



# articulation

The Art of the Akron-Summit County Public Library



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## The Art of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

For many years, Akron-Summit County Public Library has recognized the natural correlation between literature, design, and art, and the importance of those concepts to the realm of public service.

When Andrew Carnegie granted funds to the city for a library building in 1901, architects made sure it included Ohio sandstone, Tiffany glass, and Italian marble, combining regional, national, and international elements to create a unique design. Since then, the Library has sought to provide access to important works of art in its buildings, emphasizing local works with wider significance wherever possible. The construction of a new building between 1967 and 1969 was seen as a perfect opportunity to acquire contemporary artwork for permanent display. During that time, local artists were commissioned to create works for the Library, and area businesses, organizations, and individuals made donations of works and funds to purchase them. The result was what the Library called “a living monument to the artists of Summit County.” When the 1969 building was renovated and the current Main Library opened in 2004, the original artwork was transferred to the new building and new works added, continuing the tradition. We are grateful for the legacy left by those who had a vision of the Library not just as a repository of information and knowledge in the form of words, but also as a natural setting for the symbolic, experiential communication that only art can provide.

The following guide identifies and describes works currently on exhibit throughout the Main Library, including artist and composition or medium. In selected instances, more complete biographical information on the artist and detailed descriptions of the work are given.

— Jane Gramlich  
Librarian, Special Collections Division





**Floating Sun**  
Cast Aluminum  
Don Drumm

Don Drumm is internationally known for his original use of aluminum as an art medium. Educated at Kent State University, he opened his first studio in Akron in 1960 and has remained here since, maintaining his roots in the area and supporting the community.





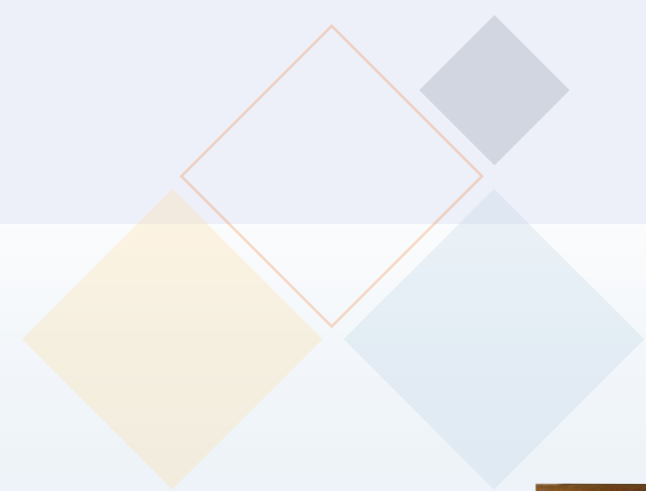
**Untitled**  
Oil on Canvas  
**Harold Kitner (1921-2004)**

Harold Kitner was an alumnus of the Cleveland Institute of Art and began teaching art and art history at Kent State University in 1947. He also served as the Akron Beacon Journal art critic from 1948 to 1962. After his retirement from Kent State in 1990, he became the director of the Institute of the South Florida Art Center.



**Weed Vases**  
Ceramic  
**Fern Cole (1917-1979)**

Fern Cole, well known for her ceramics and enamelwork, had an active role in art education with Revere Local Schools and with the Akron Art Institute (now the Akron Museum of Art). She exhibited widely, including shows in Cleveland, Syracuse, and Chicago.



### Wood Things

Cotton/Linen Sewing Machine Tapestry  
Frances Robinson (1904-1993)

Frances Robinson created an original art form of making tapestries from cotton thread, using a sewing machine. This work, depicting woodland objects, also uses some appliqués. The largest piece took one year to complete and the sunflower was the most difficult. Robinson earned degrees from Montana State University and Kent State University. She taught art at Buchtel High School and was head of its Art Department. Locally, her work is displayed at Akron General Medical Center and First Energy's corporate offices; she also exhibited at the New York Museum of Contemporary Crafts.



**View of Akron 1870**  
Lithograph  
Albert Ruger (1828-1899)

Prussian immigrant Albert Ruger created birds'-eye view drawings and landscapes during the mid-19th century. He developed the concept of the panoramic map, which shows buildings, topographical features, and tiny human and animal figures. He created maps for locations in 22 states, including this rendering of Akron. Ruger lived in Akron from about 1876 until his death and is buried in Hudson.

