

Ann Gildner (USA)

Although an artist for over 40 years, Ann Gildner only began welding twelve years ago and particularly likes to create large public and private art. Her Gildner Gallery Studio allows her to create large scale metal sculptures from 2 to 40 plus feet high in the welding school her studio is in at Industrial Arts Institute, Onaway, Michigan.

Ann gives great lifelong learning opportunities to people ranging from 8 to 88 years old. These include welding camps, ornamental welding and CNC Plasma cutting classes to encourage people into welding and welded art careers as an Artist-in-Residence throughout Michigan.

Ann has created many commissions to show viewers a close-up image of animals in their natural habitat. This way people can explore their beauty; see the size they are and touch them, and of course, get a picture with them!

Biodiversity in Michigan and the Great Lakes is of major significance.

The North American Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. Both in and around them are irreplaceable biological features like coastal plants and animals, deep-water fish, and the world's largest system of freshwater dunes.

In Michigan, groups are collaborating to protect the state's biodiversity. This work comes in many forms, including the preservation, restoration and reconnection of valuable habitats in Michigan and across the Great Lakes.



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Exhibit “Fish”

When Ann was asked to make a relief sculpture to represent the fishing industry of Northern Michigan, she began by taking a hike to the Ocqueoc Falls, the largest waterfall in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula and the nation’s first universally accessible waterfall.

On a hike along the Ocqueoc River, as you walk along the cool, quiet path, you pause to watch a blue-spotted salamander slink along the forest floor. Further down the trail you hear the call of a black-throated green warbler as they dart through the thick trees. Nearing the waterfall, you see on the water’s edge a White-Tailed deer ambling along. You stop to investigate the river that is so crystal clear and see some rainbow trout swimming by. On your sleeve a dragonfly takes a rest. This walk gave Ann the vision to create her fisheries sculpture that is exhibited on a local 6-foot-tall limestone rock.

This is biodiversity. All around you, from the lichen covering a nearby rock to the insect buzzing past your ear, organisms are interacting. Including you! This variety of life, the communities they form, and habitats in which they live make up life as we know it.

So Ann made a scene of Rainbow Trout jumping while catching a dragonfly on a cattail leaf coming out of the water. In the water you see a school of Yellow Perch, with Bluegills and Sunfish swimming by a fallen tree stump. On the riverbed you will see different rocks and plants.

Dimensions of Exhibit

180 cm high x 130 cm wide x 25 cm deep.



Fish
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