



NOTICE & AGENDA of A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Public Arts Advisory Commission will hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, January 28 at 10:30 am** in ROOM 110, City Hall, 419 Fulton Street

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Presentation by Hattie Lee Mendoza | Peoria Bison Project
3. Review of Applications for Art on Display in 207
4. Annual OMA Training from Illinois Attorney General
 - <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/open-and-honest-government/pac/pac-training/>
5. New Business
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment with Roll Call Vote

Hattie Lee Mendoza, Bicentennial Design Proposal

Below is an extremely rough mock-up with an overlay of a previous small painting I made earlier this year, utilizing pattern designs from various cultures citizens of Peoria have come from. I envision painting a similar idea on the bison, with overlapping circles on its body on both sides, filled with cultural patterns of people I know in Peoria.

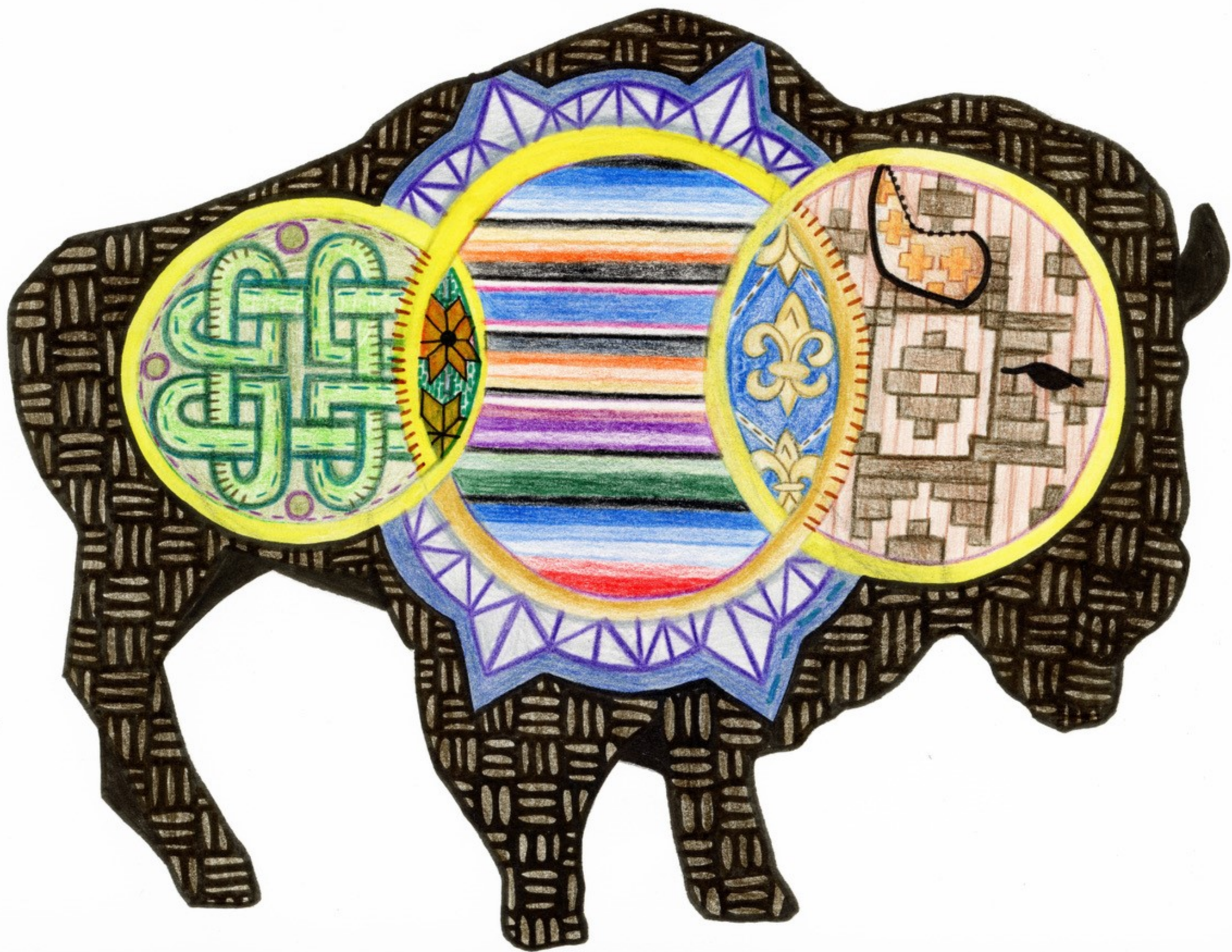
The colors would be vibrant, with a background color that would be darker and still filled with pattern. Filler patterns would represent stitch work lines, beadwork dots, and native basketry patterns. The overarching patterns/compositions relate to my own Cherokee Nation heritage. However, I intend to use patterns of Native peoples who historically existed on this specific land (Peoria, Kaskaskia, Kickapoo, and the broader Illinois Confederation tribes.) After reaching out to the Peoria tribe to confer about appropriateness and other pattern ideas, I initially intend to include the four arrows of the Peoria tribe on the buffalo, going across his back to his forehead- the red arrow of the sun, the turquoise arrow of the soil, the blue arrow of the waters, and the green arrow of grass and trees (these are on their website at peoriatribes.com.) However, if the Peoria tribe is uncomfortable with this application, I won't include it.

I would also ask for cultural advice from people on other reference materials, such as Ghana patterns, Choctaw, Filipino, India, Mexico, German, Scottish, Dutch, etc. In this way, not only can the artwork itself represent the collaboration of people and cultures that make Peoria a tapestry of nuance and beauty (both from Natives already here, migrants at the founding of the country, and migrants/transplants who continue to call Peoria county home), but can also be a process of collaboration itself.

