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Novaturient

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Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Novaturient

By

Robert Tyler Willmore

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Studio Art (Painting)

Exhibition held March 1 - March 19, 2021

Conkling Gallery, Nelson Hall,

Department of Art and Design, Minnesota State University Mankato

April 2021

Novaturient

Robert Tyler Willmore

This thesis has been approved and examined by the following members of the thesis committee.

Brian Frink Advisor

Liz Miller

Jonathon Hicks

By Robert Tyler Willmore

John Muir famously said, "The mountains are calling and I must go." The yearning ache to visit and connect with natural wild landscapes is real. Through brush and pigment, I attempt to capture the mystery and wonder of wild landscapes that have inspired me to be a novaturient soul. The power of landscape is generally symbolic yet uniquely concrete. Studying the lessons that being in wild spaces offer, I find myself contemplating my mortality-- seeking to comprehend the universe and my place in it.

By mimicking the naturalist who breaks down wild spaces into macro-focused observations, I translate my experience with landscape into relationships of line, shape, and color. It is an attempt to not only share my experiences with nature but also serves as an act of self-preservation. Through painting and drawing, I am exerting control over my reality instead of floating away into my anxieties. In a way, I am pulling the viewer in for closer observation only to have them lose themselves within the landscape and become grounded within the work.

Novaturient is an exhibition of 20 works that I created as an MA candidate at Minnesota State University Mankato. It was held in the Conkling Gallery in Nelson Hall from March 1-19th 2021. I focused heavily on painting and drawing to explore my artistic identity and explore my ideas around the importance of landscape and what wild spaces mean. The program provided the positivity and encouragement I needed to feel confident in the work I presented.

This document is a list of the artworks and their descriptions that I exhibited as my Capstone Thesis Exhibition as well as photo documentation of each work and how they were laid out. Also in this document are a postcard and poster created to promote the show.

The program helped me accomplish my goals by allowing the flexibility I needed to load my schedule with studio courses that allowed me to work ambitiously in developing my exhibition. I was able to take a course in wildland management which complimented the art I was creating by bringing landscape forward philosophically. Additionally, I applied for and was awarded a 2020 Spring a Graduate Research Grant that helped me purchase the supplies I needed to shift my work large scale. Increasing the size of my work helped me accomplish the artistic goals I had set for myself. The art department and graduate studies department advocated for my assistance-ship that allowed me to better allocate my personal funds to benefit my research appropriately in my second year.

I would like to thank Brian Frink for his ongoing support and encouragement to accept myself as a painter. His advice and council went above and beyond art. I would like to thank Liz Miller for her encouragement and direction. She facilitated the conversations and critiques necessary to develop my ideas. My gratitude extends to Jonathon Hicks, Gina Wenger, my fellow grad students, and the rest of the Department of Art and Design for your knowledge, advice, and encouragement. Additionally, I must give love and gratitude to my wife, children, and parents for making the sacrifices and support necessary to drive my goals and ambitions forward. Without them, none of this would be possible.



Left to Right Top Row: Falling 48 x 36, oil on linen, Ever Faithful 20 x 16 oil on canvas, Alaska 48 x 36 oil on linen. **Second Row Left to Right:** Downriver, 48 x 36 oil on linen, High and Low, 29 x 16 oil on canvas, Larkspur 48 x 36 oil on linen. **Third Row Left to Right:** Safety in Distancing 16 x 16 prisma-color on paper, Crossing the River 18x18 prisma-color on paper, Needing Rest 18 x 18, prisma-color on paper. **Bottom Row Left to Right:** Winter Companion 18 x 18 prisma-color on paper, Saratan 36 x 36 oil on canvas, Scream (after Munch) 12 x 12 oil on canvas,



Top Row Left to Right: Ms. Delicate 12 x 12 oil on canvas, Acceptance 20 x 16 oil on canvas, Arch 24 x 12 oil on canvas. **Middle Row Left to Right:** Tension 24 x 12 oil on canvas, Floating 20 x 16 oil, Where the Water Falls Twice 16 x 20 oil on canvas, In the Park 20 x 16 oil on canvas. **Bottom Row Left to Right:** Restoration 48 x 36 oil on linen, Tension 24 x 12, oil on canvas.

Promotional Materials included a postcard back* and front and promotional poster.

**The postcard mentions an artists speak with zoom information. That speak was cancelled and not held. The show continued however at the Conkling Gallery through the 19th.*

Tyler Willmore
NOVATURIENT
Effie R Conkling Gallery
Mar 1 - Mar 19


Artist Speak March 3 @ 12:30 pm
<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/97774121709>
Meeting ID: 977 7412 1709
Passcode: 250115

Tyler Willmore is a Mankato transplant who hails from the American West. Through painting and adventure, he explores his relationship with wild landscapes by breaking them down into macro-observations of line, shape, and color and how these interactions serve to create the greater whole. The artist shares his experiences of how getting lost in wild natural landscapes has helped ground him from floating away into the anxiety of reality. Through brush and pigment, the artist pulls viewers into these landscapes to where they can get lost and grounded within the work.

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact The Department of Art and Design at 507-389-3529 or 711 at least 48 hours prior to the event. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the above numbers.

The Department of Art and Design
136 Nelson Hall
Minnesota State University Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001



 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

The Department of Art

NOVATURIENT


A Capstone Exhibition


by MA Candidate

Tyler Willmore

Effie R. Conkling Gallery


March 1 - March 26



 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

The Department of Art and Design Presents

TYLER WILLMORE



Novaturient

Effie R Conkling Gallery March 1-March 19

#msumankatoart #tylerwillmore

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The following images document how the show was installed in the Conkling Gallery.