## Enter In

Wood

Sr. Evangeline Doyle, O.P. (1927-2000)

Best known for her sculpture in a variety of materials, Sister Evangeline Doyle was also accomplished in oil painting, enameling, smithing, and ceramics. She entered the Sisters of St. Dominic after her graduation from Barberton High School and received a degree in Fine Arts from The Catholic University of America. She taught at many area parochial schools, and was artist-in-residence at Our Lady of the Elms High School.



## Untitled

Acrylic on Plexiglass

Robert Davis







**End of an Era  
(Quaker Oats)**  
Acrylic  
Claire Cressler (1910-2008)

Claire Cressler studied commercial art at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Institute. He had a long career as a commercial artist, designing billboards and creating artwork for company calendars.



**Untitled**  
Oil on Canvas  
David Muck

**Lion**  
Wood Block Print  
Barbara Morrow

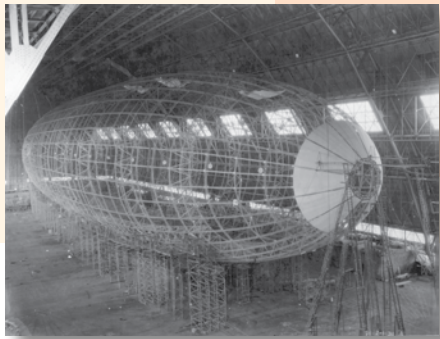




**Library Sun**  
Cast Aluminum  
Don Drumm

Don Drumm's work can be found worldwide; locally, he has numerous works on display in many businesses and institutions, including the Akron Zoo, Morley Health Center, and Cascade Plaza.