The only possible constraint is the timeline and Holiday season- needing to complete the work on a quick turnaround with Thanksgiving and Holiday markets thrown in the middle, I may not be able to consult with individuals as deeply as I'd wish (and people relations often take longer than intended). However, I would do as much as possible in the allotted time while progressing on painting.

I would use acrylic paints or acrylic spray paints, which can then be clear coated. I may include neon or metallic accents, which may change with the coating (I haven't been able to test this) but should show regardless.





Artwork on Display in the Mayor's Suite Entries

Gwen Bateman

Title: "SUNUP" | "SUNDOWN"

Medium: Photography

Artist Statement for SUNUP: The reflected beauty of the early morning sunrise. How fortunate we are to be a river city!

Artist Statement for SUNDOWN: SUNDOWN reflects the last golden rays of sunlight slipping down behind the city of Peoria for the evening.

Bio: I have been enthralled with taking photos since I was a child. Being retired, I have had a bit more time to notice my surroundings. I see things now that I had never really seen and appreciated before. The beauty of a dandelion is far too often missed while we are so focused on digging it out to have a perfect lawn.

Having lived on the Illinois river for 16 years my photos often capture the many moods of the river. My favorite is the pure joy of sunrise! My hope is that focusing on the beauty around us will help brighten the day for others!

I have had photos published in several periodicals, exhibited locally, and have received awards in local exhibits.

Dimensions for SUNUP: 16" x 20"

Desired Location for SUNUP: Tan Wall (east of round table) 10' x 8' (inside suite)

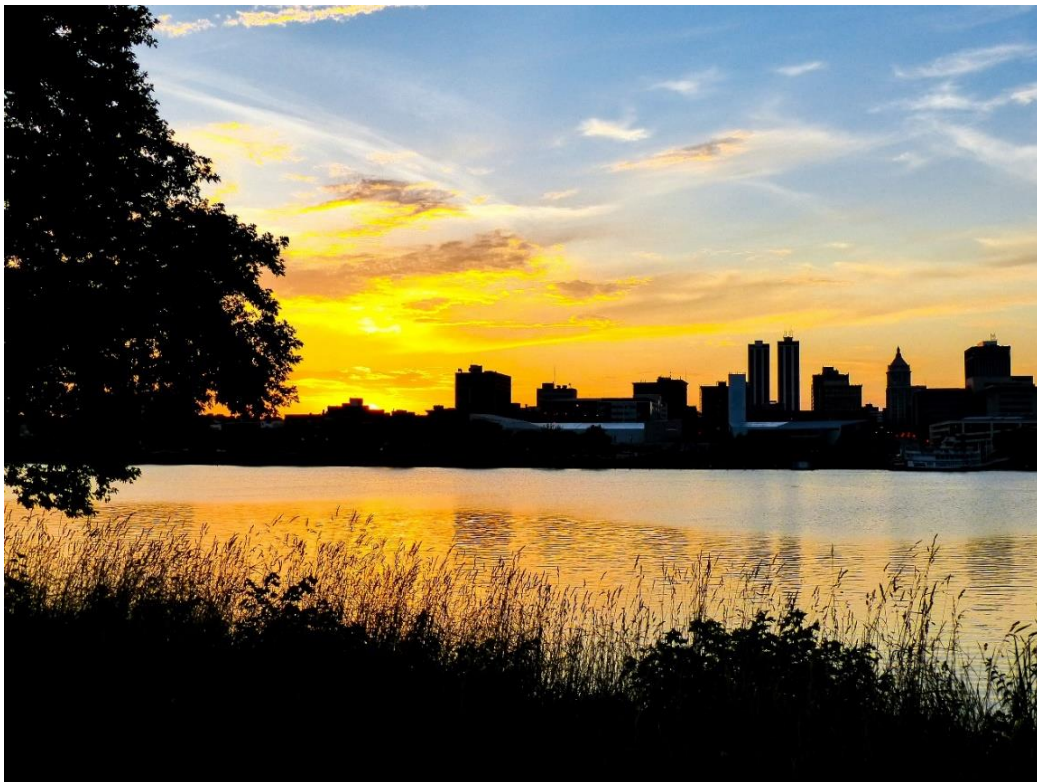
Dimensions for SUNDOWN: 16" x 20"

Desired Location for SUNDOWN: Tan Wall (east of round table) 10' x 8' (inside suite)

“SUNUP”



“SUNDOWN”



Amber Bohannon

Title: "Dichotomy"

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: North and South. Light and Darkness. Mansions and Tent Cities.

Bio: New painter, old Peorian.

Dimensions: 8"x11"

Desired Location: Entrance (right of door upon entry) – 5' x 7' (foyer)



Sherri Burritt

Title: “The River Station”

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: I wanted to capture the River Station in its prime days years ago. I purposely distressed the surface to give it a historic feeling.

Bio: Years ago as a Graphic Designer I was the Assistant Executive Art Director PJS Publications for several national and international magazines: CRAFTS, SEW NEWS, SHOOTING TIMES, ROTOR & WING, and several Special Issues. Freelance Commercial Artist. I have an Associate Degree in Graphic Design. I've studied with Quang Ho, Dan Gerhartz, C.W. Mundy, Laura Robb, Dennis Perrin, Roger Dale Brown, Elizabeth Robbins, Jeff Legg, Kathleen Speranza, Carolyn Anderson, Paul Foxton and others. I study artwork every day. Learning as much as I can. I have won many awards and have sold my work online and been in local galleries and Key West.

