

Collective Collected

Group Exhibit of Local Artists



Blanden Art Museum



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The Collective is a local group of artists who gather on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the museum. What began four years ago as a small meeting of a few artists has grown into a regular circle of twelve to fourteen participants who come together to share ideas, conversation, and the work taking shape in their studios.

This exhibition marks the first time the Collective has presented their work together publicly. It offers an opportunity to connect with the community and share the creative energy that has developed through years of conversation, encouragement, and exploration.

Artists often work in solitude. The studio can be an isolated place where the primary opponent is the blank canvas and the loudest audience may be the voices of past teachers, critics, and our own self-doubt. While creativity thrives in quiet focus, artists also need connection. Throughout history, artists have formed groups to gather with others who think, observe, and question the world in imaginative ways.

The Collective was created to fill a void in the local visual arts community by providing consistent time and space for artists to meet, socialize, and share what they are creating. For some members, the group serves as motivation to return to the studio and continue the work. For others, it is simply a place to make connections with people who understand the creative process.

When artists gather, inspiration moves freely. Ideas are exchanged, techniques discussed, and new materials discovered. Conversations become small creative laboratories where media, philosophy, and experimentation are explored. Each participant brings different interests and perspectives, and the dialogue itself becomes a source of energy and momentum.

The Collective is not defined by a single style or artistic movement. Instead, it reflects the diverse voices of its members and the individual ways they interpret the world around them. The work presented here represents a range of materials, ideas, and approaches shaped by personal curiosity and expression.

What unites the artists is the act of gathering. Through conversation and shared experience, the Collective has become a hub for artists in the region, a place to exchange ideas and reflect on what it means to create art in the Midwest today.

In many ways, the Collective functions as a fueling station. Artists arrive with questions, works in progress, and new discoveries. They leave reenergized, returning to their studios to continue the ongoing process of exploration and expression.

This exhibition is both a reflection of that shared journey and an invitation for the public to experience the work that has grown from it.