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.

Erin Wilson was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1977, and grew up in a family of self-taught artists. In her early childhood, Wilson participated in dance programs and later earned a BFA from Juilliard (the School) in dance and performing arts. However, influenced by her mother, the family’s creation of a dancewear clothing business, and her own interests in fiber arts, Wilson began crafting quilts for show in 2005. In 2006, inspired by the success of her quilts displayed at the American Craft Council, Wilson began her full-time career as a professional quilter. She has since been honored with numerous national exhibits and awards.

Nautical/Beach Textile Compositions, are twelve 13 x 15-inch hand-dyed and sewn cotton fabric patterns (descriptive plaque) capturing sailboats, light houses, and seascapes. As demonstrated in these compositions, Wilson creates precisely detailed renditions of her themes, capturing architectural structures and scenery that are both realistic and imaginary. Wilson’s choice of fabric colors and their juxtaposition reproduces realistic instances of shadow and light in her use of line and design.

Watching the grace of sailboats wafting on the water is one of the most calming and serene activities in which one can engage. Wilson’s Nautical/Beach Textile Compositions, when viewed in aggregate, convey similar feelings.

Nautical/Beach Textile Compositions are located on the main floor of Nassif Tower, Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Marys Campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

Margaret R. Wentz, BA