Dimensions: 24”x 30”

Desired Location: Tan Wall (east of round table) – 10’ x 8’ (inside suite)



Kenton Clubb

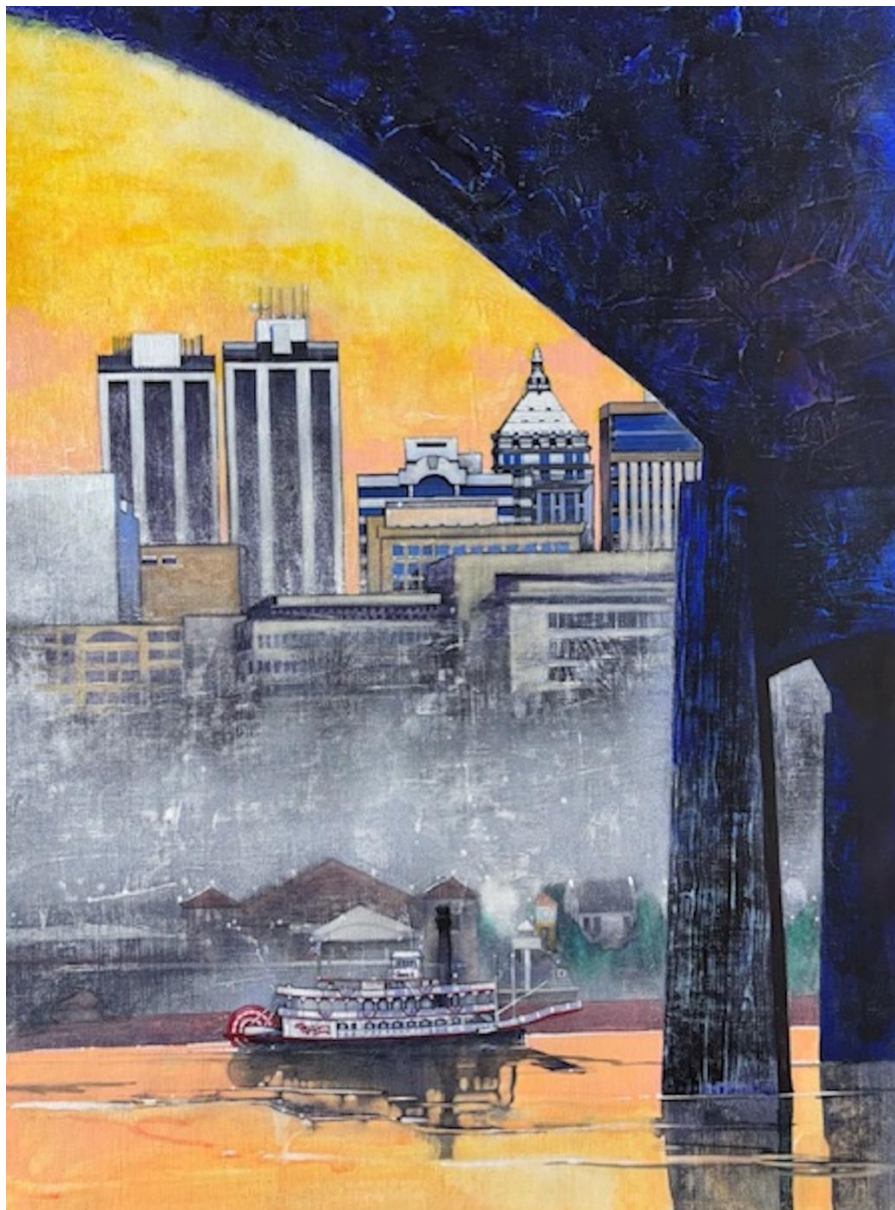
Title: "Paddle Boat"

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: This is a watercolor painting on a gessoed canvas portraying "Days Gone By" when a paddlewheel boat ran tours out of Peoria on the Illinois River.

Dimensions: 21" x 16"

Desired Location: Right of Council Offices – 54" x 24" (foyer)



Julie Dodge

Title: “Hello Peoria”

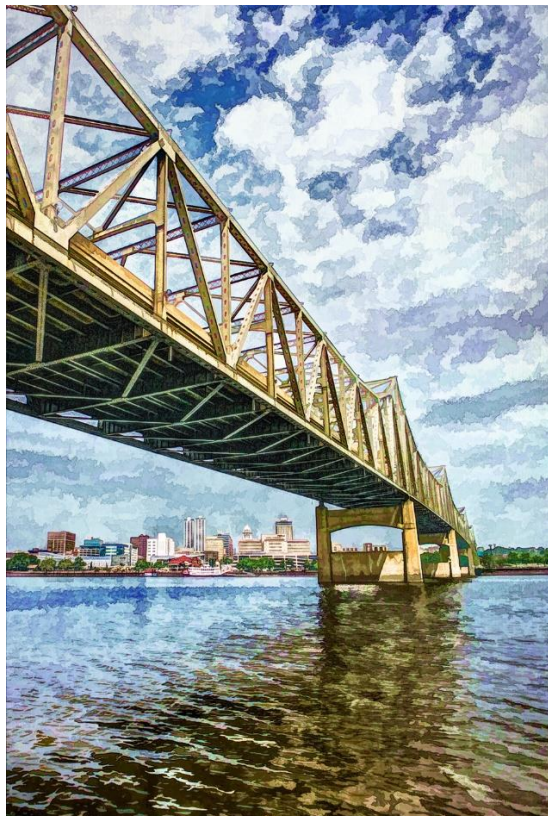
Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: “Illinois Riverscapes”, celebrates the river that flows through our community and the bridges that connect us. (abbreviated due to character limit)

Bio: Local photographer Julie Dodge is a lifelong native of Central Illinois who focuses her work primarily on local landscapes, wildlife, and nature. She believes you don’t have to travel far to capture nature’s beauty—it’s right here in our own backyard. Her “Illinois Riverscapes” series is deeply personal. Every image is about the experience of exploring our natural region — the journey, the adventure, discovery, solitude. She uses creative editing techniques to recreate the magical moments we remember when experiencing wild natural places. Adding emotion to an image helps us connect with our environment, honor it, appreciate its beauty, and inspire others to cherish and protect it. The river, seemingly a natural divide, links us together ~ to our past, future, and each other.

