

# Birds in Art

— 2017 —

September 9 – November 26,

Woodson Art Museum

*in your*



Leigh Yawkey  
**Woodson**  
**Art Museum**

On View at the Woodson Art Museum:



Steven Spazuk, *Smoke-filled Vocalize*, 2015, soot on gessoed panel

***Birds in Art*** through November 26

Artists from around the world present their new interpretations of avian life through original paintings, sculptures, and graphics created within the last three years in the 42nd annual *Birds in Art* exhibition. The Woodson Art Museum's flagship exhibition showcases the diversity of birds, where they live, how they behave, and the ways we interact with them. From exotic hummingbirds of Central America to pigeons crowding a city street, the varied nature of avian life continues to inspire artists and delight visitors.

Artist residencies bring artworks on view to life, revealing the ideas, techniques, and materials used to create a variety of sculptures, paintings, and drawings. This fall, 2017 Master Artist Don Rambadt offers public programs October 12-15 and artists Rachelle and Wes Siegrist share the world of miniature painting during their residency, October 28 – November 3. Learn more about opportunities for students and public program details at the conclusion of these materials and online at [www.lywam.org/visiting-artists/](http://www.lywam.org/visiting-artists/)



Larry Barth, *American Bittern*, 2017, acrylic on tupelo



Lynne Railsback, *Up-Rooted*, 2017, watercolor

***Ginseng: The Treasured Root*** through November 26

In celebration of the International Wisconsin Ginseng Festival, September 15-17, in Wausau, organized by the Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau, Woodson Art Museum curator Andy McGivern invited Midwest botanical artists, including Wisconsin's Lynne Railsback and Minnesota's Wendy Brockman, whose artwork also is featured in the 2017 *Birds in Art* exhibition, to create drawings and watercolors focused on ginseng.

From the Museum's Collection

***Conservation in Action: Owen J. Gromme's Winning Federal Duck Stamp*** through February 25, 2018

Complementing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Contest – held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, September 15-16 – this exhibition at the Woodson Art Museum comprises preparatory drawings, finished watercolor, presentation print, sheet of stamps, and memorabilia related to Gromme's 1945 winning artwork, *Three Shovelers*.



Owen J. Gromme, *Three Shovelers*, 1945, watercolor on paper

***Passionate Pursuits: Birds in Our Landscapes*** through February 25, 2018

Avian marvels that live in and pass through Midwest cities, rural landscapes, and backyard feeders connect us with nature. They are alluring to watch, sing melodiously, and balance our ecosystem. Whether perched atop a tree, taking a turn at the nest, or foraging for food, birds provide unlimited inspiration for creative artistry.

Previous page, from left: Lucrezia Bieler, *Hummingbirds*, 2017, cut paper on matboard; S. V. Medaris, *Prehistoric Adolescence*, (1/13), 2017, woodcut on Masa paper

***On the Wing: Birds in Flight*** through August 19, 2018  
Discover the beauty of birds as they flee from predators, mate, and search for food. Paintings, works on paper, and sculptures depict birds soaring, skimming, flapping, and gliding.



William L. Schultz, *American Wigeon*, 1977, carved and painted wood

painted examples. Some are strictly utilitarian; others are sculptural works of art.

### 2017 Master Wildlife Artist Don Rambadt



Photo courtesy of Matthew George

Born in 1970 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rambadt received his bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For ten years, Rambadt operated Vanguard Sculpture Services, a bronze foundry in the Milwaukee area, initially with John Hickman, a former college instructor, who proved pivotal in Don's decision to pursue sculpture as a career. Rambadt discovered his intense passion for art when he explored welding. "It was a medium through which I could express myself in a spontaneous yet durable material," he said. "It fueled something; I could completely lose myself in the process."



John Busby, *Sand Martins in a Strong Wind*, 1997, watercolor on paper

### ***Fowl Play: Decorative Duck Decoys*** through August 19, 2018

Duck decoys long have been used to lure waterfowl. Typically made of wood, these life-sized sculptures range from simple bird shapes to intricately carved and finely

On March 16, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum announced Milwaukee sculptor [Don Rambadt](#) as its [2017 Master Artist](#) to be honored during the Museum's *Birds in Art* exhibition this year. Rambadt, the Woodson Art Museum's 36th Master Artist, was selected for inclusion in *Birds in Art* sixteen times since 1998 and will receive the Master Wildlife Artist Medal in conjunction with the [Birds in Art opening, Saturday, September 9](#).



Don Rambadt, *Aquila*, 2001, bronze



Learn more about Don and see examples of his work on the [Woodson Art Museum's YouTube channel](#) and [Birds in Art app](#).

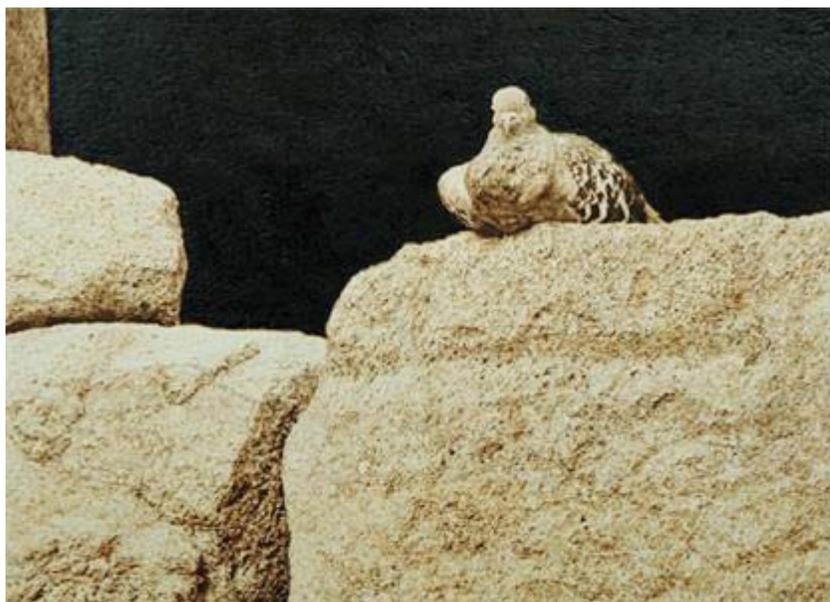
### **Magnetic Migration: Find the Flock**

Seven small, steel, nuthatch sculptures will perch at public Wausau-area locations this fall. Use clues to seek and find the birds made by 2017 Woodson Art Museum Master Artist Don Rambadt. Correctly identify each sculpture's exact location to earn a chance to win one of two Rambadt nuthatch sculptures. Get clues and entry details at [lywam.org](#) or the Museum.

Don Rambadt, *Nuthatch*, 2017, stainless steel

### **Bookend Your Visit**

Try these exercises with students before or after a visit to the *Birds in Art* galleries and explore the many entry points and endless interpretations of avian-themed artwork.



Nobuko Kumasaka, *Repose*, 2017, pyrography on basswood  
mind naturally turns toward showy or rare birds. However, there is something charming in the gestures and expressions of birds found living close to us every day."

In his artist statement for *The Assertive One*, Ryan D. Jacque writes: "These two flew together for an hour, staying within fifty yards of me; it was fun to watch. I'm often asked 'Why house sparrows again?' Every place I've lived – and there have been many since I was a kid – house sparrows were always present, a common and comforting sight."

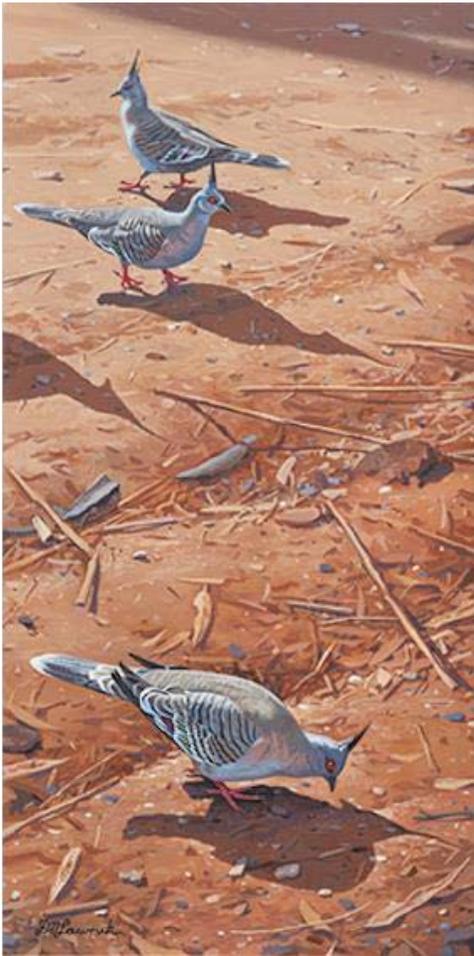
Ryan D. Jacque, *The Assertive One*, 2017, pencil on Fabriano hot press paper

### **Familiar, Yet Unseen**

While some *Birds in Art* artists find inspiration in exotic, showy avian subjects, others find that reexamining more common birds provides enticing challenges and opportunities to focus more on design elements in their artwork.