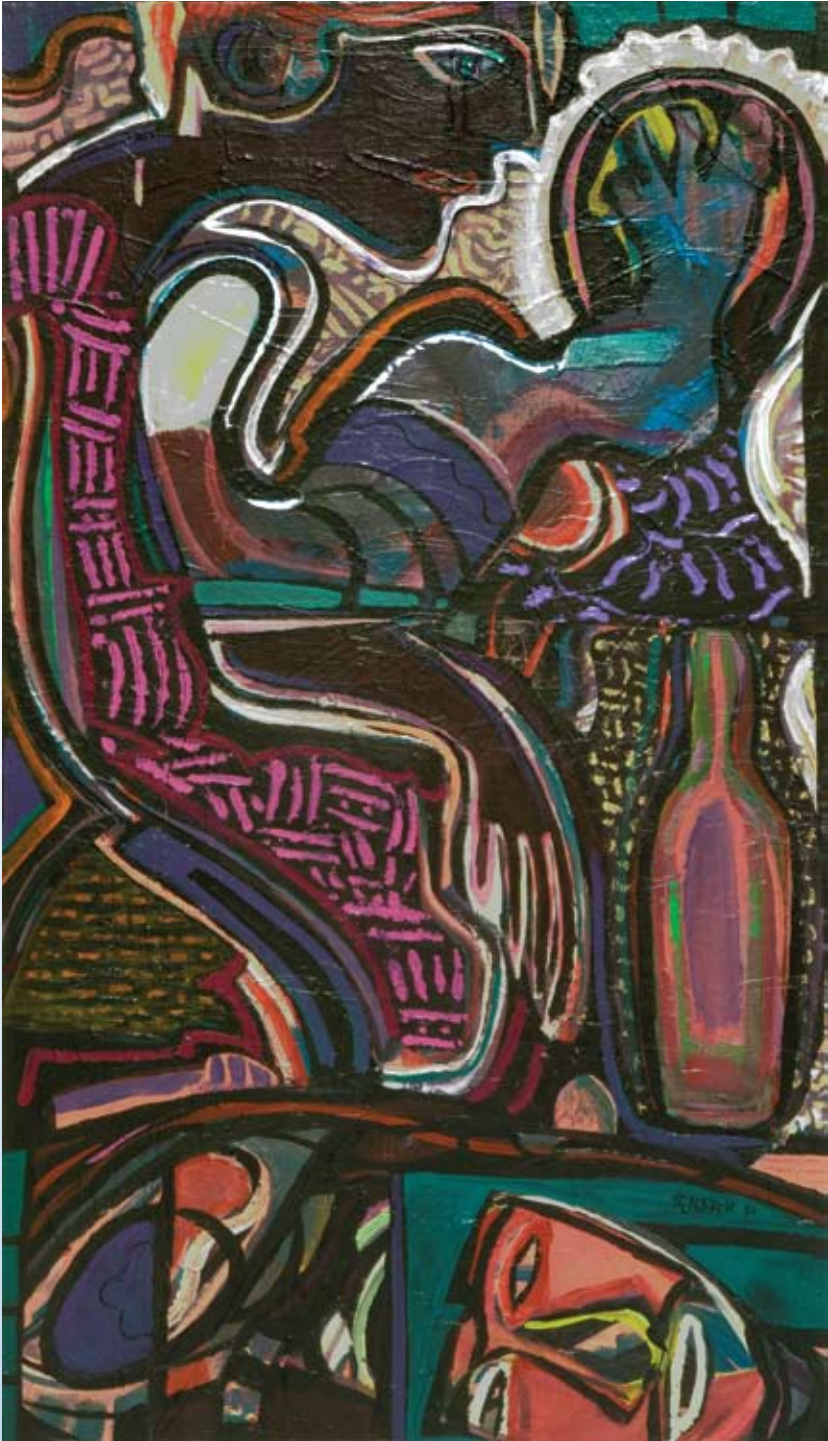




**Photos of the U.S.S. Akron**  
from the Bain E. "Shorty" Fulton Collection, Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Photographer Unknown

These photos depict the construction, dedication, and flight of the airship U.S.S. Akron at the Goodyear Airdock. The U.S.S. Akron made its maiden flight in 1931.





**Untitled**  
Schneider



**Untitled**  
Acrylic on Masonite  
Edith Brown (1907-1999)

Edith Brown attended Oberlin College and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan College with a degree in fine arts.



**Playmakers**  
Unknown

East Indian wall hanging



**Picnic Table Under Maple Tree**  
Oil on Canvas  
Joseph O'Sickey

Joseph O'Sickey was a graphic designer in the Cleveland area and a faculty member of Kent State University's School of Art, where he also served as Chairman of the Division of Painting and Sculpture. His style is impressionistic, using light, color, and air, and his subject matter often focuses on woods and gardens.



**Thai Teak Elephant**  
Unknown

Teakwood carving



### Birth of Athena

Glass Reinforced Polyester Resin  
Robert Morrow (1917-2004)

Robert Morrow taught art at Kent State University for over thirty years and was a well-known muralist whose works appear nationwide. His local works include murals for Acme and the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music building at Kent State. Athena was the Greek goddess of wisdom, arts, literature, and drama. The material used in the mural is fiberglass formed over chicken wire over a wood frame. The color was obtained by mixing dry color pigment into liquid plastic and drying it on the form. All the elements of the mural are separate units assembled piecemeal and are symbolic of Athena.





**Vase of Daisies**

Water Color  
Richard Kish



**Untitled**

Acrylic on Masonite  
Edith Brown (1907-1999)

Edith Brown taught painting at the Akron Art Institute and Bennett College, and exhibited her abstract works in oil and acrylic at the Steiner Gallery at the Akron Art Institute.



