

community art collection



being seen

MATC Community Art Collection 2023-24





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Being Seen showcases the fourth year of development for the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Community Art Collection. MATC is thrilled to continue this important work of breaking down barriers that stand between students and their academic and career success, including by providing a safe space where differences are valued and celebrated. The works selected for the fourth round were designed to be located at all campus locations, with the focus on the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square and West Allis Campus. MATC continues to celebrate and recognize our shared history and diversity in the display of art created by students, alumni, and community members. *Being Seen* offers us a glimpse into the lives, hearts, souls, and minds of these artists. Join us in celebrating this community connection.

MISSION

Education that transforms lives, industry, and community

VISION

The best choice in education, where everyone can succeed

VALUES

Empowerment: We support our students and employees with the skills, tools, and autonomy to succeed

Inclusion: We provide a fair and welcoming environment where all voices are heard and where all students and employees feel a sense of belonging

Innovation: We are agile and responsive to changing conditions, while anticipating future needs to best serve our students and communities

Integrity: We demonstrate honesty, professionalism, and accountability in all interactions with our students, each other, and our community partners

Respect: We approach all interactions with openness and empathy, value different perspectives, and treat each other with civility and kindness

© 2024

2023-24

Community Art Committee
members

Julie Ashlock
Mark Boergers
Equan Burrows
Micaela Erickson
Melissa Hartley Omholt
Kris Johnson
Laurie Kohel
Nakeysha Roberts Washington
Mike Sittle
Lourdes Stehling
Gerald Trotter
Drew Van Wyk
Carol Voss
Erich Zeilmantz

A special thanks goes out to our collaborative partners at Walker's Square: Annette Velez, Isa Reyes and Marcel Howard; our partners at the West Allis Campus: Megan Cary, Sophia Williams, Jamie Hollins and Oleta Brown; and to the entire Marketing and Communications department, especially Timothy Evans and Darryll Fortune; the Printing Services team, especially Dana Cooper-Davis, as well as the Facilities, Planning, Sustainability & Construction team. None of this would have been possible without your contributions and collaborative energy.

At MATC, mattering means **being seen, heard, and valued**. It's about creating an environment where every student feels their **presence, experiences, and contributions** are significant to our community. Mattering is when students know they **belong**, their **success** matters, and the college actively **invests in their growth and well-being**.

What does it mean to feel seen? It means we matter; we're **not forgotten or left out**. Visual art provides a means for being seen in more **abstract** ways. **Feelings, sensations**, or other, often **indescribable emotions** can be shared with symbols, brushstrokes and choices in medium or scale. Engaging with this art allows us to dance between an **internal and external world** where we can relate with one another on a more ethereal level.

The experience of feeling seen is an amazing feeling of **connectedness to one another**. It is a moment when **trust can flourish**. We let go of what we "think" we know about someone or something. We allow those beliefs, expectations and assumptions to be released so that we can **experience someone for who they truly are**. We give them space, **celebrate their gifts**, and value them as their authentic selves.

In our fourth round of building our Community Art Collection at MATC, we have reached another milestone where we have brought the student voice to the **West Allis Campus** and **Walker's Square**. Now, after four years, **all four MATC campuses and Walker's Square have art** on the walls of their halls and common spaces that represent our community. With an emphasis on art created by students, alumni, staff, faculty, or by artists within our community, we are providing **an environment** where **all can be seen** to matter and can **feel like they belong**.

Dr. Julie Ashlock
Co-Chair, Community Art Committee
Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

Melissa Hartley Omholt
Co-Chair, Community Art Committee
Faculty, Art

beingseen



Studio Days, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
Gabrielle Tesfaye (Jamaican Tigrayan American, born 1995)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.26



GABRIELLE TEFAYE

Artist

This painting represents the focused and creative flow artists and creatives enter when captivated by their work. The people represented in the painting reflect the multicultural study body of MATC, the diverse creative mind and subject matter. The golden and white accents floating throughout the piece, connecting the two students, are a visual depiction of the creative energy that exists in educational settings and studios, the exchange of ideas and support. Seeing a visually painted representation of expression, creating, and practice, reflects the daily life of students. I hope this painting supports MATC students as they embark on their day, heading to classes, and, at times, dealing with stressful college life.



HERMAN TAYLOR

Artist

Known as Humbo (childhood nickname) by family, personal friends and the art community, I am an artist whose technique and style consist of the composition of bright, radiant color combinations, primary and intermediate blends, and line patterns that sometimes create illusions.

