

M

Milwaukee's Lifestyle Magazine

Beauty &
Wellness
issue

Get Happy

31 WAYS
AND 31 DAYS
TO IMPROVE
YOUR LIFE

SCANNING THE ARTSCAPE

5 MILWAUKEE
ARTISTS TO WATCH

SPRING FASHION

HELLO, YELLOW

A SENSE OF LUXURY

BRING BEAUTY TO
YOUR HOME IN
UNEXPECTED WAYS



Scanning the ARTSCAPE

FIVE ARTISTS ON THE RISE IN THE CREAM CITY

BY TORY FOLLIARD WITH CHRISTINE ANDERSON
PORTRAITS BY DAN BISHOP

Milwaukee's Third Ward has been named one of America's Top Twelve ArtPlaces 2013, which recognizes neighborhoods in the largest 44 metropolitan areas in the country where the arts are central to the social and economic vibrancy of a neighborhood.

Even with a flourishing art scene and a wealth of talented artists — in the Third Ward and beyond — many artists still remain unknown to most Milwaukeeans. Here are five artists to watch chosen by Milwaukee art curators.



William Carpenter, Milwaukee

Banal Satire Paintings
williamcarpenter.blogspot.com

Curator: Emilia Layden, associate curator, Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University

"Carpenter repurposes common materials to create 'paintings' that question the act of perception and explore the limits of traditional pictorial illusionism. He often depicts flat, unpeopled domestic spaces in which he conflates images, or representations of the interior, with the objects and materials utilized to construct those images."

Back Story: A native of Moline, Ill., Carpenter moved to Milwaukee to attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Obsessed with images and cinema, he makes objects/images with the intent of one day having them become a noteworthy part of the mass image bank. The recent MIAD grad will exhibit new work in "Current Tendencies III" at the Haggerty Museum of Art this fall.

"I strive to make my work sit somewhere between the formal aesthetics of minimalism and the honest approachability of representational painting. I want the composition of my work to be as boring as the depicted situation."

— William Carpenter





“I believe that art can change what we see and do, and are.” — Nathaniel Stern



Nathaniel Stern, Milwaukee
Interactive, Installation and Video Art
nathanielstern.com

Curator: Graeme Reid, assistant director of the Museum of Wisconsin Art

“Stern is one of the most creative, articulate, imaginative artists in the state and, frankly, the country. He should be an international art star. Actually, he is! I can’t think of too many other artists in the state who are building a similar resumé.”

Back Story: The former New Yorker has an impressive resumé of exhibitions and awards from all over the world. (He recently exhibited in January in Johannesburg, South Africa.)

Stern’s interactive art often centers on bodily performances. In his current “Compression” series of prints he straps a laptop and desktop scanner to his body and performs “images into existence.”

Moving his body while he scans the landscape around him, Stern creates images that are later made into prints. He is an associate professor of art and design at the Peck School of the Arts at UW-Milwaukee. His work is on exhibit locally at Lynden Sculpture Garden in a collaborative piece with Jessica Meuninck-Ganger.

“Tapestry builds an image from scratch, which is an excellent metaphor for self-created life.”

— Sheila Held

Sheila Held, Wauwatosa

Contemporary Tapestry
sheilaheldtapestries.com



Curator: Polly Morris, executive director of the Lynden Sculpture Garden and Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s coordinator of the Mary L. Nohl Fund

“Sheila Held has taken a traditional form, and upended it to create images that reflect a visually compelling personal cosmology that is at once novel and powerful.”

Back Story: Spending time in India has had a profound influence on Held’s life and her art. She works in a craft that dates to the ancient Greeks, though she has had no formal training as an artist. In her tapestry she strives for a synthesis between comparative religions, especially their mythology, and contemporary quantum mechanics theory. She has exhibited her award-winning tapestries nationally since the 1980s; her current work will be featured at the Lynden Sculpture Garden in April.



“My current body of work is a testament to the impact of books like ‘Dr. Seuss’ and ‘The Little Prince.’ I strive to create intimate, personal pictorial narratives within small-scale paintings and monotypes.”

— Brook Slane

Brook Slane, Bay View
Magic Realism
toryfolliard.com/artists/brook-slane/

Curator: Tory Folliard, Tory Folliard Gallery

“Slane takes the viewer to a magical place. His beautiful little works are painted on found panels, each telling an enchanting story. A painter of storybook images that evoke childhood memories, Slane loves painting birds because he secretly wishes he could fly.

Back Story: The Wisconsin native and MIAD grad cultivated an interest in drawing as a child. He poured over art history books his mother had given him, particularly drawn to paintings by Joan Miro, Dali, Cézanne and Picasso. He is currently illustrating, “Thunder Underground,” a book of poetry by Jane Yolen.





“By presenting ordinary found materials as paintings, I explore and question the distinctions made between common objects and art objects. Beauty is subjective and dependent on context.”

— Keith Nelson

Keith Nelson, Bay View

MinimalArt

keithcnelson.com



Curator: Mel Buchanan, assistant curator 20th Century Design, Milwaukee Art Museum
“I find Keith’s ‘Shelving’ series elegant — it’s a study of color and texture while still being minimalist.”

Back Story: Nelson was pegged as the “art kid” because he was always drawing. He is a graduate of the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and a full-time preparator at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Nelson is the founder of 7th Floor Studios, which provides affordable work space to artists in a Bay View warehouse. **M**