



Dr. Andrea M. McDonough, Master

Williamsport Area High School, PA.

Why I Chose Lorelei Weaver

I am proud to select senior artist, Lorelei Weaver, as my Grasshopper for the 2022 show at the Loomis Gallery. I began my career in the Williamsport District as an elementary art educator and Lorelei was one of my first young artists. It's certainly a unique experience to know that a student in elementary school has artistic talent and then to be able to witness their growth through the secondary level firsthand. Lorelei is globally aware, balanced, and always thinking. She is a senior who produces work at the caliber of an art-school-bound undergrad and honors her connection to the process by working as an Independent Study student. She takes the time to develop her craft and enjoys the experience just as much as the product. Lorelei is clever enough to know that the pressure of producing a portfolio wasn't the way she wanted to experience art during her senior year.

My decision to select Lorelei as my Grasshopper for the 2022 Master and Grasshopper was grounded in nostalgia and respect. I do see a bit of myself in Lorelei, especially in her spirit of adventure and desire to travel. Although she'll always be one of my "Hepburn kids," she has grown into a strong, intelligent, and talented young woman with so much potential to enjoy everything that life will present to her post-graduation. I am honored to have the opportunity to display my work alongside hers and I'm grateful to have been one of her Master-teachers.

Artist Statement

Dr. Andrea M. McDonough: Bio + Artist Statement *Andrea McDonough is a secondary art educator and K-12 art curriculum coordinator for the Williamsport Area School District. She also supports the art and education departments at Lycoming College. McDonough is a successful grant-writer with a passion for public art and the promotion of social and emotional learning through mindfulness and creativity. McDonough holds a Pennsylvania K-12 Art Education Certificate and a Pennsylvania PK-12 Supervisory Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction.*

Each day and each art-making session is an opportunity to journey inward. The human experience suggests that we are not the same person that we were yesterday, and our emotional landscape will fluctuate with rare identical replication. As I approach my work today with an awareness that I did not hold 10 years ago, I am able to let go of the telic tendency of traditional painting and explore the process as it is related to present moment experience. My doctoral research in mindfulness and creativity has led me to develop my art as a practice, a ritual, that incorporates the mind and body, brush and breath. I collect materials and incubate ideas, gently, before engaging in a process session. Acrylic gel lifts from vintage National Geographic magazines serve as organic shape accents or grounding subjects. The intuitive assembly of graphite lines, acrylic paint sections, and paper collages lay the foundation for a drawing meditation. Coming into the moment through a body scan, I draw or paint lines that are a reflection of my breath moving through my chest and guiding my hand. If the lines are created with my eyes closed, I may trace or repeat the lines to solidify the portrait of the breath. The entire process is sealed with a magnifying layer of epoxy resin, archiving the experience.