room on the
4000 level*

He stated: "The sublime is a recurring theme in American painting. I continue with this goal, endeavoring to make paintings that convey that sense of presence, the immanence that touches me as I stand on the prairie under an open sky."



Early August

1998

46" x 21"

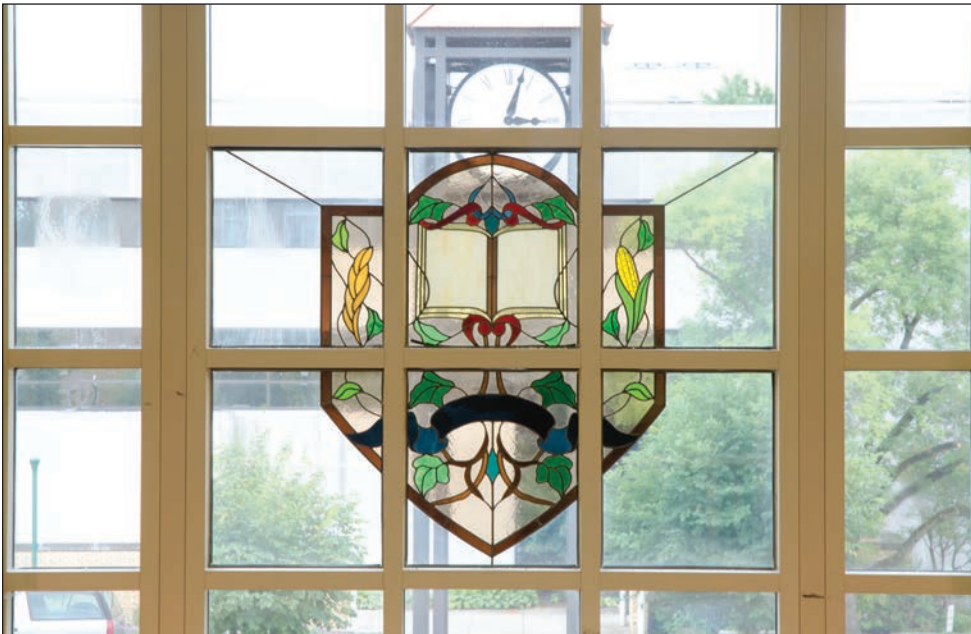
acrylic on paper

*Located in the South
Reading Room on the
4000 level*

Gary Worby (1948-)

Gary Worby of Charleston has blended exceptional design talent with technical knowledge to produce lasting works of architectural stained, beveled and leaded art glass since 1976. Through his studio, Glass Creations by Worby, he has designed glass pieces for places of worship, businesses and homes across the United States.

He stated: “Stained glass is a thing of beauty, a work of art, a timeless treasure to inspire and adorn. Sand transformed by fire has, for centuries, imparted a special splendor to any setting.” The pieces he designed for the library were inspired by some of the themes he discovered in the stonework from the original building, such as an open book, an ear of corn and a stalk of wheat.



Stained glass
2002

*Located on the
south facade on
the 3000 level*

Ira Yarbrough (1940-2015)

Ira Yarbrough of Mahomet was born in St. Louis and raised in Chicago. He earned a B.S. from Eastern Illinois University and an M.A. and M.F.A. in drawing and painting from Northern Illinois University. He worked as an illustrator, teacher, artist and graphic artist throughout his life.

He stated: “My work has been dubbed as ‘magic realism’ and appropriately so. I attempt to idealize and romanticize by painting scenes where light originally and naturally creates this ambiance.”



*Sunday
Morning
Smile
2001
39" x 33"
mixed media*

*Located in
the Northwest
Reading Room
on the 3000 level*

Other Illinois Artists

Since the installation of the Inaugural Art Collection of Illinois Artists at Booth Library in 2002, works from other Illinois artists have been acquired for display. Those artists and their works are described here.

Joe Ethridge (1952-)

Joe Ethridge, a lifelong resident of Coles County, is a professional photographer with a studio in Charleston. He stated: "Having photographed Booth Library at various times of day and night during all four seasons, this shot was taken at a time when the moon was full and positioned in a frame with the north side of the library. Passing clouds added interest to the photograph and provided a more even exposure."



*Booth
at Night
2005
20" x 29"
color
photograph*

*Located in
the Dean's
Conference
Room on the
4000 level*

Anna Hjort (1936-1991)

Anna Hjort of Cerro Gordo was a well-known area artist who also had a summer studio in Door County, WI. She was known for her paintings of local scenes.



*Untitled
30" x 19" watercolor*

Located in the e-classroom on the 4000 level

Credits

The Art Collection of Illinois Artists was created following the renovation of Booth Library in 2002. Funding was provided by the Illinois Art-in-Architecture program sponsored by the Capital Development Board. The program promotes and preserves the arts of Illinois by securing artwork of all media for public buildings constructed with state funds. The Capital Development Board reserves one-half of one percent of the construction cost of state building renovation projects to purchase public art.

Artists are selected and commissions are awarded based upon the recommendations of a committee made up of community members, art professionals, the project architect, and representatives of the agency where the artwork will be located. In 2002, this committee selected the artwork to be displayed in Booth Library, following the theme, *Central Illinois Landscapes*.

Booth Library Art-in-Architecture Committee:

Dorothy Bennett	Marlene Slough
Michael Dunbar	Dennis Vovos
Dottie Harrison	Michael Watts
Glenn Hild	Ted Weidner
Allen Lanham	John Whisler
Tom Poludniak	Carl Wilen
Stephen Shrake	

Special thanks to:

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Art-in-Architecture Program
Capital Development Board, State of Illinois

Michael Watts, former director
Tarble Arts Center

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Allen Lanham, dean of library services
Beverly Cruse, photographer
Beth Heldebrandt, editor, designer
Marlene Slough, copy editor

On the front cover:

Early August, 1998, 46" x 21" acrylic on paper,
by James R. Winn of Sycamore, located
in the South Reading Room on the 4000 level

Stained glass, 2002, by Gary Worby of Charleston,
located on the south facade on the 3000 level

On the back cover:

Stone relief, 1948, west facade of Booth Library

On the title page:

North Lobby of Booth Library, 2002,
by Hedrich Blessing Photographers

On this page:

Stained glass, 2002, by Gary Worby of Charleston,
located in the South Reading Room on the 4000 level
and in the South Lobby on the 1000 level





Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL