

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT **Suz Galloway**



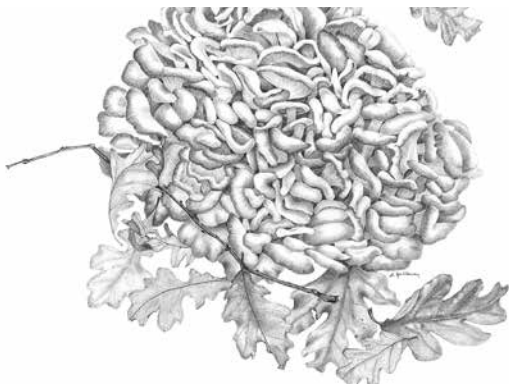
Suz Galloway (clockwise from top)
Postcards from the Sky, May Apple, Dancing Light and Hen of the Woods.

As she captures the beauty and complexity of the natural world, Suz Galloway works both ends of the watercolor painting spectrum. As an accomplished botanical artist, she renders scientifically-accurate portrayals of nature. The other way of painting is her release.

“Every good watercolor has looseness in it, it’s just controlled,” says Suz. “I just have taken it to the extreme in my Wet-into-Wet class, and the reason I do is that it is such a good relief valve to the tightness of botanical work.”

She may be finding middle ground, now. Working realistic, but not tight, is an emerging form of joy and endeavor for Suz. Recently completing a workshop with internationally-known Andy Evansen, she’s inspired by his use of shapes and middle values, rather than details, to provide information.

Passion for painting began at age five when her mother enrolled her at the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis for a Saturday class. Suz completed a triple major of studio art, art history and philosophy at DePauw University in Chicago and also completed a graduate degree. Art was always in her life but never as a career. Instead she worked as a designer and buyer for Dayton Hudson and Department 56.



In 1993 life shifted to art when she opened an art gallery in Wayzata showcasing original works by regional artists. “I loved it! I loved every aspect,” says Suz, though the gallery closed too soon due to a rise in rent. That was when Suz connected with the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, where she fills botanical art classes and has helped grow the watercolor painting program.

Type A, driven by exceedingly high expectations of herself, Suz admits that she is challenged by her balanced brain hemispheres. “It’s why I succeeded in business, but I am much different from many [right-brained] artists who are able to just create. I have to have a plan.”

A few years ago, Suz was inspired to document the last remnants of the Big Woods and, searching for a partner to get legs under the project, took it to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. They embraced it and it’s now become a 500-year project! “I couldn’t have imagined that it would become as big or as solid as it is,” says Suz, adding that many of the artists involved are students from the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, confirming the strength of our botanical program.

Suz teaches the American style of botanical painting, which embraces the design principles of fine art, not only strict scientific illustration. “My push has always been that I want to see botanical art accepted as fine art, and that’s how I teach,” says Suz.

As a teacher, Suz is lavish with demonstrations and one-on-one guidance. “I love watching a student be successful. That’s my whole drive; whatever I need to do to help a student be successful is how I want to approach teaching. Whatever reason they had taking the class, I want them to be successful.”



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT **Danny Saathoff**

Is Danny Saathoff a jewelry designer or a sculptor? Yes.

“My jewelry is small-scale sculpture and my sculpture is large-scale jewelry. And so it is really a matter of scale to a certain point,” says Danny, Artist-Instructor of, yes, both jewelry and – this session – sculpture at the Art Center. “I think of wall pieces as jewelry of the house. Once you leave the gallery of the body, it becomes sculpture. And once you put the artwork on the body, it becomes jewelry. That’s how I approach where I’m at right now.”

That is now, but if you rewind back in time, Danny thought he was destined to be a commercial artist when he discovered metalsmithing while in college at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. After graduation, he headed to Colorado to become a *ski bum* goldsmith and jewelry maker.

Then a friend introduced him to sailing, taking him out on a high mountain reservoir. “I can pinpoint everything to that moment where the trajectory of my life completely changed,” says Danny. “Within a year I was back here and had my boat on Lake Superior. It hooked me so hard and so fast. Everything changed.”

He began making jewelry, inspired by the new center of his life – a sailboat and the elegant winches, hardware and shapes found on it. Working with found objects, Danny’s jewelry is consistent in meticulous detail. He aptly considers his jewelry pieces to be mini sculptures. When some collected found objects were too large to integrate into jewelry, Danny created a sculptural wall box. It was smaller than a cigar box but felt huge, both physically and figuratively, as it became the first step from jewelry to sculpture.



Fifteen years later, Danny’s work continues to be markedly meticulous. While making jewelry remains a mainstay, his sculptures, which carry the same aesthetic, have become larger, kinetic and frequently commissioned. Most recent is a commission by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. In January, travelers will enjoy more than 24 zeppelin-like flying kinetic sculptures in the Humphrey Terminal similar to the ones seen in our gallery during the Faculty Show this fall.

“I don’t want people to look at my artwork and walk away from it. I want them to physically interact with it in order for it to take on its full meaning,” says Danny. “One of my favorite things at openings is to actually get behind people and take pictures of them taking pictures of my work,” he adds with a smile.

Asked if he identifies more as a jewelry-maker or sculptor, the answer is that it depends on the time of year. You see, Danny teaches metalsmithing at Carlton College in the spring and fall, so he’s much more into jewelry making during those months. Winter is when he’s doing his own work which gravitates to sculpture. Summer, he’s sailing!



Danny Saathoff (two sculptures, l-r)
Hummingbombshell and Disco War Ship