**Untitled**  
Gouache (watercolor) Painting on Paper  
Martha Boyajian



**Untitled**  
Schneider

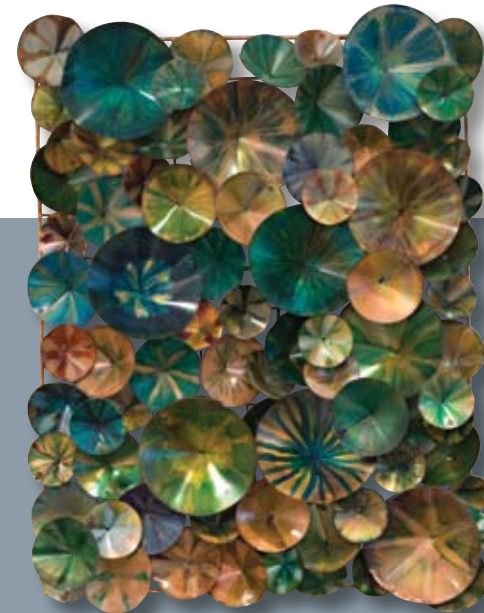
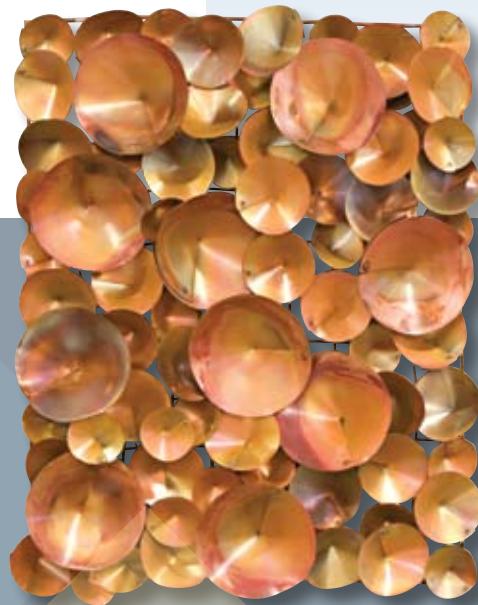


### U.S.S. Akron Propeller

Made by the Hartzell Propeller Co., Piqua, Ohio, this propeller was a part of the U.S.S. Akron, which was built at the Goodyear Airdock. The U.S.S. Akron made its maiden flight in 1931. After several flights, it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New Jersey in 1933; 73 passengers perished. The loss was a tragic casualty of the experimental use of rigid airships in the military.

### Four Seasons Circle Quilts Dyed Copper Linda Leviton

Linda Leviton describes much of her work as “based on feminine art forms.” These panels, shaped by torch and anvil, depict both the colors of nature throughout the seasons and the circular patterns used in traditional quilt making. This work has been chosen by the Library’s Staff Association as a memorial to staff who pass away while employed at the Library.





**Flock O' Birds**  
Aluminum Mobile  
Leroy Flint (1909-1991)

Ashtabula native Leroy Flint was the director of the Akron Art Institute from 1950 to 1965 and also taught at Kent State University and the Cleveland Museum of Art. He focused on subject matter found in nature such as mountains, canyons, sunrise and sunset, and birds. The idea for this work came when Flint was driving across the old viaduct on North Main Street and noticed a flock of pigeons flying by. The mobile is made of aluminum and each shape was bent and welded. Each wing weighs  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and all are the same size. Each piece moves separately and freely.



**Fields of Corn**  
Barbara Griffith



**Descent**  
Enamel on Copper  
Mary Ellen McDermott  
(1919-1998)

Internationally known for her liturgical art, Mary Ellen McDermott developed the technique of large-scale firing of glass enamel on copper. She was a lifelong resident of Akron and taught at the Akron Art Institute and the Cleveland Institute of Art. Her work can be seen in many locations throughout the country including Sacred Heart Parish in Chicago and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. In addition, her work is part of the permanent collection at the Vatican Museum in Rome.



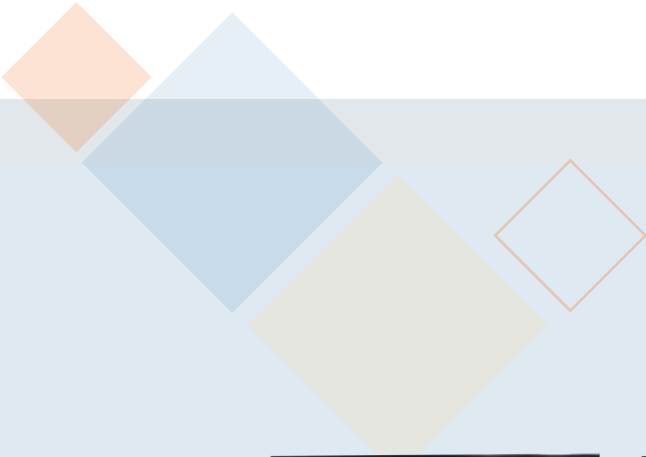
**Branch Vases**  
Ceramic  
Miska Petersham (1923-1997)

Miska Petersham was a graduate of Syracuse University and the Cleveland Institute of Fine Arts. He founded the glass program at Kent State University's School of Art, and was also Chairman of the school's Division of Design and Crafts.