The iPhone is her primary tool for creative expressionism. She uses a wide range of apps to add mood and emotion to a scene, transforming ordinary photos into emotional landscapes, and unique works of art.

Dimensions: 21” x 27”



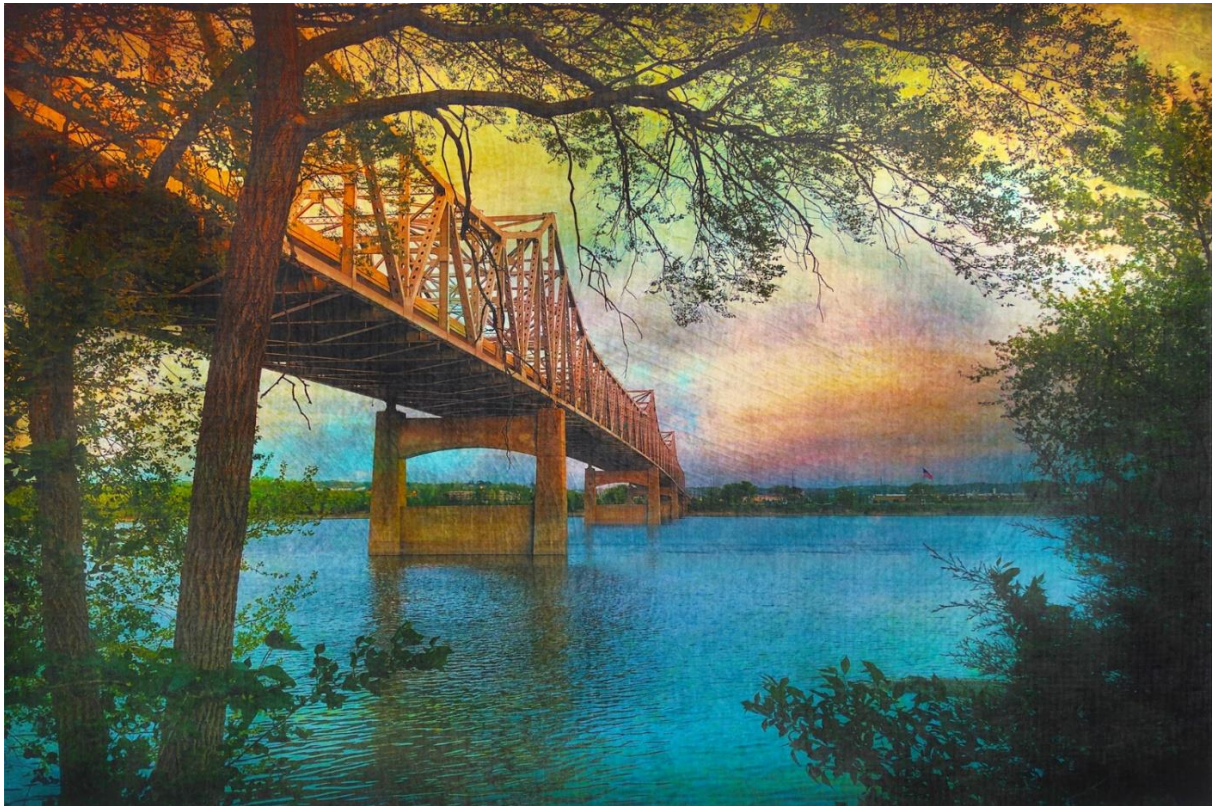
Julie Dodge

Title: "Crossing the Illinois"

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: "Illinois Riverscapes", celebrates the river that flows through our community and the bridges that connect us. (abbreviated due to character limit)

Dimensions: 21" x 27"



