



The Mighty Mississippi, Summer Day, Morning on Monhegan, and Painting on Warf by Ken DeWaard

Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as researched and interpreted by the author.



*“This is where it all seems to happen and what I truly love about plein air. That is the happy accidents that seem to take place. Never seems to fail.”*³ He captures the grandeur of the Mississippi and the poetry of the summer season on Monhegan Island (12 nautical miles off mainland Maine), all canopied by sunshine, blue sky, and wispy clouds. DeWaard said he selected these specific scenes based on the visual shapes that contribute to the feelings and designs of each and that he usually likes to have a story to tell about his work, even if it is just to provide a documentation of the painting itself [personal communication, March 4, 2016].

Ken DeWaard (1962-), born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, earned his BA from Western Illinois University in Macomb in 1984, after which he initially began working in commercial arts. He also studied at the American Academy of Arts from 1985-1991, and the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts, from 1992-2001, both located in Chicago. From 1994-1998, DeWaard completed independent studies under portraitist Scott Burdick and palette specialist Dan Gerhartz. He has served as a teacher at institutions in Illinois and Arizona, and currently is an instructor for the Academy of Fine Arts in Denmark, Wisconsin. He resides in Viroqua, Wisconsin.^{1,2}

The Mighty Mississippi, Summer Day, Morning on Monhegan, and Painting on Warf, four oil on canvas paintings by DeWaard, are products of his preferred style—plein air.¹ He notes:



The Mighty Mississippi, Summer Day, Morning on Monhegan, and Painting on Warf are located on the 16th floor of the Gonda Building on Mayo Clinic’s campus in Rochester, Minnesota.

Margaret R. Wentz

1. Ken DeWaard Fine Art: About the Artist. <http://www.kendewaard.com/about.htm>. Accessed February 29, 2016.
2. http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/artist-ken-dewaard-finds-truth-in-real-live-moments/article_e294a5d1-f187-5c7c-b5d3-7aa13b22234.html. Accessed February 29, 2016.
3. <http://kendewaard.blogspot.com/>. Accessed February 29, 2016.