In her artist statement for *Repose*, Nobuko Kumasaka writes: "One day I caught sight of an ordinary oriental turtle-dove resting on the rock wall in the garden outside our house. Normally, I would not pay attention, but this dove seemed unusually relaxed and at peace. Its demeanor was completely in keeping with the calm of the garden. When I consider subjects for my artwork, my





David Lawruk, *Crested Pigeons*, 2017, acrylic on MDF panel

David Lawruk noted the often-overlooked crested pigeon featured in his painting, writing: “Crested pigeons are so abundant in South Australia, it’s easy to take them for granted. When you take a closer look, you realize how lovely these birds are. The sharp-pointed crests are an obvious feature, while the intricate feather patterns on the wings are a challenge to paint.”



Michael Budden, *The Lunch Crowd*, 2015, oil on canvas



Michael Budden’s *The Lunch Crowd* captures not only two common bird species – the rock pigeon and the song sparrow – but also a daily routine for these adaptive and bold birds thriving in an urban environment.

Carl Brenders writes about his lasting affection for mallard ducks in his artist statement saying “When I was a child, my father often took me and my siblings to a pond in the countryside near Antwerp [Belgium], where we learned about birdlife. I thought the mallard was stunning, but I didn’t know it was a common international duck. Over the years and after many walks with my father, I discovered other species of ducks; none compared with the mallard.”

### Activity

Ask students to re-acquaint themselves with a familiar animal in their daily lives – a regular visitor to a birdfeeder, a family pet, etc. . . by creating an artwork featuring the animal that captures the students’ sentiments toward the subject. Share the examples of the artist statements quoted in these materials and prompt students to craft their own narratives about the artwork and the familiar subjects featured.

Carl Brenders, *Mallard Reflection*, 2017, gouache and watercolor on illustration board

## Poultry with Personality



From left: Don Rambadt, *Red Hen*; *Hen and Chicks*; and *Rooster*, 2012, all bronze

Hens and roosters are popular subjects in the 2017 *Birds in Art* exhibition. Sculptors like Don Rambadt, Sandy Scott, and Paul Rhymer indelibly cast the charisma of these birds in bronze, and painters like Ed Hatch and Scot A. Weir affectionately depict their subjects in rustic rural settings.

The diverse gestures, forms, and activities featured in these two- and three-dimensional artworks highlight the range of interpretations and aesthetic treatments artists can employ depicting such lively and evocative birds as subjects. Don Rambadt's series of unique bronze sculptures includes a bold *Red Hen*, a plump mother *Hen and Chicks*, and feisty *Rooster* – each depicted with minimal detail yet filled with the energy and hallmark characteristics of the birds, making them immediately recognizable and engaging.

Paul Rhymer's exuberant rooster perches high atop a weathered wood post; the colorful plumage and active stance of the bird are reminiscent of a colonel crying out as if leading troops to battle in his sculpture *Wake Up America!*