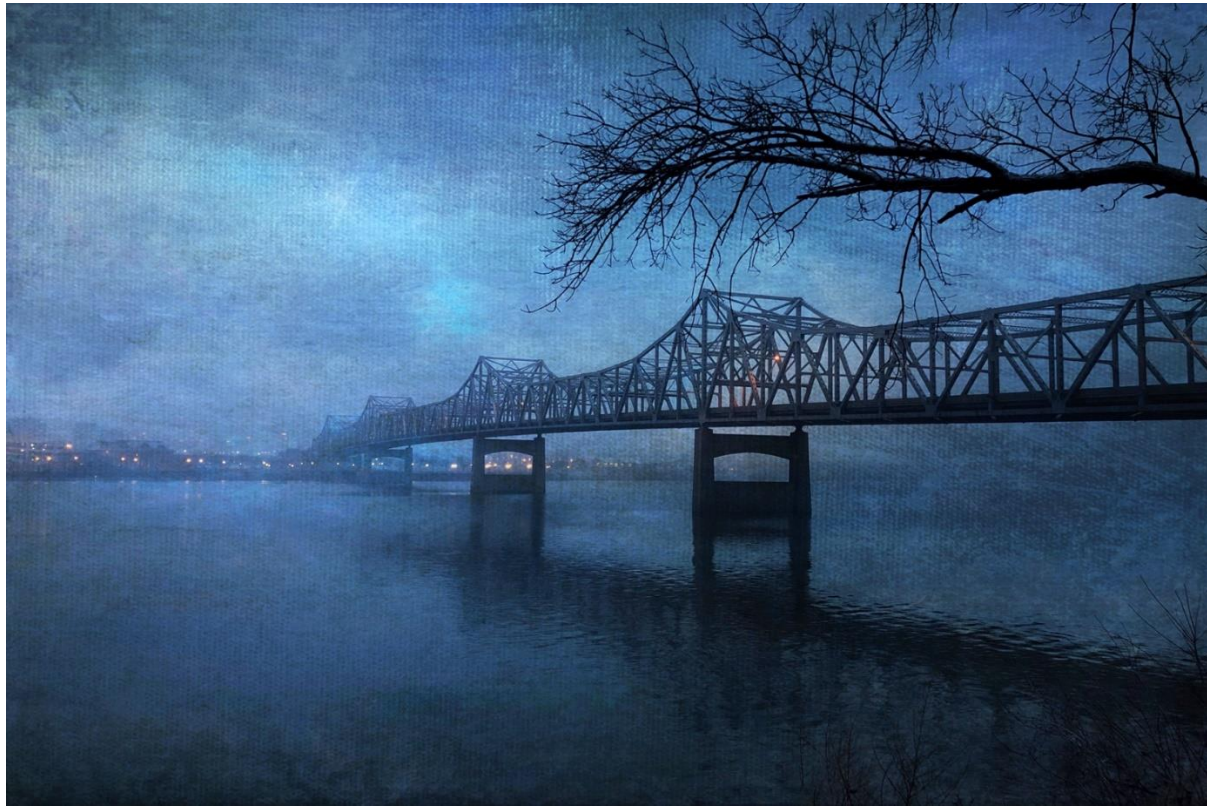
Julie Dodge

Title: "Mystic River"

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: "Illinois Riverscapes", celebrates the river that flows through our community and the bridges that connect us. (abbreviated due to character limit)

Dimensions: 21" x 27"



Oksana Geer

Title: “Orange Prairie- Spring”

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: These images of rolling prairies are a homage to the original settlers in this now rapidly expanding area in Peoria.

Bio: Oksana is a visual artist based in Peoria, working primarily with soft pastels and watercolor. She was born in North Caucasus, USSR. An avid painter since childhood, she studied art in Stavropol Art School. After receiving her master’s degree, Oksana moved to Peoria and augmented her formal art studies with extensive travels in North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia painting and visiting the great museums.

Oksana believes that art is a reflection of other fields of human reality, both visible and invisible. Art is also the language that allows her to think and create new essences. She is inspired by nature and the colors it produces.

Her paintings hang in public, private, and corporate collections around the world.

Oksana is in the Class of 2023 Sky Art Peoria. She also won second place in the “En Plein Air” Art Competition in Peoria Heights in 2023 and 2024.

Dimensions: 16” x 12”

Desired Location: Entrance (right of door upon entry) – 5’ x 7’



Oksana Geer

Title: “Orange Prairie- Summer”

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: These images of rolling prairies are a homage to the original settlers in this now rapidly expanding area in Peoria.

Dimensions: 16” x 12”

Desired Location: Entrance (left of door upon entry) – 5’ x 7’



Oksana Geer

Title: “Orange Prairie- Autumn”

Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: These images of rolling prairies are a homage to the original settlers in this now rapidly expanding area in Peoria.

Dimensions: 16” x 12”

Desired Location: Left of Council Offices – 54” x 24” (foyer)



Oksana Geer

Title: “Orange Prairie- Winter”

Artist Statement: These images of rolling prairies are a homage to the original settlers in this now rapidly expanding area in Peoria.

Dimensions: 16” x 12”

Desired Location: Right of Council Offices – 54” x 24” (foyer)



Addison S . Hishon

Title: “Journey of Traditions”

Medium: Acrylic

Artist Statement: In this acrylic painting, I studied the importance of cultural diversity. With knowledge, we grow respect for the cultures that make a community.

Bio: Addison Hishon is a 23-year-old resident of Illinois. She is a student at the Wonsook Kim School of Art at Illinois State University. Her current and past studies include: painting, drawing, printmaking, glassblowing, and ceramics. She has a love for storytelling and creating a safe space for critical questioning in social and environmental factors. She states, “I often find myself taking social or environmental issues and creating imagery that surrounds these topics. To me, creating a piece where everyone can share their opinions and feel included is the special connection art can create. You just might find yourself conversing with people out of your normal circle.” Addison continues to create new and exciting work as she fulfills her degree.

Dimensions: 24” x 36”

Desired Location: Red Wall - 9’ x 8’ (inside suite)



Qingjun Huang

Title: “Family Stuff-Colleen Johnson”

Artist Statement: “Family Stuff” is my personal photography project I started from 2003 and is still on-going. In Peoria I have created 12 works about local families.

Bio: Qingjun Huang, a freelancer international artist, photographer. He was born in 1971 in China. He has been engaged in photography for 30 years, currently lives and works in Peoria, IL USA.

