



## Wall Flower II by Ursula Hargens



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.

Ursula Hargens, a Minneapolis-based ceramic artist, earned her MFA degree from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in Alfred, New York, in 2003; a master's degree in Art and Art Education from Columbia University Teachers College in New York, in 1999; and studied ceramics at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1999-2000.<sup>1,2</sup>

Hargens is co-founder of an advanced degree program in ceramics — incidentally comically titled after a commonly held Minnesota mindset — MN NICE or Minnesota New Institute for Ceramic Education. She has received many awards and been featured in numerous solo and group public exhibits.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

*Wall Flower II*, fourteen 14 x 11-inch ceramic tiles, features large flowers resembling pansies and black-eyed Susans, book-ended around other wildflowers and vines. They are placed on a creamy white

background, which enables the colors and shapes to burst out and be eye-catching. Each tile is puzzle-pieced together with the next to create the whole garden image. Of her work, Hargens says:

“... focusing attention on an endangered forest wildflower can evoke an intimate sense of loss. The ceramic work will endure, unchanged for thousands of years, but the species itself may not survive without our intervention ...”<sup>2</sup>

*Wall Flower II* is located in the elevator alcove on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

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1. Ursula Hargens Ceramics — Bio. <https://www.ursulahargens.com/bio/#.YoO6HXbMJaQ>. Accessed May 17, 2022.
2. Ursula Snow Hargens Bio. Artnet website. <http://www.artnet.com/artists/ursula-snow-hargens/biography>. Accessed May 17, 2022.
3. University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences website. Artist's Statement. <https://cbs.umn.edu/conservatory/artist/ursulahargens#:~:text=Ursula%20Hargens%20is%20a%20ceramic,partnership%20with%20Northern%20Clay%20Center>. Accessed May 17, 2022.
4. Ursula Hargens Ceramics. Resume. <https://www.ursulahargens.com/blank-3/#.YoPBoXbMJaQ>. Accessed May 17, 2022.