**Garden Trio**  
Teakwood Sculpture  
Harry Wheeler

The wall mural is made of teakwood, hand rubbed with oil. Its theme is a quotation from Tennyson's poem, *The Flower*: "Most can raise the flowers now, for all have got the seed." The mural concerns itself with the concept of genetics, and its relation to knowledge and education. The central figure has both male and female elements. There are flowerlike elements on either side: the simple one is male and the ornate one, female. The artist refers to them as "totems." Wheeler enlarged upon his conception of the sculpture: "The elements most suggestive and illustrative of peace are music and the family. For this reason I suggested the central figure as playing a harp; the scale with notes is both at the right and left of this figure. The family is shown by the flowerlike figures, rounded for female, angular for male, and in varying sizes to indicate parents and children."





Wald in der Pfalz



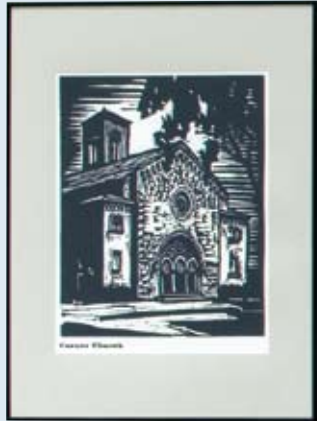
Fabrik in Mainz



Markt in Kassel



Kirche und Markt

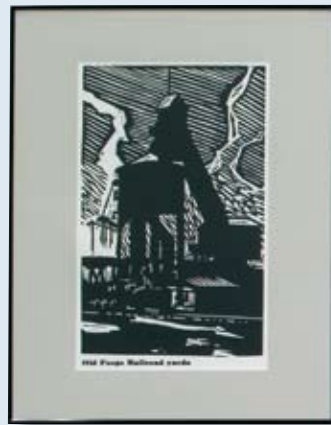


Kirche in Mainz



Strasse in Frankfurt





## Sun Over a City

Reproduction Linoleum Monochrome Prints  
Will H. Collins (1892-1979)

Will Collins was the director of the Akron Public Library during the 1930s and was also an accomplished artist whose specialty was linoleum printmaking. He developed a technique of using an old umbrella rib as a tool for cutting the linoleum, and made prints using a discarded letter press. During his time in Akron, he exhibited at the Akron Art Institute and was one of its trustees. These prints depict various Akron scenes from the time, emphasizing industrial settings such as factories and railroad yards. They are copies and enlargements of the prints Collins published in a book called *Sun Over a City*.

**Ira Road**  
Watercolor  
Marc Moon (1923-2006)

Marc Moon is well known locally and nationally for his watercolor paintings, which often depict winter landscapes. He exhibited at many area art shows, winning numerous awards, and was an instructor and owner of Applied Art Academy. Ira Road is north of Akron in a picturesque part of Summit County. It runs through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, crosses the site of the former Ohio and Erie Canal and the current Towpath Trail, and is adjacent to Hale Farm and Village.



"IRA ROAD"  
MARC MOON  
PRESENTED IN 1998 BY  
THE CATHOLIC CAREER WOMEN'S SOCIETY



**Books and the Universe**  
Woven Tapestry  
Karen Swanson

Karen Swanson was an instructor of weaving at the Akron Art Institute and the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, and has exhibited and lectured widely. She is also the author of *Rigid Heddle Weaving*.



**Fragments of an American Dream**  
Collage  
Jerry Domokur

Jerry Domokur's work has been featured in many area art exhibits, including Artists of Rubber City's Open Show, Cuyahoga Valley Art Center's Abstract Avenue Show, and Kaleidoscope: Alliance for the Visual Arts Holiday Shows.