Qingjun's representative works are from 1996 to 2005 and from 2003 to present. Special sub-series includes , , , , and . Various international media, such as BBC, New York Times, Bloomberg, Harvard Business Review and Wired, have also covered these works. His works have also appeared in magazines and albums such as National Geographic, Architecture Boston, Business Insider, GEO, Chinese National Geography, Discovery Cultural Geographic Monthly, Guardian Weekend, China Daily, Chinese Photography Magazine, Grazia France, Dutch Weekly Magazine, Vrij Nederland, Dutch Financial Daily, Family Photography Now etc. Some of his works appeared in textbooks published by Oxford University Press, and National Geographic learning.

Dimensions: 42” x 32”

Desired Location: Entry Wall (east) - 6’ x 8’ (foyer)



Natalie Jackson

Title: “Chopsticks”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Chopsticks is part of the jazz series highlighting improvisation and freedom of expression.

Bio: Truth, Beauty, and Pride are the themes of photographer, Natalie Jackson's work. They come together to tell gripping stories of Black life, past and present. Having lived in Chicago, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Charlotte, she gathered experiences, education, and history and returned to the Midwest. She has worked as a staff photographer for Good News Magazine in Atlanta, Georgia to a medical photographer for Soderstrom Skin Institute in Peoria, Illinois. Years after receiving a Marketing degree she went back to school to study photography, a lifelong passion. Her longtime hobby quickly became a means for expression. Notable projects were a shoot for Art AIDS Africa, Jane Fonda's Lost Boys of Sudan project, and a birthday shoot for jazz artist Freddy Cole. She currently resides in Peoria, Illinois where she sits on the Board of Directors at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria and the Central Illinois Jazz Society. She has a studio and gallery in her father, artist, Preston Jackson's building, the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. She shoots, sells, and displays her artwork there.

Dimensions: 24"x18"

Desired Location: Entry Wall (east) – 6' x 8' (foyer)



Bennett Johnson

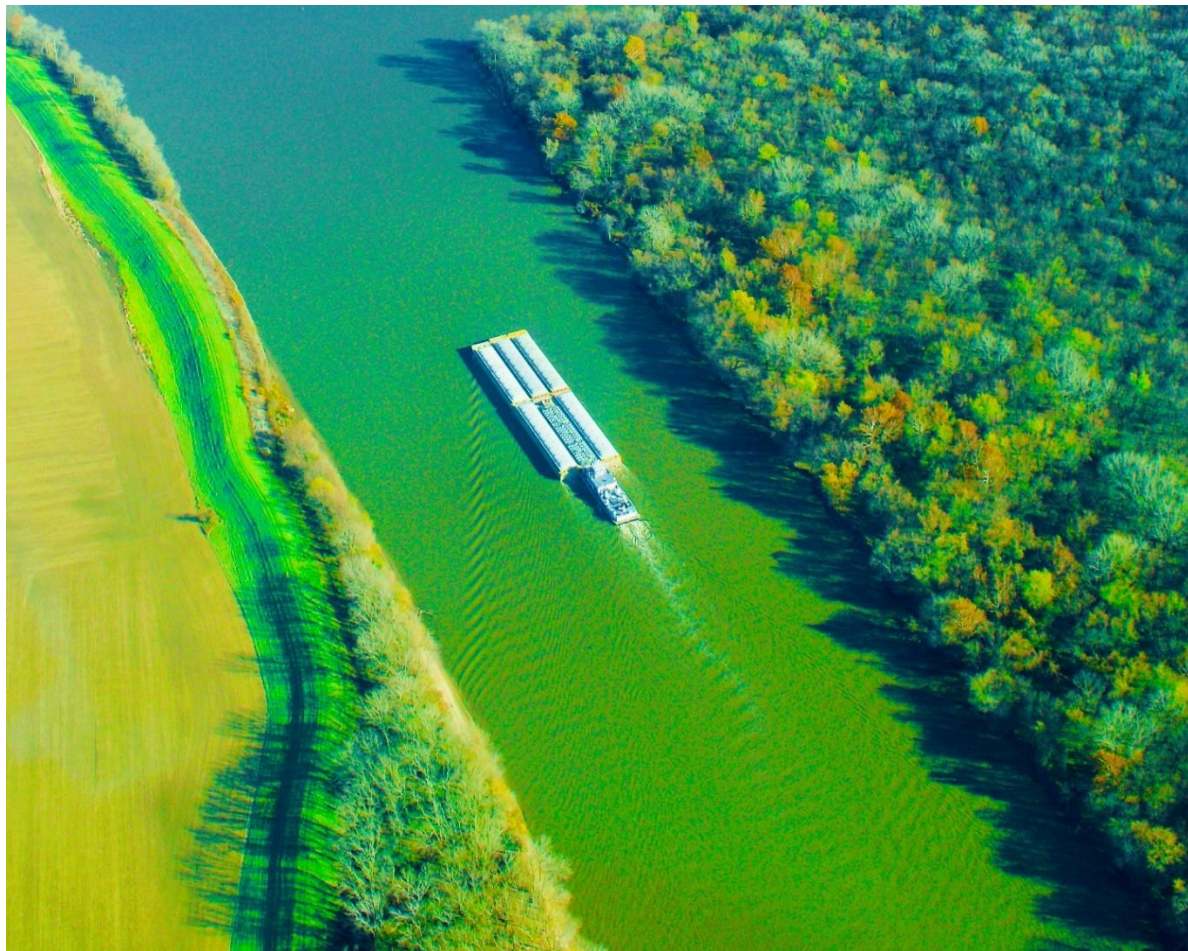
Title: “Barge on the Illinois River”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Art has always inspired me, and photography has been my creative outlet for many years. My focus varies widely based on what moves me at the time and ...

