



## Ancient Healer II by Helene Steene

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.

Helene Steene is a mixed media artist who was born in Sweden and immigrated to the United States in 1976.<sup>1,2</sup> She attended the College of Fine Arts at George Washington University in Washington, DC, from 1976 to 1979. Subsequently, she earned both a BFA and an MFA from the University of Kentucky at Lexington, in 1993 and 2004, respectively.<sup>2</sup> *Ancient Healer II* (12 x 4.5 feet)<sup>3</sup> is constructed of oils, glazes, aluminum, and wood (descriptive plaque). Steene's creative technique involves the sanding and layering of media to enhance a sense of depth.<sup>2</sup> *Ancient Healer II* contains organic forms found in nature juxtaposed over hard geometric lines suggesting human construction, like blossoms falling on railroad tracks. This sentiment is captured in her artist's statement:

“Whether my work is non-objective, abstract, or figurative, there is always a search for something that signifies a subtle inner beauty, depth, and simplicity even when the forms are complex. I am intrigued by the tension between forms, lines, and colors that ultimately can resolve in harmony...”<sup>2</sup>

*Ancient Healer II* is located at the Mankato Surgical Center, Mayo Clinic Health System, Mankato, Minnesota.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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1. New Additions Gallery website. Accessed August 12, 2022. <https://neweditionsgallery.com/artists/helene-steene/>
2. Helene Steene Artist website. About the artist. Accessed August 12, 2022. <https://www.helenesteene.com/>
3. Artist resume. Accessed August 12, 2022. <https://www.helenesteene.com/resume.html>