

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 “Red Cardinals in a Dogwood”

In this Commission, Cardinals were once prized as pets due to their bright colour and distinctive song but now in the United States, this species is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which also banned their sale as cage birds. It is illegal to take, kill, or possess northern cardinals, and violation of the law is punishable by a fine of up to US\$15,000 and imprisonment of up to six months. It is also protected by the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada.

Red Cardinals are common to see in Northern Michigan and are enjoyed because of their colour. This commissioned sculpture of a male and female Red Cardinal was to their exact size to be mounted in a local art park for people to see up close. It is a reproduction of a local bird in the area.

The steel bodies are welded with a MIG welder which Ann uses as a sculpting tool. The feathers were cut out on a CNC plasma machine for the exact size of the different feather shapes and sizes. The tree and limbs are made with steel that has been MIG welded, and hand gouged with Carbon Arc Gouging to make texture in the metal.

The red cardinals are perched in a dogwood tree which is one of the first trees that blossom in the spring. The dogwood blossoms are made in stainless steel.



Red Cardinals in a Dogwood
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Dimensions of Exhibit

Cardinals are 10” height for the male and 8” height for the female. They are perched on a 3-foot-long branch with 1” to 2.5” dogwood blossoms. The trunk is made of steel, 4 foot in height x 16” dia.