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.

Lisa Houck received her BFA in 1975 from the Rhode Island School of Design, where she focused on printmaking. After graduation she joined an etching studio in Boston, Massachusetts, and in 1989, obtained her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, also in Boston.1

Best known for her printmaking, Houck also works in a variety of media such as watercolor, oil on wood, and mosaics.2 She has extensive public and corporate displays of her work in hospitals and museums throughout the Boston area and in the Greater United States.1,3

Wading and Wandering and Swooping and Swirling, two 36x24-inch prints, capture flora and fauna, earth and sky; and grace of movement through shape, line, and color. In Wading and Wandering, the water bird — perhaps a heron — feeds on minnows as it strides through the wave on its implied long legs. In Swooping and Swirling, birds in flight navigate among moons, comets, and stars, with furled wings and tail feathers.

It is interesting that movement and life can emerge from the monochrome ink and the line etchings of Houck. She notes being inspired by ornithologist, John James Audubon,4 in the creation of these prints.2 The technique used to create them stemmed from continuing education in which Houck participated; and involved carving linoleum blocks printed with a steamroller. Later she printed Wading and Wandering and Swooping and Swirling in 10 editions.3

Wading and Wandering and Swooping and Swirling are located in the hallway access to the Generose Building of Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Marys Campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

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