



new exhibit
AGAINST THE GRAIN

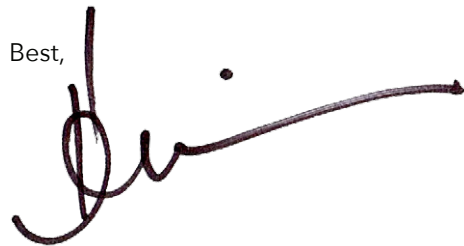


MUSE *news* April-June 2024

from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I hope you find inspiration at the PoCo Muse in the coming months thanks to the opportunities presented throughout the pages of this newsletter. Take advantage of our late Thursday hours after Memorial Day to immerse yourself in *Against the Grain* and *The Drama of the Dunes*, two new exhibits arriving in late May. Eager for a glimpse behind the scenes? Sign up for my aptly-named tour in June and learn a few things you won't find featured on our exhibit labels.

Best,



Kevin Matthew Pazour

Executive Director • PoCo Muse

About the Images



Cover • “Carpenter (detail),” by John J. Habela (seen in entirety above). Wood relief carving, 1991. Donated by Jan & Harley Snyder, 2022.27.1.



Opposite page • A detail of a late nineteenth-century school desk (seen in entirety above) shows the initials “M.J.B.” carved into wooden seat back. Photograph courtesy of Albert Photographic, 2024.

Against the Grain

Montague/Urschel Gallery

Opens Saturday, May 25

Against the Grain elevates objects in the collection made from wood and places them alongside the fine art of local woodworkers past and present. This featured exhibit will explore the wide-ranging dimensions of working with wood and survey the themes that emerge as artists and craftspeople grapple with its possibilities.



Above • A duck, meticulously hand-carved by Ken Lowenstine, sits atop a piece of driftwood and will be featured in the upcoming exhibit *Against the Grain*. Donated by Jan & Harley Snyder, 2022.15.11. Photograph courtesy of Albert Photographic, 2024.

The Drama of the Dunes

Robert Cain Gallery

Opens Saturday, May 25

The Indiana Dunes have long invited artists to express their passion for the natural world. This region's complex identity—where nature, industry, culture intermingle—has been a rich source of meaning for many artists experiencing these challenging tensions. This exhibit presents a selection of works by regional artists inspired by the Dunes.



The Great Conflagration: Academy of Music Block Fire

Robert Cain Gallery

Through May 12

In February 1926, Valparaiso's Academy of Music Block at the southwest corner of Lincolnway and Washington Street was destroyed by fire. Experience the fateful night and its aftermath through a small exhibit of original photographs.



The Path That Ventures Within

Montague/Urschel Gallery

Through May 12

The Path That Ventures Within: Inspirations Found Along Indiana Dunes Trails features the imaginative color photographs of Herb Barghusen and the companion poems of Robert Longoni.



Connections: Take A Closer Look

Eunice Slagle Gallery

Permanent Exhibit

Connections pairs together seemingly unrelated objects that speak to each other in surprising ways.

Lowenstine WWII Roll Of Honor

West Hallway of PoCo Muse

APRIL

Exhibit Open House and Gallery Talk w/ Joan Barghusen
Sunday, April 7
Open House from 12-3p
Presentation at 1p
Montague/Urschel Gallery

Join us for a special presentation at 1p from Joan Barghusen, the wife of the late Herb Barghusen, whose color photographs of the Indiana Dunes trails are currently on display in *The Path That Ventures Within* through May 12. Joan will provide more information about Herb's process and tell stories behind some of the photographs on display.

MAY

Living History at Hebron's Stagecoach Inn
Saturday, May 11, 10a-2p
Stagecoach Inn
127 N. Main Street, Hebron, IN 46341

Our living history reenactors are taking a field trip to south county to interpret nineteenth century games inside Hebron's Stagecoach Inn. The Stagecoach Inn, built in 1849, is one of the oldest and most significant structures in Porter County.

Extended Evening Hours
Thursdays, Open 11a-6p
May 30 through September 5

Enjoy additional evening hours every Thursday between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 4-6p, an opportunity made possible by our donors.