My art and creativity define my purpose. It tells my story of a lifelong mental, physical and spiritual journey — simply meaning a quest to maintain a balance in my life journey. I would like my works to be appreciated and viewed in a manner much like music — to reduce stress and provide a sense of harmony, peaceful balance, meditation and reflection.



Zimai II, 2022

White acid-free paper, oil-based cray-pas, oil-based pastels, coloring pencils, pencils, crystal clear protective coating

Herman Taylor (American, born 1950)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.19

The inspiration for this piece was my five-year-old grandson.



Harmony, 2024

White acid-free paper, oil-based cray-pas, oil-based pastels, coloring pencils, pencils, crystal clear protective coating

Herman Taylor (American, born 1950)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.20

This work speaks of ideas of diversity misunderstood. There's harmony in the natural law of diversity (beauty/order). Eye see you.

Competition, 2024

White acid-free paper, oil-based cray-pas, oil-based pastels, coloring pencils, pencils, crystal clear protective coating

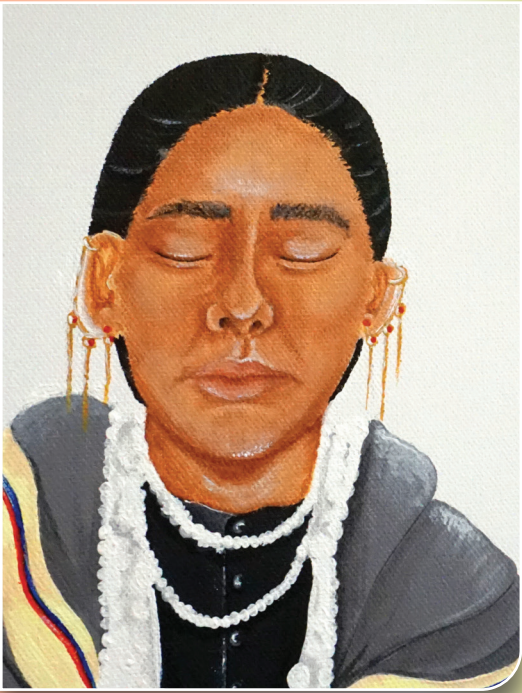
Herman Taylor (American, born 1950)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.18

The inspiration for this piece was the 2024 Olympic Games. People are competitive souls and spirits in every aspect of the life journey. The 2024 Olympic Games were an event where nations met to put on a display of healthy competitions.

beingseen

walker's square



ALI LOWRY

Artist

When Ireland suffered a famine, the Native American Choctaw Nation sent food and other supplies to our island to help stop the spread of hunger. Since then, the Native American community and Ireland have created a strong bond. In doing this piece, I wanted to uplift a community that is so significant in the history of Wisconsin and that has impacted my own country in so many ways.

The monarch butterfly struggles to survive because people do not know how to look after them. They do, however, thrive on some prairies because of the plants that grow there. This piece is personal to me because it reflects my family and my connections to my culture and country, and highlights a community of people that have impacted the city of Milwaukee and my life.

The Monarch, 2024

Acrylic on canvas
Ali Lowry (Irish, born 1996)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.14



INDIE LA LONDE

Artist

I work in the realm of abstraction, exploring patternmaking, texture, symmetry, color and light through a variety of mediums. Using symmetry as a language to represent balance in my work, my compositions often possess a metaphorical and visual center that drives an expression of harmony. My work explores how the form, light and color of an environment direct a piece toward its own objective. As such, I'm often commissioned to create custom pieces for private residential and commercial interiors. My complementary studio work is prolific and personal, having maintained a consistent art-making practice for most of my life.



Lately, I've been exploring a series of multimedia works starting from a darker (even black) background and building light from darkness through layering and collage. Although it's traditionally taught to move from light to dark in painting, I utilize the light from the original photos to give contrast. Usually gravitating toward bolder and worldlier subject matters, the images are acquired, selected and then organized into different projects. Applying found imagery to my paintings allows collaboration with the original images, informing and directing my active mark-making.

Showtimes, 2023

Photo collage and acrylic on paper
Indie La Londe (American, born 1992)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.16

west allis campus

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AJ WEILAND

Artist

I am an artist whose passion and appreciation for creativity extends beyond just the mediums we are able to see and feel. Audio, I feel, is an artform that is heavily utilized yet often left at the back of our minds in favor of the visuals they frequently accompany. But take this as a reminder to stop and listen — truly listen. Take in all of the art that surrounds you.



