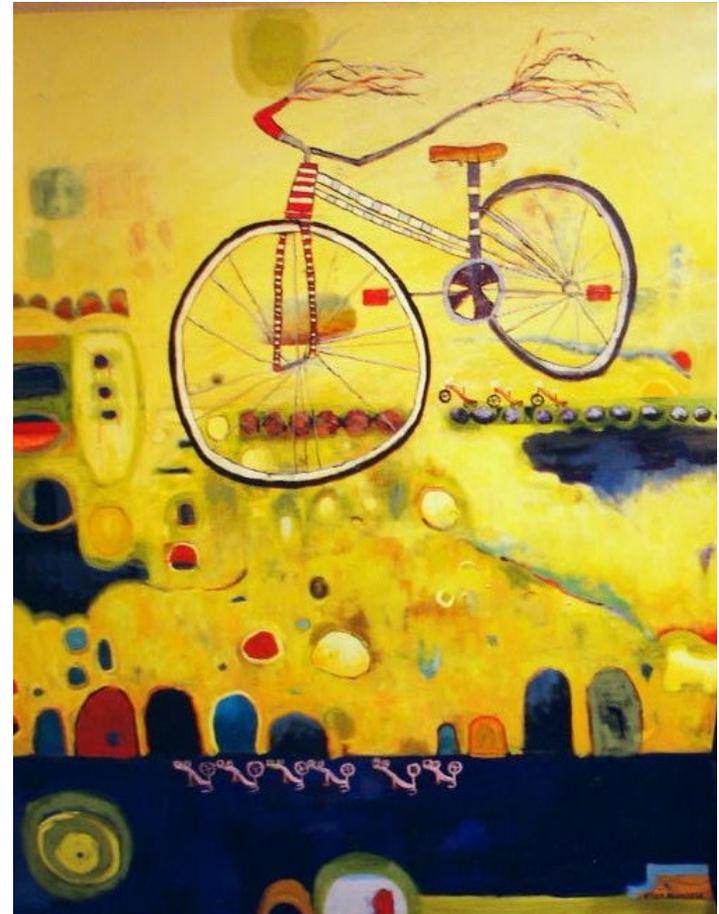


Le Tour d'Art



THE GALLERY

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays; to increase community involvement in the library; and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery,
contact Lynne Bertalmio, Director,

224 Third St. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082
651.275.4338
www.stillwaterlibrary.org

Gregg Rochester

Stillwater Public Library Gallery
July—August 2016

Artist Biography



Amery, Wisconsin, artist, Gregg Rochester had artistic interests since childhood, growing up with an artist mother and grandfather. Silversmithing, pottery, music, and writing were interests until 1989, when he pursued painting. In the meantime, he developed himself as an English teacher and later, a clinical psychologist.

His educational background included degrees from Dakota Wesleyan University and Indiana University. Additional art training included work at the University of Kansas, the Bellas Artes and Instituto Allende (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico), and the Scottsdale Artist's School.

He has enjoyed representations in New York City, Scottsdale & Tucson, Arizona, Chicago, Colorado Springs, San Francisco, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Door County, Wisconsin, Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. Rochester has been named as "featured artist" on a National Endowment for the arts website. Articles and descriptions of his work have been issued in several national art and design periodicals, including *Art in America*, *Southwest Art*, *Phoenix Home and Gardens*, *Scottsdale Lifestyle*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Wisconsin West Magazine*. His paintings can be found in institutional, corporate, and private collections world-wide, including many recognized hospitals and other healthcare settings. Recently, a painting was chosen for public display in the Senator George McGovern Library and Center for Leadership. In 2012, he was named, "Wisconsin Artist of the Year" by TOSCA (Theater, Opera, Shakespeare, Culture, and Arts Magazine, a Minneapolis arts publication).

But Gregg Rochester shows another side of his work besides his colorful landscapes, connected to his passion for bicycling. He hand-paints high quality racing bicycles (with a paint brush). Each of his eight "works" depicts a particular theme, such as African fabrics, trade beads, reptile skin, or a road map. His show, "Le Tour d'Art", featuring the bicycles alongside his abstract and landscape paintings have toured the United States to rave reviews. The show plans a European tour. Most recently, his bicycle art has been featured at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts as a part of the "Italian Fashion from 1945-Present" show.

Artist Statement

Many see fine art as belonging to painting on canvas or paper, sculpture with clay or stone, as well as other common mediums. From the beginning of my career, I saw ways to bring fine art to more atypical surfaces. This included my early work painting clothing and shoes.

I am an avid bicyclist, having commuted to a former job at a rehabilitation center thirty miles from my home in Wisconsin. Each one hour ride gave my mind wonderful opportunities to imagine things I might like to paint. One day, I looked down at my bicycle and said to myself, "Why don't you paint your bike?" It wasn't long before I began applying paint in small, abstract designs to the frame, followed by the revelation that perhaps my project should have some sort of theme. The "Night and Day" bike was created, revealing the day and night sky on opposite sides of the bike. I loved it, and so did everyone else who saw it. That was the start of a new direction alongside my landscape work.

Since the first paint-job, I have created over thirty brush-painted bicycles, each with a unique theme (often painted differently on either side). This led to further expression, bringing bicycle-themed abstract paintings and fantasy landscapes from the cyclist's point of view. A show was developed, entitled "Le Tour d'Art" (after "Le Tour d'France") and since inception some fifteen years ago, has traveled in many venues (mostly art galleries, art centers, and museums) throughout the United States.

The show has appealed to everyone from professional racing cyclists to families and anyone who enjoys seeing an interesting twist on something everyone knows, and has probably owned and ridden. Besides the highly-detailed paint jobs, each bicycle is of professional racing quality.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota, commissioned me to paint a specialty bicycle for the "Italian Fashion from 1945-present" show in the Fall of 2014. The bicycle, adorned with reproductions of famous Italian designer, Emilio Pucci, has enjoyed thousands of views and much media attention. Both bicycles and paintings have been featured in several periodicals (and covers). For the past three years, workshops in bicycle painting have been held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

"Le Tour d'Art" seeks to bring an uplifting experience to its audience. Inspiring a sense of fun and humor is my primary aim. I also enjoy seeing people who might not ordinarily attend an art show, come and have fun!

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