A Walking Tour of Artwork in the Tower of MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland

The Healing Touch of Art
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Hundreds of artworks enhance public spaces, staff areas and patient rooms at MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland. Among them are many original works by Michigan artists that feature a common theme of positive, restorative, stress-reducing images, often featuring the natural environments of Michigan.

These engaging pieces can offer a patient or visitor a soothing moment in the serenity of a sunlit meadow, a quiet forest or a distant lake. A bit of calming reflection can arise from the sight of lovely flowers or a landscape that recalls a familiar place. The Spiritual Care Center’s symbolic art in glass and wood can support a tranquil feeling of comfort and peace.

This collection represents a wonderful addition to the artworks, galleries and gardens that are part of the healing environment throughout MidMichigan Health. We recognize the connection between mind, body and spirit, and many of our programs take an integrative medicine approach that attends to more than just physical symptoms. Our collections, galleries, gardens and wellness trails complement those programs through nature and the arts.

This booklet describes many of the pieces found in the patient tower at the Medical Center in Midland. Funds for some of these pieces came from gifts made to Our Journey of Wellness fund raising campaign that supported the Medical Center’s expansion and renovation project. Other works listed in the booklet have been provided by generous donors.

More information about healing arts and gardens throughout MidMichigan Health may be found at www.midmichigan.org/healingarts.
Healing Environments in Midland

In addition to artwork throughout the Medical Center, patients and visitors will enjoy these locations:

Healing Arts Gallery
Features rotating exhibits by local artists in the lower level of MidMichigan Medical Offices–Midland (just around the corner from the Towsley Auditorium). Individual funding for the Healing Arts Gallery was provided by Mrs. Vada B. Dow.

Reflection Garden
More than 20 varieties of plants and flowers can be found along bubbling water in this courtyard located between the parking deck and MidMichigan Medical Offices–Midland. This special place of respite was funded in part through community donations given to MidMichigan’s Euforia campaigns.

Wellness Trails
More than three miles of paved walking trails where visitors, patients and staff can exercise, meditate or relax. Deer and other wildlife are often seen along the trails, with periodic guided walks by interpretive staff of the Chippewa Nature Center. Trail maps are available online.

Cover Photo: Constellation by Brian Alexander. See page 2.
American Robin
Gene Beckham

Any collection of birds of the area would not be complete without our state bird, the American Robin. People think of the arrival of the robin as an indicator of spring, but most of them are not aware of the relatively small, but hardy, band of robins that live in Michigan year round. I like to think of those as the true Michigan state birds!

The Little Garden Irises
James Ardis

This piece was commissioned by The Little Garden Club of Midland for MidMichigan Medical Center--Midland. It was fitting then that this sculpture of irises, which represent faith, hope, wisdom and courage, would reside in a prominent place of healing. It was an honor and a joy to create this symbol of community.

Donated by the Little Garden Club of Midland.

The Roar of the Waves
Kathleen Putnam

I love the sound of the lake crashing on the beach. This is one of nature’s sounds that is worth traveling for.

Beach Seclusion
Kathleen Kalinowski

Along the Michigan coastline, there are large stretches of pristine beaches beyond the quiet forest.

Joy
Paula Bowers

There really isn’t a day that goes by where joy doesn’t enter into my life, even if it’s in the most unexpected way. This piece sprang from that place in my heart.

Constellation
Brian Alexander

Of all the stars, flowers and seeds in the world, each contains a wish and each a dream born into form from nothingness and back again.

Dedicated to the Medical Center’s volunteers, the piece recognizes the many years of volunteer service to MidMichigan Medical Center--Midland. The Medical Center volunteer organization was offered a place of honor for this monumental art piece, and the volunteers contributed $50,000 to purchase the sculpture.

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Meadow at Dusk
Kathleen Putnam
There is a special, almost magical light that happens around dusk. In this painting I tried to catch the magic.

Stained Glass, Tree of Life in Spiritual Care Center
Pristine Glass Company
The tree stretching through the series of panels is a symbol of stability and resilience. Each patron, whatever they are dealing with, at whatever stage of life, will be wrapped with a feeling of comfort and healing as they enter the space.

View of Torch Lake
Kathleen Kalinowski
A glimpse of the turquoise color of Torch Lake is breathtaking on an autumn day.

Spirit of Detroit
A miniature replica of Marshall Fredericks’ The Spirit of Detroit bronze sculpture
This piece depicts the cultural and religious spirit of the Detroit community. The sculpture is in the form of a kneeling man with outstretched arms. In his right hand he holds a father, mother and child representing family, which, according to Fredericks, is ‘probably the noblest human relationship.’ In his left hand, the figure bears a sphere with rays emanating from it signifying deity. Fredericks chose the sphere because it is an object complete in itself with no beginning and no end.