Sandy Scott, *Roosting Rooster* (ed. 50), 2015, bronze

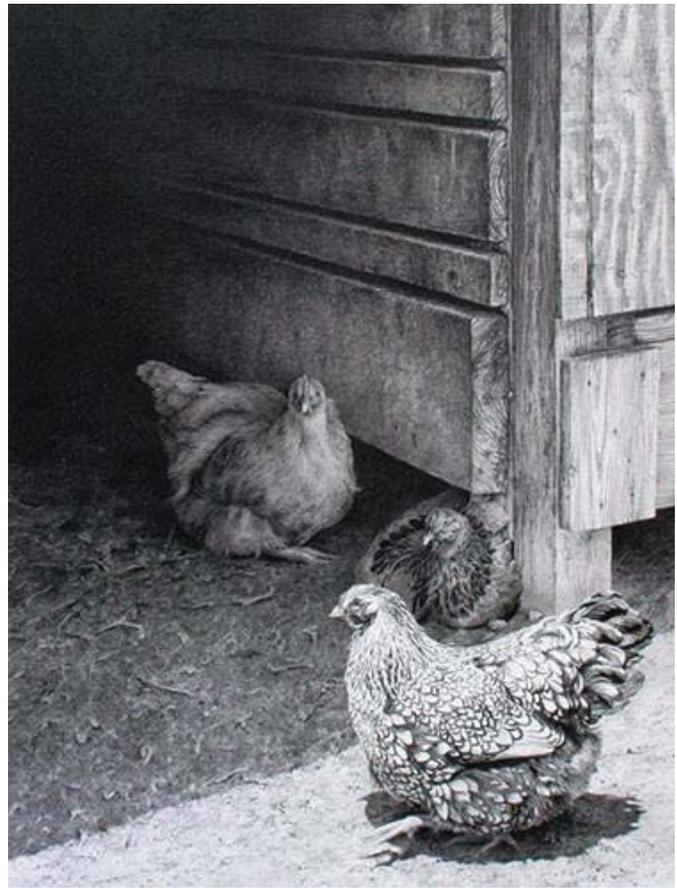
Sandy Scott's stoic *Roosting Rooster* captures a moment of repose, yet the bird's dramatic tail feathers and robust, elegant form are poised and proud.



Paul Rhymer, *Wake Up America!* (ed. 25), 2015, bronze, wood, and steel



Ed Hatch, *Parade Time*, 2017, oil on canvas



Terry Miller, *Lisa's Girls*, 2016, graphite on Bristol board



Scot A. Weir, *Rulers of the Roost*, 2017, oil on canvas

### Activity

Working in small groups, share the artwork images with students and ask them to discuss how they think the artists feel about their rooster and hen subjects, identifying visual evidence to support their claims.

Invite students to write their own creative response to their favorite rooster or hen artwork, perhaps a poem, short story, or character sketch of the bird.

Ed Hatch's colorful lineup of hens and roosters appears to stretch, like dancers waiting in the wings offstage in anticipation of their entrance or, as Hatch imagines, before marching forward in a parade of poultry pageantry.

Two buxom hens sitting in the shade of Terry Miller's *Lisa's Girls* look on as a third bird walks past in the bright sunlight. Are the two hens in shadow scornful of the bird puffing out her feathers for all to see? Perhaps they're quietly clucking as they wake up, not yet ready to strut out into the morning sun.

Scot A. Weir's *Rulers of the Roost* features a colorful and curious rooster admiring the shiny chrome pedals on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, as if daydreaming about hopping on and riding off down the gravel road.

## Bizarre Beauties



Amy Larson, *Sweet Nothings*, 2017, oil on canvas



Calvin Nicholls, *Weebale*, 2016, Strathmore and handmade papers

The fanciful feathers of the African crowned crane, depicted in Amy Larson's *Sweet Nothings*, and of Calvin Nicholls' grey crowned crane in his paper sculpture *Weebale* almost seem more fitting in a Mardi Gras procession than atop the birds.

The white peacock pigeon in Laurence Saunois' *Esperanto* strikes a dramatic pose, fanning its tail feathers like a flamenco dancer with a fan. Pete Marshall's royal spoonbill shows off its full mating plumage like a model on the runway in *Fantasia Royale*, appearing both striking and a little silly, too.



Laurence Saunois, *Esperanto*, 2017, oil on canvas

Don Rambadt's magnificent bird of paradise sports long, curled tail feathers in his sculpture *Actively Waiting*, inspired by a rare encounter with the elusive tropical bird.



Don Rambadt, *Actively Waiting*, 2017, bronze, stainless steel, and brass



Pete Marshall, *Fantasia Royale*, 2017, colored pencil on Art Spectrum Colorfix

Sculptor Thomas Hill's *Pinkish Bird* features two oversized, ragged plumes jutting out from the bird's head and tail. Although created from the artist's imagination, *Pinkish Bird* doesn't appear too far-fetched when compared with some of the unconventional appearances of the birds just discussed.

### Activity

Invite students to design their own whimsical bird, borrowing avian features included in these materials and other sources. Once students have sketched their imagined birds, challenge them to create a three-dimensional model using whatever materials remind them of the shapes, textures, and patterns in their drawings.