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Sound Surrounds, 2024

Acrylic on canvas
AJ Weiland (American, born 1998)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.9

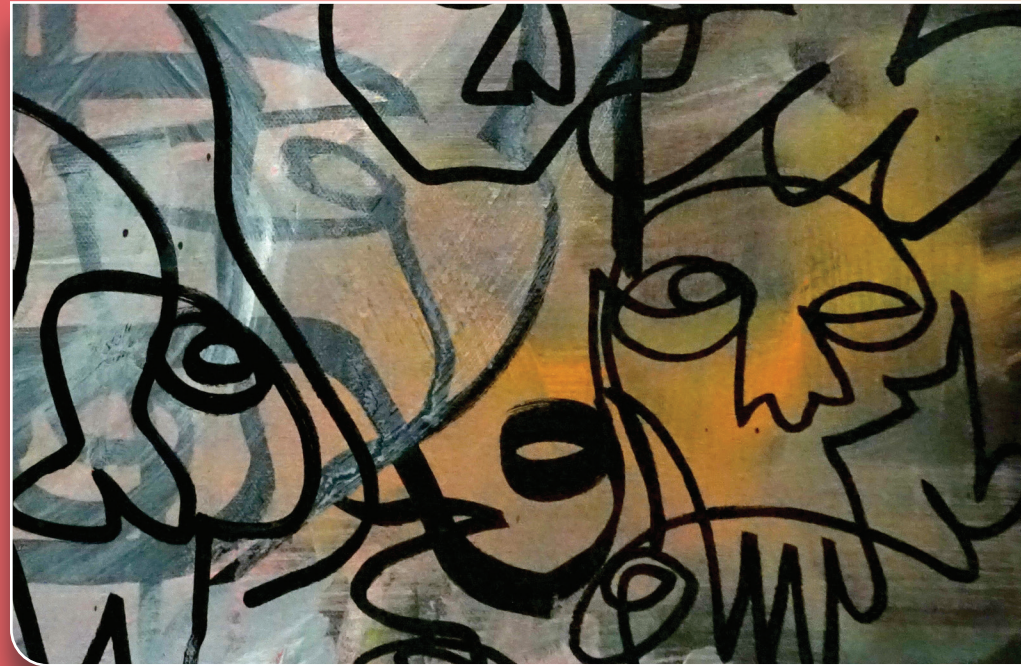




KEVIN BOATRIGHT

Artist

I grew up in Milwaukee and studied at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. I love creating gritty, straightforward paintings with urban echoes. I focus on spontaneity and directness of application. I am also concerned with capturing and showing the existence of spirit and interior emotional realities by portraying an unparalleled emotional darkness. I am also concerned with capturing and showing the existence of spirit. I focus on exploring the human condition and its inner emotional paradoxes through the abstraction of figure and field.



The Man Who Watches the Others Wait, 2019

Acrylic on canvas
Kevin Boatright (American, born 1982)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2022 Community Arts Committee),
2022.11

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west allis campus



ROSEMARY OLLISON

Artist

FERTILIZATION OF MY CREATIVE IMAGINATION POEM:

At 82 years young, I feel like a red rose in full bloom
My heart and mind flourish, and my very soul thrives
My development is evidence and my spirit is ablaze
My life is full of color
My creations and my surroundings mirror the bright and
colorful individual God has transformed me into
God has indeed put me in a safe place!
As I take a journey into my dark past I am in awe with
the beauty that God transmits through me
All to be enjoyed by the world I had my start as
a tiny seed planted in dark rich soil
My Heavenly Father cultivated and fertilized me
causing me to grow
My roots are deep
My blossoms are many
My light is as bright as a star on a clear night
God's love is so thick around me
I can cut it with a knife



Untitled (Meandering Soul), 2021

Repurposed leather, cloth,
alcohol pen and fabric paint
Rosemary Ollison (American, born 1942)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.15

west allis campus

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SASHA KINENS

Artist

This contemporary portrait, set in our Wisconsin landscape, is similar to that of my homeland. Latvian heritage weaves its way into my paintings through environment, characters and expression. As members of civically active families, my parents fled Soviet occupation and escaped certain persecution or death. Growing up in the Latvian community assisted in providing identity and inclusion. I strive to capture emotion through observation without saying a word, connecting with the viewer by revealing the subject's feelings and life journey.

My work as an art therapist helps my sitters reveal themselves through photography, capturing a thought-provoking moment and vulnerability. That instant is captured in perpetuity through my transition from a charcoal drawing directly on board, to oil laden brushes, and finally layers of glaze in transparent medium. Informed by classical realism and influenced by symbolism, my work punctures today's society. It asks for a break. My adherence to classic style and technique is a quixotic attempt to slow the world of the viewer, if only for a moment, and to see the dignity and struggle of simple characters who are heroic.

