

DOOR COUNTY CONTEMPORARY

Door County's first Contemporary Art Fair.



Door County Contemporary Celebrates a Rousing First Year

Wisconsin's only contemporary art fair reports strong attendance, enthusiastic feedback, and over \$120,000 in art sales

Door County, WI — July 18, 2025 — The inaugural Door County Contemporary Art Fair, held June 5–8, 2025, marked a groundbreaking moment for the Midwest art scene. Drawing artists, galleries, and guests from across the region and the country, the fair transformed the Peninsula School of Art into a vibrant nexus of creativity, connection, and commerce.



Following weeks of post-event data collection, interviews, and feedback from attendees, presenters, galleries, and critics, Door County Contemporary is thrilled to announce the resounding success of its first year. With over 3,400 guests in attendance and 20 exhibiting galleries from across the Midwest, the fair delivered a dynamic and inclusive celebration of contemporary art. From painters and sculptors to photographers, print-makers, and mixed-media innovators, the fair showcased a rich tapestry of artistic expression. Attendees also enjoyed a robust schedule of public programs, panel discussions, and artist talks, sparking conversations and forging relationships between artists, collectors, curators, and art enthusiasts.



The event generated over \$120,000 in art sales, a powerful testament to the growing support for a creative economy in the Midwest. “Gallery participants shared a commitment to art of the region, to cosmopolitanism and rurality. The result was a production that was opposite of the market-driven, doctrinal spectacle of large art fairs whose competitiveness and exclusivity precludes place and congeniality, opting instead for ‘arcade frenzy,’”

— Paul Krainak, Bad at Sports

This overwhelmingly positive reception reinforces the vision of Door County Contemporary: to cultivate a grounded, welcoming, and high-caliber alternative to the standard art fair model.

Save the Date: 2026



INFO@DOORCOUNTYCONTEMPORARY.COM

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK JUAREZ
AND XO ME STUDIO

Building on this momentum, Door County Contemporary will return June 4–7, 2026, once again hosted at the Peninsula School of Art in Fish Creek, WI. For more information on how to participate, contribute, or stay connected with programming updates, please visit www.doorcountycontemporary.com or contact us at info@doorcountycontemporary.com.

DOOR COUNTY CONTEMPORARY



Jaymee
Harvey
Willms

Chief
Operations
and
Experience
Officer

Jaymee Harvey Willms (Milwaukee) was born and raised in Minnesota. She received her BFA in painting and art history from the University of South Dakota and went on to graduate from SUNY Albany with her MFA in sculpture. She has had international residencies, shows her work across the United States.



Josh Hintz

Chief
Finance and
Engineering
Officer

Josh Hintz is the owner & director of Var Gallery & Var Studios. Var Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located in the Walker's Point neighborhood of Milwaukee, Wisconsin with two locations on 2nd and 5th Street. Var Studios houses 74 Milwaukee-based artists at both locations. The gallery was founded by Josh Hintz in 2013, and today thrives as a center point for Milwaukee's visual arts community.



Shane
McAdams

Chief Officer
of Innovation
and Curation

Shane McAdams is artist, writer, curator, and educator. He has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design and Marian University. He is a three-time Creative Capital, Andy Warhol Writer's Grant finalist, and his writing appeared regularly in the Brooklyn Rail, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and writes for the Shepherd Express. He is the current Curator-in-Residence at Saint Kate in Milwaukee. In addition to writing, painting, and curating, he is also a partner in REAL TINSEL, an art space on the Southside of Milwaukee.



Shane Walsh

Chief Officer
of Strategy
and
Oversight

Shane Walsh is an artist and instructor. He received his MFA from the University of Washington-Seattle and presently teaches painting and drawing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, splitting his time between his studios in Milwaukee and New York City. Represented by Asya Geisberg Gallery in New York and The Alice Wilds in Milwaukee, he has shown work in solo and group shows at galleries and museums in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle and many others.



Linda Marcus

Linda b. Marcus, Los Angeles, California is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Drawing on her long history as a storyteller in journalism and fashion, Marcus focuses on fiber and sculpture. Her work is centered on the body, memory, identity and domesticity. Marcus is a self-taught artist. She is currently pursuing a master's degree at The School of the Art Institute. She also has a master's degree in journalism and philosophy from Marquette University in 2004 and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1983. Marcus's work has been exhibited widely in Wisconsin at several museums as well as numerous galleries across the country and in several publications. Currently, Marcus is a writer for Artdose Magazine and creative director and co-creator of the Saint Kate Arts hotel in Milwaukee Wisconsin.



Tom Lacy

Tom Lacy is a member of Baird's Investment Banking Group, managing the firm's relationships with a number of leading private equity firms. During 2000, Tom was based in Baird's London office. Prior to joining Baird in 1997, Tom was a Financial Analyst with Goldman, Sachs & Co., received an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and received a B.A. from Boston College. Tom is a Trustee of the Milwaukee Art Museum, serving on its Art Selection Committee. He has also active with number of Episcopal charities in Wisconsin. He and his wife Jane reside in Milwaukee and Tampa and have two children, Cat (18) and Marcus (15).



John Shannon

John Shannon is the Managing Director of Guardian Fine Art Services. He also serves as the Co-Director of the Warehouse Art Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Marlu Knode

Marilu Knode is an independent curatorial consultant who works with non-profit organizations, public art programs, artists, architects and collectors. She is currently writing Strive, a 40+ year history of the Jones Studio, Phoenix, one of the country's most engaging practices pioneering a sustainable architecture of place.



Laurie Winters

Laurie Winters is the James and Karen Hyde Executive Director of the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Under her leadership, MOWA has evolved from a local community gallery into a vibrant hub for contemporary art and artists, socially relevant exhibitions, and pioneering member initiatives. MOWA attracts more than 225,000 visitors annually to its West Bend and satellite locations throughout the state.

DOOR COUNTY CONTEMPORARY