Located in the Spiritual Care Center.
Donated by The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation.
In the Sunshine
Art of Priscilla
I always think of walking through the landscape as uplifting and revitalizing. I love looking ahead and imagining the possibilities further along the way and beyond sight. The series In the Sunshine represents the feeling of wholeness and union that nature provides for us.

Labyrinth
Larry Fox
The idea behind the labyrinth was that of Andrea Muladore. Her idea represented a personal journey to find one’s spiritual center. She wanted people to physically go through the labyrinth.

Located in the Spiritual Care Center.

Altar in Spiritual Care Center
Larry Fox
The idea behind the altar is to create a place of peace using the long horizontal as its primary design element. The floating wall pieces represent a release of spirit and the semi-circle as the beginning or end of one’s life.

Located in the Spiritual Care Center.
Repeat Red
Ann Teliczan
The Repeat Red series was inspired by nature with actual elements of wild flowers used as the foundation for the work, which is about taking time to retreat from the world. As I was creating this piece, I was focused on being passionate about our lives and how we need to be aware of our inner spirit.

Oval Beach
Sandra Lummen
Oval Beach is a compilation of my images from the Leelanau Peninsula and the dunes by Saugatuck. I always paint where my feet have been, but sometimes I do a little rearranging of the compositional elements, light source or season.

Distinguished Supporters Tree
Design Craftsmen
Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, shared knowledge and friendship with his students under the Plane Tree. This tree honors those distinguished individuals who have shared their loyalty, support and talents with MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland.

Through the Trees
Sandra Lummen
Through the Trees is an image seen from a place south of Glenn Arbor, Michigan, called Inspiration Point.
66 Is nothing more striking than the beautiful red color of a male Northern Cardinal seen against the backdrop of a snowy Michigan winter day? And is anything more touching than to see a pair bonding in the spring as the male offers his mate a seed which he gently passes from his beak to hers? This is genuinely one of my favorite birds of Michigan.

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LEGO® Model of MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland
James Garrett
66 In this larger scale (1:133), I strived for a more detailed look, perhaps closer to an architectural model.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

LEGO® Model of Entire MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland Campus
James Garrett
66 Rather than attempt a scale (1:650) model, I tried to capture the essence of the campus with the basic LEGO shapes and colors.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Dow Studio Reflections
Michael Pfleghaar
66 A trio of sailboats rest snugly harbored at the end of a Michigan summer’s day.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Gropius House 2
Michael Pfleghaar
66 Side view of the Walter Gropius home and studio, one of the founding members of the Bauhaus school.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Gropius House 1
Michael Pfleghaar
66 Side view of the Walter Gropius home and studio, one of the founding members of the Bauhaus school.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Dockside
Maxine MacLeod
66 A Walter Gropius designed home near his studio contrasts the white brick against the spring foliage.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Alden Dow Studio Reflections
Michael Pfleghaar
66 By capturing the patterns of reflected fall colors, the studio pond is electrified in this original oil drawing.

Donated by Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Future Promise
Bettina Tysklind
Of the 326 species of hummingbirds found in the Americas, the Ruby-throated is the only one native to the eastern United States. The male’s throat feathers literally dazzle the viewer with brilliant, glowing color when the sun strikes them perfectly. Their aerial abilities, courtship displays and territorial aggression toward each other make them one of my favorites to watch all summer long.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Gene Beckham
Of the 326 species of hummingbirds found in the Americas, the Ruby-throated is the only one native to the eastern United States. The male’s throat feathers literally dazzle the viewer with brilliant, glowing color when the sun strikes them perfectly. Their aerial abilities, courtship displays and territorial aggression toward each other make them one of my favorites to watch all summer long.

Distant Meadow
Michael Callihan
Single pine on a high perch viewing a fall tapestry with a meadow beyond.

Field Perspective II
Angela Saxon
Sometimes inspiration lies close to home: The canvasses in this series are expressions of my love of the rolling Leelanau County landscape that surrounds my everyday life.

Field Perspective III
Angela Saxon
Sometimes inspiration lies close to home: The canvasses in this series are expressions of my love of the rolling Leelanau County landscape that surrounds my everyday life.

Side Roads
Michael Callihan
Meandering country roads that segment various fields on their way to a far-off, sunlit horizon.