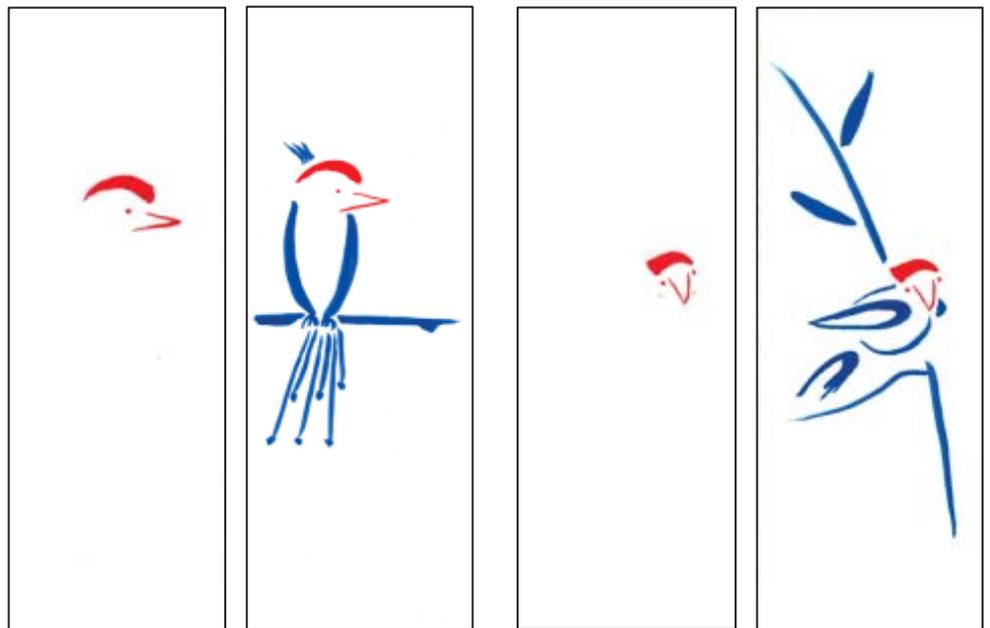
### @ the Woodson

Thomas Hill, *Pinkish Bird*, 2017, acrylic and enamel on redwood and basswood

During their [docent-led Experience at the Art Museum](#), students will explore **Birds in Art**, discuss artworks in the galleries, and have an opportunity to create an original artwork inspired by works on view. Students in Pre-K through 2nd grade will create Sumi-e-inspired paintings using washable, brush-tip markers on rice paper. After viewing artist Gregg Baldwin's [Sumi-e](#)-style painting, **Fishing**, younger students will explore the fluid and bold lines of ink drawing to create simple bird paintings using either a provided prompt or working from their imaginations (see samples below).



Gregg Baldwin, *Fishing*, 2017, ink on Mulberry paper



Older students in grades 3 through 12, will create small-scale paper bird sculptures using heavy mixed-media paper, scissors, and tape. Referencing the refined but recognizable forms of avian sculptures by Master Artist Don Rambadt, students will create their own distinct avian maquettes in paper, using stencils or working from their imaginations. (see samples below).