Against the Grain and The Drama of the Dunes
Public Exhibit Openings
Open Saturday, May 25, 11a
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Plan your visit to experience two brand new exhibits at the PoCo Muse. Explore the surprising range of objects and artworks made from wooden materials in *Against the Grain*. View stunning works of the Indiana Dunes by regional artists in *The Drama of the Dunes*.

V.I.P. Exhibit Reception
Thursday, May 30, 4-6p
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

PoCo Muse supporters and special guests are invited to an exhibit reception for *Against the Grain* and *The Drama of the Dunes*.

JUNE

History Happy Hour
Wednesday, June 5, 5-7p
Washington Street Tap Room, 11 Washington Street

Talk local history over a drink with friends, history professionals, and amateur historians. *Free event for 21 and older; drinks not included.*

Behind-the-Scenes Tour w/ Executive Director
Saturday, June 29, 10a
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Mark your calendars for Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour's special guided tour of the PoCo Muse galleries and collection storage facility. RSVP required.



Above • An installation view of *The Path That Ventures Within: Inspirations Found Along Indiana Dunes Trails*, on view through May 12 in the *Montague/Urschel Gallery*. Photograph courtesy of Albert Photographic, 2024.



Dunes Paintings from the Brockington Collection

Two works from notable artists in the Philipp Brockington Collection will be featured in the upcoming exhibit, *The Drama of the Dunes*, opening May 25 in the Robert Cain Gallery.

Regarded as the “artist laureate” of the Indiana lakefront, David Sander (left) was a well-known artist, musician, author, printmaker, and founding member of the Chesterton Art Center.

James S. Wilson III (right) of Gary's Miller Beach was an executive at Inland Steel for thirty years before becoming an accomplished watercolor artist of scenes from his beloved Northwest Indiana.

Left • An untitled and undated painting by David Sander (1923-1999).

Right • An untitled watercolor from 1992 by James S. Wilson III (1922-2013).



Your Contributions Help Conserve our Collection

Eighteen works of pictorial marquetry created by resident Paul Halfdan Magnor (1893-1984) were given to the PoCo Muse by Pearl Wheeler Magnor in 1985. Marquetry involves the intricate assembly of thin layers of wood veneer into a decorative pattern or representational picture.

The works were carefully inspected by experts in preparation for the upcoming *Against the Grain* exhibition, and it was found that the original color of the underlying wood veneer had faded due to exposure to ultra-violet light.

With the help of contributions like yours, the PoCo Muse is able to explore the conservation and restoration of the works of art entrusted to our care.

Right • "Card Players," by Paul Halfdan Magnor, between 1959-1984.



general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

VISION

We believe our work of interpreting Porter County's history, art, and culture empowers residents to form a strong and purposeful sense of place, identity, and community.

VALUES

Free, Open, and Accessible

We meet the needs of our communities as a welcoming and inclusive gathering place.

Meaningful Storytelling

We connect stories with artifacts to encourage imagination, introspection, and empathy.

Hands-on Learning

We create opportunities to learn from interactive and intergenerational experiences.

Collaboration

We work together with people and organizations aligned with our mission and vision.

Responsible Stewardship

We uphold the collection and history of our institution with integrity and accountability.

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CALENDAR *of events*

APR 7

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Gallery Talk w/ Joan
Barghusen**

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Presentation at 1p**

Montague/Urschel Gallery

MAY 11

**Living History at Hebron's
Stagecoach Inn**

Saturday, May 11, 10a-2p

Stagecoach Inn

127 N. Main Street, Hebron, IN 46341

MAY 12

**Final Day to See *The Path
That Ventures Within* and
*The Great Conflagration***

Sunday, May 12

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

MAY 25

***Against the Grain & The
Drama of the Dunes*
Public Exhibit Openings**

Open Saturday, May 25, 11a

Montague/Urschel Gallery

MAY 30

V.I.P. Exhibit Reception

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Montague/Urschel Gallery

JUN 5

History Happy Hour

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*Washington Street Tap Room, 11
Washington Street*

JUN 29

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w/ Executive Director**

Saturday, June 29, 10a

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Ongoing

Extended Evening Hours

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May 30 through September 5