Future Promise
Bettina Tysklind
This sculpture located at the entrance to the Maternity Center was created in recognition of those whose support helped give birth to this special area and all the miracles that will follow.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Gene Beckham
Of the 326 species of hummingbirds found in the Americas, the Ruby-throated is the only one native to the eastern United States. The male’s throat feathers literally dazzle the viewer with brilliant, glowing color when the sun strikes them perfectly. Their aerial abilities, courtship displays and territorial aggression toward each other make them one of my favorites to watch all summer long.
I painted Big Water Lilies I & II on the shore of Little Pond. Direct observation offers me an opportunity to paint what I see, giving me a clear path to my personal interpretation. Water Lilies I was painted at mid-day. Water Lilies II was painted right before sunset.

While in Charlevoix, Michigan, I photographed this sailboat at anchor in Round Lake, just off the downtown marina area. It was early morning with a bit of haze. The sun broke through, reflecting on the boat and the water. The name of the sailboat is 'Mistress.'

When visiting an artist friend at his home in Spruce Head, Maine, I was able to catch the setting sun on the shoreline during those last few moments before final setting. The sailboats were an addition to the composition.
**Down to Shore**
Kathleen Kalinowski
*A young girl looks forward to exploring the rocky coastline of the Upper Peninsula.*

**Floating Down**
Kathleen Putnam
*This is a painting of a scene I passed on the Pere Marquette River. It was beautiful and serene.*

**Apple Tree Blossoms**
Jim Pohl
*This photograph was taken in a family-owned apple orchard in the Northwest part of Michigan.*

**Peach Blossoms**
Jim Pohl
*Pure Michigan! Rich soils, moisture from the Great Lakes and optimal climate make for world-renowned peaches.*

**Bee in Flight**
Jim Pohl
*Bees are an important part of an apple harvest. Hives are brought in to help cross-pollinate the orchard in the spring.*
I like to paint direct observation, often simplifying the subject in order to communicate the essence of the feeling. This painting for me is a clear and happy composition with nothing concealed: pure joy!  

Peach blossoms near Peach Ridge Road in Rockford, Michigan.  

Apple blossoms survive an early frost to produce fruit later in the summer.  

One Michigan morning, I rejected the dune climb and chose to splash the easiest way to the Big Lake. Wading through the quiet closeness of the slow stream, the noisy power and infinite vista in front of me was even more impressive.
In spring, Japanese Irises bloom in the Michigan wetlands, offering an opportunity to capture the essence of their beauty, sophistication and life. This painting speaks to me in the elegance of iris.

As an artist, I take what already exists in the world and reconfigure it, in order to reflect our current place and time. As a culture, we make very specific aesthetic demands on all objects and environments. Color and pattern have become a cultural demand and sign of civilization. My paintings reconstruct color, pattern and forms based on consumer products into my own ‘kaleidoscopic environments.’

Birch trees in the fall in a thick forest.

Aspen Trees in Fall
Jim Pohl
“A birch forest in fall in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.”

Irises in a Polka Dot Room
Elaine Dalcher
“In spring, Japanese Iris bloom in the Michigan wetlands, offering an opportunity to capture the essence of their beauty, sophistication and life. This painting speaks to me in the elegance of iris.”
Tree of Life
This sculpture by Charles A. Breed was created for MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland’s former Chapel memorializing Gladys Coalwell, a dedicated hospital volunteer.

I have always considered the first day of spring to be God’s birthday. This theme seemed appropriate for the chapel as each new spring brings an innate reaffirmation of the continuity of life. The sculpture depicts a tree-like form being reborn on the first morning of spring. The circular shape was chosen as historically it has been a symbol of God. The blue circle represents the heavens and the inner circle the earth.

This piece is located between the Healing Arts Gallery and the Reflection Garden.

Cardiovascular Vase
Designed and crafted by Lucas Jones with the artistic direction of Mica Jones (no relation) and Donna Rapp

This piece was created to recognize and acknowledge the generous support received for MidMichigan’s cardiovascular program by friends and family. The glass vessel represents the heart and its fragility, while the metal sustaining and surrounding it is a figurative way to illustrate the strength and compassion of the care provided by MidMichigan Medical Center–Midland and its staff.

This piece is located on a patient floor with access limited to only those visiting patients.

Trees
Michelle Courier

This painting is of the wooded area in Midland, Michigan, near the Medical Center. I find Midland very peaceful with the amount of wooded areas there. Dow Gardens and Whiting Forest are two of my favorite areas to paint and try to capture the feel of the woods showing the points of light that I see and the various undertones in the woods.

Located on Floor 2 in the Board Room
Donated by Three Rivers Corporation

The pieces on these two pages are also part of the beautiful and inspirational collection and are displayed on the Medical Center campus in non-public areas.