**Activity Guides**

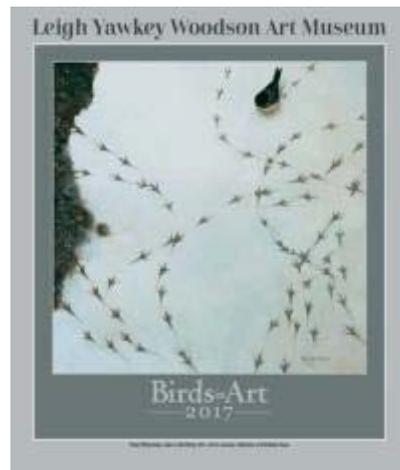
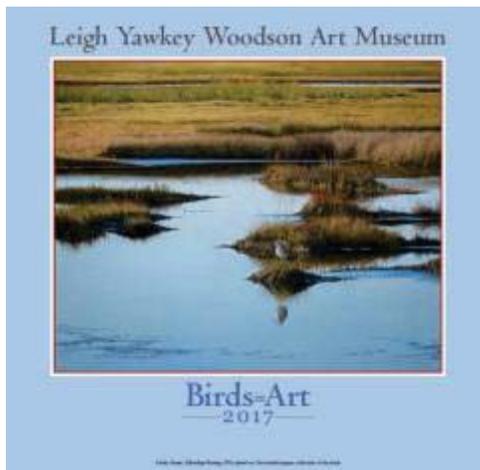
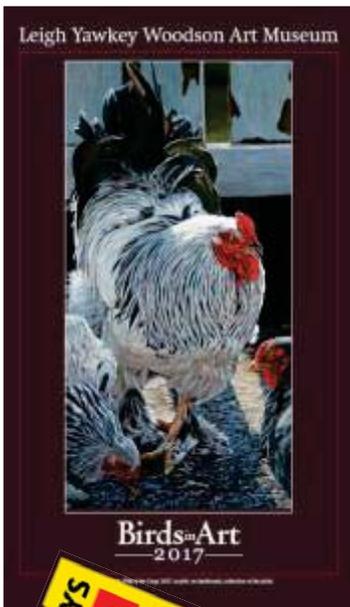
Each participant on a docent-led Experience receives an [Activity Guide](#) to extend learning beyond the Woodson Art Museum and as a way to share the visit with friends and family.

**Audio Tour App**

Gain additional insights into artworks, processes, and subjects from **Birds in Art** artists via the [Woodson Art Museum’s free audio-tour app](#), available at the Museum or for download on Apple and Android devices.

**Enjoy a memento from your *Birds in Art* experience . . .**

Educators who schedule docent-led *Birds in Art* classroom visits may select a complimentary 2017 exhibition poster to display in the classroom.



**Woodson Art Museum Information**

Please encourage your students to visit the Museum again.

**Hours**

Tuesday – Friday	9 am – 4 pm
Thursdays during Birds in Art	9 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday	Noon – 5 pm
Closed Monday and holidays, including Thanksgiving	

**Contact**

Call the Woodson Art Museum or visit the website for more information:

700 N. 12th St.  
 Wausau, WI 54403  
[lywam.org](http://lywam.org)  
 715.845.7010

# Convergence

Where Art, Writing, and Conservation Meet  
Thursday – Saturday October 5 – 7

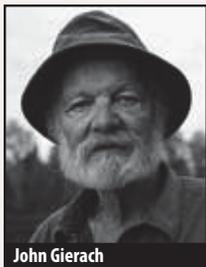
Explore the intersection of the arts, humanities, and natural sciences with environmental stewardship through programs featuring writer and outdoorsman John Gierach, plein-air painter Bob White, photographer Mike Dvorak, forest ecologist Alan Haney, and conservation biologist Eric Anderson. Through public presentations, art making, a panel discussion, and gallery conversation, these guest artists, authors, and scientists invite participants to consider varied ways to understand, appreciate, and protect the natural world.

October 5 Thursday 5:30 – 7 pm

## Art 101/Hands-on Art

### The Nature & Art of Collaboration

Gierach, White, and Dvorak share their experiences in creative collaboration and discuss how their artistic alliance shaped their careers. After the talk, join Bob White in the Museum's classroom to explore sketching techniques.



John Gierach



Bob White



Mike Dvorak

October 7 Saturday 1 – 3 pm

## Art Park Open Studio

Painting en plein air presents artists with challenges and rewards. All ages drop in to experience how White captures the essence of the outdoors on canvas and sketch their own scenes, too.



Bob White at work; photo by Aaron Otto

October 7 Saturday 1 – 3 pm

## Arts & Sciences Gallery Walk

Explore how the arts and sciences converge through conversation in the galleries with Haney, Gierach, and Dvorak as they offer insights and interpretations of artwork on view.

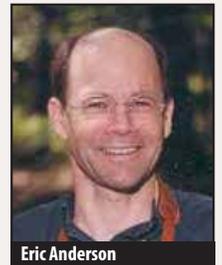
October 7 Saturday 4 – 5 pm

## Panel Discussion

Enthusiasts appreciate and advocate for nature and wildlife in diverse ways, from outdoor sports to artistic endeavors. Consider varied perspectives from Gierach, White, Dvorak, Haney, and Anderson as they discuss their distinct fields. Learn how conservation efforts converge and diverge to discover common ground.