Freedom of Thought, 2024

Oil on board
Sasha Kinens (American, born 1972)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.13



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Rooted in Pride, 2024

Acrylic on hardboard
Rozalia Hernandez-Singh (American)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.17

walker's square

Milwaukee Area Technical College **Community Art Collection**



ROZALIA HERNANDEZ-SINGH

Artist

Representation is everything, so painting these two people of my Latino raza was pure joy. People are my favorite subject in nature because their faces tell a story.

In this piece, I want to show humanity in a state of raw emotion reflecting on a moment. This moment of pride, when we remember our ancestors, led us to where we are today. We remember their perseverance and strength in the face of adversity. Remembering our roots with pride reminds us that our ancestors defied the odds. We, too, can defy the odds; resiliency is in our blood.

The bold nature motifs of vibrant florals and leaves were taken from Indigenous art, primarily from Mexican textiles. However, variants of these symbolic motifs, including the diamond shapes, are seen in Central and South America and Indigenous Africa and Asia. I've also included petroglyphs from Taino art, which are native in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Virgin Islands.

Overall, the message is one of inspiration, transformation and prosperity rooted in our connection to nature, our ancestors, our community and life.



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CLARISSA FRIDAY

Artist

This series was created to document some of the dance categories you would experience during a powwow. I only remember attending one powwow annually as a child, but as an adult, I have been to many powwows throughout Wisconsin. Throughout the year, it is a place I travel to, to connect, to watch, to learn, to grow. While this series highlights only five categories, there are more within the powwow: singers, drummers, vendors, spectators, emcee's families, friends. Most powwows are open to the public. If you want to see them in action, you might find one right here in Milwaukee.

downtown milwaukee campus

If you want to see more or follow my travels:



From left to right:

- Andrew Reyes Ynnocencio, Men's Traditional, Menominee
- Ira Frank, Men's Woodland, Forest County Potawatomi
- Tia Menore, Women's Applique, Menominee and Ho-chunk
- Yokalasha Danforth, Women's Smoke Dance, Oneida
- Jayla Frank, Girls' Woodland, Forest County Potawatomi
- O'Koyah Skenandore, Boys' Smoke Dance, Oneida

The rest of the series can be seen at the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square.



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Dance Your Style, 2024

Digital Inkjet Prints
Clarissa Friday
(Enrolled member of Forest County Potawatomi
and descendent of the Ho-Chunk Nation, born 1985)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.21-.25

From left to right:

Shane Brendo Funmaker, Men's Traditional, Ho-Chunk
Oaklyn St John, Women's Jingle, Ho-Chunk
Ambrose Day-bedeau, Men's Grass dance, Oneida, Ojibwe and Diné
Robert LaTender, Boy's Fancy, Menominee
Evangaline Friday, Girl's Fancy, Oneida, Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi

The rest of the series can be seen at the MATC Downtown Milwaukee Campus.

If you want to see more or
follow my travels:



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Artist

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If you want to see them in action, you might find one right here in Milwaukee.



CHRISTIAN SIS

Artist

One of our highest desires is self-actualization —
closing the gap between our dreams and our reality.

Education bestows the skills, tools and autonomy to
create a future that is more compelling than the past.

"Your greatest self has been waiting your whole life;
don't make it wait any longer." — Steve Maraboli

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Fields of Promise, 2024

Acrylic on canvas
Christian Sis (American, born 1990)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.10.1-.3

mequon campus



ZION BULLOCK

Artist

This piece is a part of a series that represents a chapter of my life when I was discovering my own identity and expressing the colorful confusions it brought forth. Each painting is a cultural representation of elements I hold important to me. The *Butterfly*, my grandmother's favorite piece, represents rebirth after isolating oneself to find and express one's most authentic self. Other pieces in the series were donated to people and organizations close to my heart.



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As I have grown into adulthood, my mission has been to answer my artistic calling. In the trial and error of my pursuits, my purpose was revealed — to create creative platforms for Black and Brown cultures to educate, explore and express themselves authentically. In 2021, I created Crossing Circles (XCS), an art production company that curates physical and digital experiences for the education, expression and exploration of Black and Brown cultures.