**Peninsula Quarry**  
Etching  
Dan Rohn

Specializing in painting and printmaking, Dan Rohn received degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Yale University School of Art. He taught at Kent State University and conducted their Master's program in lithography for many years. Many of Akron's early buildings were constructed of stone quarried from within the city and around northeast Ohio. Peninsula, north of Akron, is well known for its stone quarries, the remains of which are still visible today.

**Sunflower**  
Wood Block Print  
Barbara Morrow





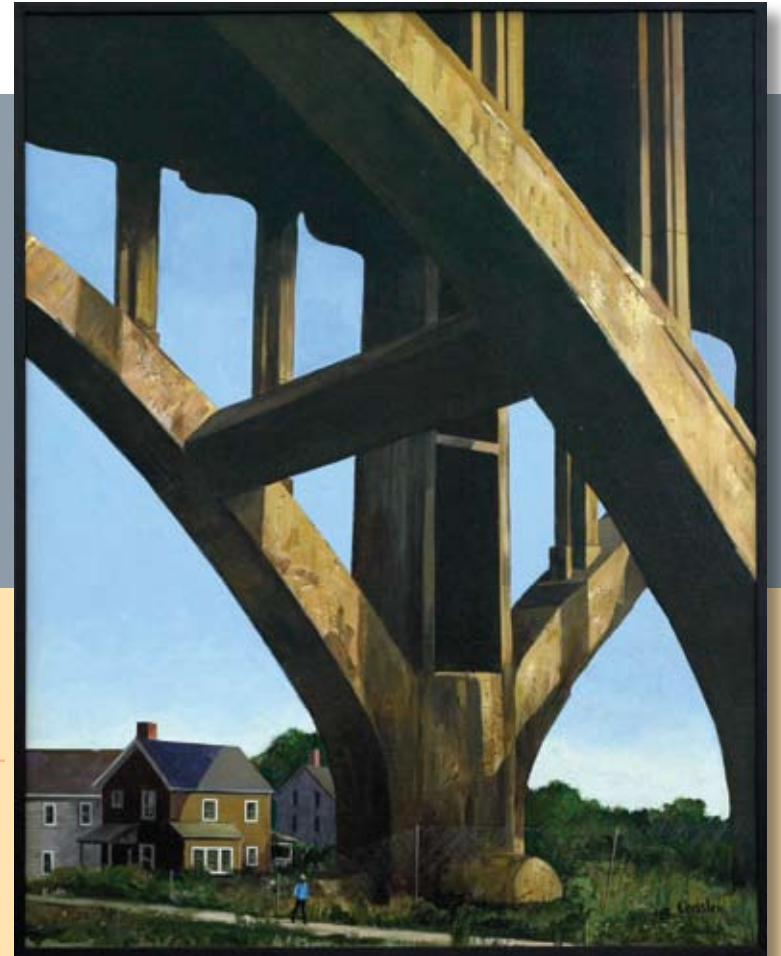
**The Thrift Shop**  
Enamel on  
Gessoed Canvas  
Ronald Taylor

Ronald Taylor studied at The Ohio State University and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Akron, where he taught painting and drawing for thirty years. He has works on display at the Akron Art Museum, the Butler Institute of American Art, The Ohio State University, the University of Akron, and several corporate locations. Painted in 1965, *The Thrift Shop* was inspired by found items at a thrift shop and the work of Jackson Pollock.



**Interior**  
Oil on Canvas  
William Schock (1913-1976)

William Schock studied at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and was a professor of art at Kent State University. Nationally recognized as a painter, one of his well-known local works is a series of murals depicting sports at Kent State's Memorial Gymnasium. Schock's oil painting is rich in color. He does not use realistic color, but employs color in the style of the impressionist for expression and to suggest subject matter. The painting has been placed off-center purposely; if centered, it would be too static.



**Akron Arches**  
Acrylic  
Claire Cressler (1910-2008)

Claire Cressler's greatest emphasis was on realism and architectural form. During the 1980s, after his retirement, he began to observe and paint scenes of decay and demolition occurring in Akron. These works are a unique artistic expression of this period of decline.