Bio: I am a retired architect from Chicago. Art has always inspired me, and photography has been a creative outlet for many years. My desire is to capture the essence of what I see, and to make the ordinary extraordinary. Being on the hunt and capturing the moment is my life pursuit. I appreciate being able to celebrate LIFE! Since moving to Peoria in 2008, I have lectured for OLLI and served on the board of Fine Arts Society of Peoria. I am currently a member of the Peoria Camera Club, CIAO artists, and Peoria Art Guild. I welcome visitors to my photo studio at Peoria’s Contemporary Art Center (3rd floor); my work can also be seen at in various art galleries in the area.

Dimensions: 11” x 14”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Bishop Hill Study”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: This serene corner in a historic building in nearby Bishop Hill speaks to me of the dignity and hard work of the people who built their community.

Dimensions: 15” x 12”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Freezing in Peoria”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Here I celebrate the contrasts of sunlight and clouds above the industrial history of our community.

Dimensions: 15” x 12”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Harvested Fields from the Air”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Seeing the local landscape from the air, from a bird's-eye view, reshapes how we perceive our environment.

Dimensions: 11” x 14”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Joyous Sculpture by Preston”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Preston Jackson is a local treasure, and his sculptures tell the stories of our shared history.

Dimensions: 14” x 11”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Keeping Watch”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: This fox proved to be a perfect subject as I photographed at Wildlife Prairie Park.

Dimensions: 12” x 15”



Bennett Johnson

Title: “Weather Vane on Display”

Medium: Digital Photography

Artist Statement: Humble human creativity shines at the heights, the shadows of the past are appreciated by those who take the time to look for them.

Dimensions: 11” x 14”



Steven Marx

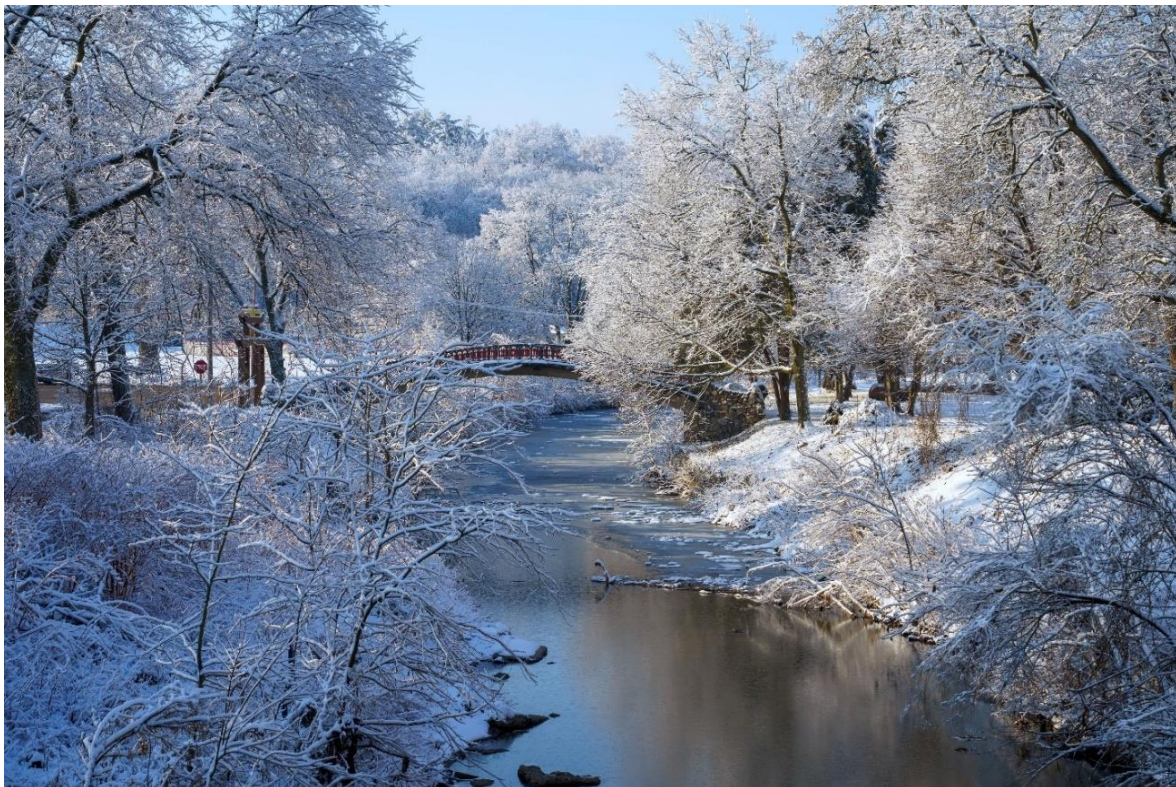
Title: “Japanese Bridge After a Snowstorm, Laura Bradley Park, 2021

Medium: Photography

Artist Statement: I took this picture after a series of winter storms had everything covered in a layer of ice & snow. The sun came out, and the park was showing off.

Bio: After decades working in various ways with technology and education, I began to focus more on photography over the last ten years, starting especially when we spent a semester living in Chile. I focus on bringing the beauty of Peoria to the world the world to Peoria. My photos tend to focus on wildlife, nature and travel, while I also enjoy urban/street, astro & solar, and macro photography. Pretty much whatever captures my fancy. I hope to bring a greater appreciation of the beauty that can be found anywhere, from our backyards, to our wild spaces, and around the world.

Dimensions: 23 1/4” x 17 1/4”



Steven Marx

Title: “Soldier Hill, Springdale Cemetery, Autumn”

Medium: Photography

Artist Statement: Springdale Cemetery is an unappreciated gem in Peoria. It beautifully fulfills its functions as a cemetery, piece of history and culture, and a park.