Butterfly, 2021-2024

Acrylic and glitter on canvas
Zion Bullock (American, born 1999)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.11



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PAUL BOBROWITZ

Artist

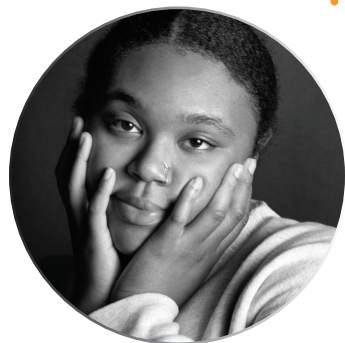
This large, rusted metal sculpture depicts an individual participating in the wonders of “global reach” through technology. My intention is to create metal sculptures that stimulate conversation and evoke an emotional response. I am profoundly influenced by the lines found in nature and frequently incorporate found objects of a biomorphic nature or geometric shape to create my artwork. I work primarily in mild steel — stainless and aluminum — also utilizing copper, bronze, corten steel, concrete, bone, glass, stone, plastic and wood.

Global Reach, 2023

Found and fabricated metal
Paul Bobrowitz (American, born 1950)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.12

mequon campus



CIERRA PLESHETTE

Artist

I am a current student at MATC in the Photography program. As early as I can remember, photography has always been a part of my life. I would sit on the couch and flip through family photo albums for hours, admiring my family members and the snapshots of their lives before I knew them. I always found photographs interesting as they are moments frozen in time. I have a background in child care and healthcare, specifically infant, toddler and the elderly with dementia, PTSD and anxiety. My background with children and the elderly allows me to have great compassion, empathy and understanding when it comes to using the medium of photography to help share people's stories and experiences.



It is my prayer that when you view this series, you feel at home in some way, for we all have an elder we love dearly.

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This photo series documents my 82-year-old grandmother, Rosetta or Rose. I have been her personal caregiver for the past four years and have had the honor to be by her side as she goes through the process of aging with dementia. I am allowed to witness her realizations of being older physically and her acceptance of her memory fading. It is bittersweet watching Grandma Rose essentially become childlike. Bittersweet because she has grown a great sense of humor through it all, but now I care for her as she once cared for me when I was a child.

I also emotionally support and care for my mother during this time as she watches her mother age and her memory fade. It isn't easy, but we lean on one another. The intention behind this project was to document Grandma Rose as she exists now and to honor her while she is still here with us. I am a firm believer in honoring my elders because if they did not live their lives we would not be here!

Once a Woman Twice a Girl, Featuring Grandma Rose, 2024

Digital Inkjet Prints
Cierra Pleshette (American, born 1998)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.8.1-7



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The Tiles, 2024

Painted ceramic tiles mounted to wood
Yuliia Shevtsova (German Ukrainian, born 1994)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.27

Tiles (from upper left to lower right):

1. Mexican (Latin American)
2. Native North American
3. Arabic (Middle Eastern)
4. Polynesian (Oceanic)
5. Ukrainian (Eastern European)
6. Eastern Asian (Korean, Japanese)
7. African
8. Scandinavian
9. Indian (Central Asian)
10. Eastern Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese)
11. Western European (German, Austrian)
12. Contemporary American/Art Deco



YULIIA SHEVTSOVA

Artist

I'm a graphic designer and artist. My work is influenced by the rich, cultural tapestry of my German Ukrainian heritage, which I strive to incorporate into modern design and art. I enjoy exploring the intersection of traditional and contemporary aesthetics and finding ways to tell captivating stories through visuals.

To acknowledge and celebrate our differences in tenacious unity, I've created a piece that collectively depicts a holistic picture. Each tile showcases traditional patterns from various corners of the world, undergoing transformation influenced by adjacent nations, new discoveries and human evolution. The tiles are specifically designed not only to represent one particular country per tile but also to serve as a more general interpretation of cultures transitioning into each other and sharing similar traits.

walker's square



MELISSA DORN

Artist

Power Cape is part of a series of works I've done exploring the issues of labor and feminism. This investigation has led me on a journey into myself, working through my own history and outwardly through historical research and community engagement. In this work, I'm interested in the way we utilize clothing to provide comfort or project who we are or want to be. Its abstraction leaves room for interpretation and a journey of one's own. Could Power Cape provide both comfort and power?



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Power Cape, 2023

Mop, acrylic paint, canvas, fabric, foam
Melissa Dorn (American, born 1967)

Milwaukee Area Technical College,
Purchase (2023 Community Arts Committee),
2023.1

downtown milwaukee campus

Would you like to collaborate with the MATC Community Art Committee?

To contact us, please email communityart@matc.edu

Want to dive deeper into MATC's Community Art Collection?

<https://www.matc.edu/community/index.html>

Milwaukee Area Technical College

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MATC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and complies with all requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. MATC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, the national standard in accrediting colleges and schools for distinction in academics and student services.





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