# ARTWORK LOCATIONS

## FIRST FLOOR

### **Birth of Athena**

**Robert Morrow**

East wall near Science & Technology Division  
Page 14

### **Fragments of an American Dream**

**Jerry Domokur**

South wall, Science & Technology Division in map case area  
Page 25

### **Books and the Universe**

**Karen Swanson**

West wall, Science & Technology Division  
Page 25

### **Interior**

**William Schock**

West wall, Science & Technology Division  
Page 28

### **Untitled**

**Harold Kitner**

Quiet study room next to elevator  
Page 3

### **Vase of Daisies**

**Richard Kish**

Quiet study room closest to Main Street  
Page 15

### **The Thrift Shop**

**Ronald Taylor**

Far northwest corner by the windows on Main Street  
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## SECOND FLOOR

### **Library Sun**

**Don Drumm**

Paneled wall at entrance from parking deck  
Page 9

### **Thai Teak Elephant**

**Unknown Artist**

Corner of paneled area at entrance from parking deck  
Page 13

### **Garden Trio**

**Harry Wheeler**

West wall, corridor between High Street entrance and Popular Culture  
Page 21

### **Flock O' Birds**

**Leroy Flint**

Children's Library, above reference desk  
Page 18

### **Lion**

**Barbara Morrow**

Children's Library  
Page 8

### **Wood Things**

**Frances Robinson**

South wall of Audio Visual Services Division  
Page 4

### **Playmakers**

**Unknown Artist**

North wall by windows on Main Street  
Page 12

### **Untitled**

**Schneider**

Quiet study room

Page 11

### **Untitled**

**Schneider**

Quiet study room

Page 16

## HIGH STREET LEVEL

### **Ira Road**

**Marc Moon**

East wall of Meeting Room 3

Page 24

### **Untitled**

**David Muck**

South wall of Meeting Room 3

Page 8

### **Untitled**

**Edith Brown**

East Wall of Meeting Room 2AB

Page 11

### **Untitled**

**Edith Brown**

East wall of Meeting Room 2AB

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### **Sun Over a City**

**Will H. Collins**

Exterior walls of meeting rooms

Pages 22 & 23

### **Akron Arches**

**Claire Cressler**

Exterior walls outside meeting rooms

Page 28

### **End of an Era**

**(Quaker Oats)**

**Claire Cressler**

Exterior walls outside meeting rooms

Page 7

### **Floating Sun**

**Don Drumm**

Hung from ceiling outside Auditorium

Page 2

## THIRD FLOOR

### **View of Akron 1870**

**Albert Ruger**

North wall, Special Collections

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### **U.S.S. Akron Propeller**

South wall, Special Collections

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### **Photos of the U.S.S. Akron**

South wall, Special Collection

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### **Peninsula Quarry**

**Dan Rohn**

North wall above microfilm cabinets, Special Collections

Page 26

### **Picnic Table Under**

**Maple Tree \***

**Joseph O'Sickey**

Board Room

Page 13

### **Fields of Corn \***

**Barbara Griffith**

Board Room

Page 19

### **Weed Vases \***

**Fern Cole**

Board Room

Page 3

### **Branch Vases \***

**Miska Petersham**

Board Room

Page 20

### **Enter In**

**Sister Evangeline Doyle**

Administration reception area

Page 6

### **Untitled \***

**Martha Boyajin**

Meeting/interview room off Administration Reception area

Page 16

### **Four Seasons Circle Quilts \***

**Linda Leviton**

Wall of Staff Lounge

Page 17

### **Sunflower \***

**Barbara Morrow**

Outside wall of Staff Lounge

Page 26

### **Untitled \***

**Robert Davis**

Administration area

Page 6

### **Descent \***

**Mary Ellen McDermott**

Marketing Director's Office

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\* Areas not normally accessible to the public. Please contact the Akron-Summit County Main Library to schedule a visit to these areas.



60 S High Street • Akron, Ohio 44326  
330.643.9000 • [www.akronlibrary.org](http://www.akronlibrary.org)

Sources consulted for Articulation:

*Akron Beacon Journal* articles and obituaries; Akron-Summit County Public Library: *The Art and Architecture at the Main Library*, 1978; Library History collection and vertical files, Special Collections Division; Dietz, Margaret Neumann: *Akron's Library: Commemorating Twenty-Five Years on Main Street* (Akron, Ohio: Akron-Summit County Public Library), 1994