Alan Haney



Eric Anderson

October 7 Saturday 5:30 – 7:30 pm

## Nature in Images & Text

Enjoy *Birds in Art*, an installation of Mike Dvorak's photography and Bob White's paintings, and a reading by John Gierach; book signing to follow during this reception.



Support for Convergence programs at the Woodson Art Museum is provided by the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited.

# Metalworker

## Don Rambadt Artist Residency

Thursday – Sunday October 12 – 15

**M**aster Artist Don Rambadt pairs elegant forms and graceful lines with the bold, rugged properties of metal to create striking sculpture. This fall, Rambadt works with Wausau East High School art and technical education students to develop original sculpture designs for fabrication in the school's metal workshop. During his residency, Museum visitors observe his working process during a public demonstration or try their hand at small-scale metal sculpture in a three-part workshop for teens and adults.



Rambadt at work; photo by Matthew George



October 12 Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

### Sculpture Demonstration

Join Don for a demonstration and discussion of his metalworking techniques and materials.

October 13 – 15  
Friday 4 – 6 pm  
Saturday 1 – 5 pm  
Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

### Steel Sculpture Workshop

Adults and teens create small-scale steel sculptures inspired by Rambadt's series of abstract owl sculptures during this three-part workshop. Total fee: \$75, members; \$90, non-members. All materials included and lunch provided on October 15. Call to register and for more information.  

 **Call 715.845.7010 to register**

 **Scholarships available thanks to the Wisconsin Valley Art Association; call the Museum to inquire.**

October 14 Saturday 10:30 am – Noon

### Art Beyond Sight

Individuals with low vision or blindness are invited for a multisensory experience in the *Birds in Art* galleries with Museum educators and Don Rambadt, followed by hands-on art making inspired by his sculpture. 

### Magnetic Migration

#### Find the Flock

Seven small, steel, nuthatch sculptures will perch at public Wausau-area locations this fall. Use clues to seek and find the birds made by 2017 Woodson Art Museum Master Artist Don Rambadt. Correctly identify each sculpture's exact location to earn a chance to win one of two Rambadt nuthatch sculptures. Get clues and entry details at [lywam.org](http://lywam.org) or the Museum.



# SMALL WONDERS

Rachelle and Wes Siegrist Artists Residency

Saturday – Friday, October 28 – November 3

Tennessee-based *Birds in Art* artists Rachelle and Wes Siegrist are internationally recognized for their paintings on small canvases, usually less than nine square inches. Drawing upon their experiences as artists and instructors and their admiration for nature, the Siegrists incorporate the centuries-old traditions of miniature artwork into their twenty-first-century practices. During their residency, the husband-and-wife team work with visiting students creating miniature watercolor paintings and present public demonstrations, presentations, and a workshop for teens and adults.



October 28 Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

October 29 Sunday 10 am – Noon

## Miniature Painting

### Teen & Adult Workshop

The Siegrists create beautiful things in small packages. With guidance from Rachelle and Wes, create small-scale paintings during this two-part painting workshop. All materials and lunch provided on October 28. Fee: \$35, members; \$50, non-members. Call to register and for more information.  

October 29 Sunday 1 – 2 pm

## Small-Scale Painting

### A Historical Look

Explore the rich legacy of miniature painting in American art with Wes Siegrist.

 Call 715.845.7010 to register

 Scholarships available thanks to the Wisconsin Valley Art Association; call the Museum to inquire.

October 29 Sunday 2 – 4 pm

## Miniature Painting

### Demonstration

Observe Rachelle Siegrist at work in a *Birds in Art* gallery demonstrating the technical artistry of miniature painting.

November 2 Thursday 5:30 – 7 pm

## Art 101/Hands-on Art

### From Big to Small

Learn how the Siegrists' three-decade career led them to specialize in intricate miniature paintings – from portraits to seascapes. All ages create their own small-scale paintings, 6:30-7 pm, during this program concurrent with the Wisconsin Science Festival.

From left: Wes Siegrist, *Lake Side Perch*, 2017, watercolor on Crescent rag board; Rachelle Siegrist, *The Usual Suspects*, 2017, watercolor on Crescent rag board

Support for Rachelle and Wes Siegrist's residency is part of the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Go to [www.wisconsin-sciencefest.org/program-guide.wsf](http://www.wisconsin-sciencefest.org/program-guide.wsf) for the entire Wisconsin Science Festival schedule, November 2-5.