Dimensions: 12”x18” metal print.



Robert Parrett

Title: "Palace Theater"

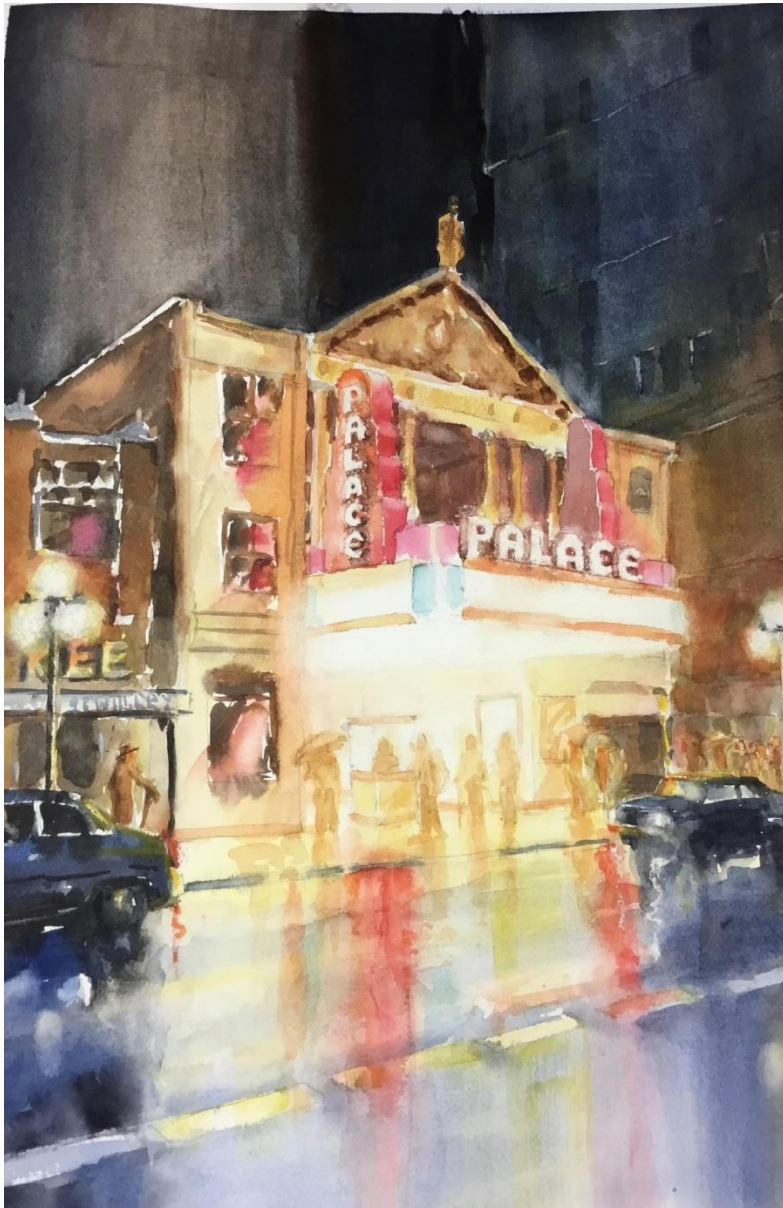
Medium: Watercolor

Artist Statement: It's always a good thing to remember the past.

Bio: I attended Bradley University & The Columbus College of Art & Design. I have painted watercolors in the Peoria area for more years than I can remember.

Dimensions: 16" x 20"

Desired Location: Right of Council Offices – 54" x 24"" (foyer)



Lori Reed

Title: “World’s Most Beautiful Drive”

Medium: Mixed Media

Artist Statement: Multiple digital alterations of a photo taken on Grand View, all cut into strips and pieced together with handmade paper and vintage postage stamps

Bio: Lori Reed was raised on a farm in central Illinois. She received her BFA from the University of Illinois and spent most of her adult life running a graphic design business. She’s been making mixed media collages for the past 20 years. Lori cuts her digitally altered photos into strips and combines three versions of the scene to layer up the image. She then embeds vintage postage stamp fragments, maps, text or shredded money in the final layer.

Dimensions: 16” x 20”

Desired Location: Left of Council Offices – 54” x 24” (foyer)



Marty Wombacher

Title: "Jake and Elwood"

Medium: Pastel and Ink

Artist Statement: This is a pastel and ink drawing of Jake and Elwood Blues A.K.A. The Blues Brothers. I drew this in 1980.

Bio: I was born in Peoria, moved to New York City in 1993 and moved back to Peoria in 2012. I've been publishing the blog, "Meanwhile, Back In Peoria" since I moved back here 13 years ago. Fun flies when you're having time.

Dimensions: 18" x 24"

Desired Location: Entry Wall (east) – 6' x 8' (foyer)



Liu Yang

Title: “Music 01”

Medium: Experimental Photography

Artist Statement: I do experimental photography, camera-less, the image was created by dripping developer and fixer onto photographic paper, antique framed.

Bio: Liu Yang is a freelancer artist, currently living and working in Peoria, Illinois. Inspired by her husband Qingjun Huang, who created a life-size photogram of her maternity photo in 2015, Liu began to explore camera-less experimental photography from 2017.

Awards: Ten Excellent Work Awards/ 2020 20th Pingyao International Photography Festival, China | 28th China National Photography Exhibition Contest. Finalist

Dimensions: 26” x 39”

Desired Location: Entrance (right of door upon entry) – 5’ x 7’ (foyer)

