



20 Artists, 20 Parks

January 30 – May 9, 2021



Barbara Walton (Ames), *The Weight (I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud)*, 2019, Oil on panel
Pikes Peak State Park



Christopher Yanulis (Ames), *Two Places at Once*, 2019, Mixed media on wood panel
Pilot Knob State Park

In her memoir, *The Hour of Land*, celebrated naturalist and author, Terry Tempest Williams, writes eloquently on the relevance, even necessity, of the country's national parks, marking the centennial of the National Park Service with a prescience that can be extended to the state parks across the country. **20 Artists, 20 Parks** celebrates the 83 State Parks and recreation areas of Iowa. Williams reminds us that all parks are "portals and thresholds of wonder ... breathing spaces for a society that increasingly holds its breath." 2020 marked the centennial of the Iowa State Park system which maintains nearly 53,000 acres of land for public enjoyment. Iowa's beautifully diverse state parks have inspired visitors from around the country ever since Backbone State Park opened in Delaware County in 1920. Over a century later, the parks' natural beauty remains a source of creative inspiration.

Organized by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs; the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and Iowa State University (ISU), **20 Artists, 20 Parks** paired professors and graduate students from ISU's Colleges of Design, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences with park

rangers for a unique statewide artist-in-residence project. The artwork included in the exhibition, curated by ISU visual arts professor Nancy Thompson and Veronica O'Hern from the Iowa Arts Council, was created in direct response to the exhilarating experience of time spent in the park learning from the rangers and wandering the trails and roadways in search of solitude and inspiration.

Artist Carol Faber worked in Sioux City's Stone State Park. Faber was born and raised not far from Stone State Park and has many memories of picnics and playing in the park as a child. She has a BA in studio arts with an emphasis in ceramic sculpture from Morningside College and both an MA and MFA from Iowa State University. Now Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Iowa State, Faber is interested in evoking "a sense of place through visual textures and surfaces." Although she integrates both traditional and digital methodologies, she works mainly via digital manipulation. Faber might well agree with Terry Tempest Williams that "wilderness is the source of what we can imagine and what we cannot – the taproot of consciousness." In a time when other pursuits are limited, it's



Kimberly Moss (Ames), *Backbone Unearthed*, 2019, Wood, watercolor, colored pencil, digital rendering
Backbone State Park



still possible, even necessary, to get out into nature, take a hike, look up at the stars, paddle a kayak, or bird watch. All these things can be done happily alone or with a family/friend pod. The Art Center encourages you to remember the artwork

you see in this installation and think about the art you might make as you visit the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and Stone State Park or one of Iowa's other captivating parks this spring or summer.



Carol Faber (Ames), *Prairie Tapestry*, 2019, Digital print
Stone State Park

FEATURED IOWA ARTISTS & STATE PARKS






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FEATURED PARKS & ARTISTS

Southwest

Lake of Three Fires State Park, Bedford - Amy Harris
Walnut Woods State Park, West Des Moines - Deborah Pappenheimer
Viking Lake State Park, Stanton - Olivia Valentine

Southeast

Rock Creek State Park, Kellogg - Anna Segner
Stephens State Forest, Chariton - Clark Colby
Lake Macbride State Park, Solon - Firat Erdim
Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine - Kristen Greteman
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Keosauqua - Nancy Thompson
Lake Darling State Park, Mt. Pleasant - Rob Wallace

Northwest

Brushy Creek State Park, Lehigh - Austin Stewart and Omar De Kok-Mercado
Stone State Park, Sioux City - Carol Faber
Pilot Knob State Park, Forest City - Christopher Yanulis
Pine Lake State Park, Eldora - Jennifer Drinkwater
Gull Point State Park, Okoboji - Paula Streeter

Northeast

Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor - Barbara Walton
Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa - Brent Holland
Palisades-Kepler State Park, Mt. Vernon - Celinda Stamy
Mines of Spain State Park, Dubuque - Joe Muench
Backbone State Park, Dundee - Kimberly Moss
Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry - Nathan Dean Edwards

cover:

Paula Streeter (Ames), *The Lodge*, Gull Point State Park, 2019, Acrylic paint on linen



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