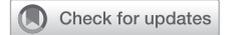


## Sugar Maples and Red Tree by Charles Beck



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 interpreted by the author.



Charles Beck was born on January 23, 1923, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, but his education was cut short due to the advent of World War II, in which he became a naval air pilot captain.

After the war, Beck returned to Fergus Falls, where he worked as a sign painter and in 1960 he began teaching art at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College. He maintained a studio in his home until 2009, after which he commenced using a public gallery. After experiencing a stroke in 2013, he began painting trees from his new residence — Broen Memorial Home — a nursing home facility in Fergus Falls.

Beck's detailed woodcut prints have become iconic and can be found in many museums and public displays throughout

Minnesota. His wood cut technique relied on strong texture, clean lines, and minimalistic vision.<sup>1</sup> He died on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at the age of 94.<sup>1</sup>

*Sugar Maples* and *Red Tree*, both 22×31-inches, reflect the vibrant crimson and golden hues of traditional fall foliage in Minnesota. A favorite fall activity often includes scenic drives along rural roads to catch glimpses of such trees as those represented in *Sugar Maples* and *Red Tree*.



*Sugar Maples* and *Red Tree* are located in the hallway access to the Generose Building of Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Marys Campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

Margaret R. Wentz, BA

1. Lamb J. Iconic Rural Minn. Artist Charles Beck Dies at 94. *West Fargo Pioneer Press*. Tuesday, September 13, 2017. <http://www.westfargopioneer.com/news/4327547-iconic-rural-minn-artist-charles-beck-dies-94>. Accessed February 15, 2018.