

Woodson Art Museum names 2016 Master Artist



Keith Uhlig, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 9:44 p.m. CST February 19, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy of Woodson Art Museum)



WAUSAU - The Woodson Art Museum has named a Western Michigan University professor as its 2016 Master Artist.

Karen Bondarchuk, an artist who works in a variety of mediums, including charcoal drawing and sculpting with tire rubber, will receive the Master Wildlife Artist Medal during the opening weekend of the Woodson's 41st annual; "Birds in Art" exhibition in September, according to a Woodson press release. Bondarchuk is the 35th artist to be honored as the museum's Master Wildlife Artist.

"Karen is an artist of exceptional talent, originality and profound thought, whose diverse, yet focused, body of work comes from an academic tradition," said Kathy Kelsey Foley, Woodson director.

Bondarchuk has produced "magnificent" drawings of birds in the crow family, works that delve into the questions of language and animal-human communication, Foley said. The artist also produces sculptures created using scraps from tires that were salvaged from the sides of highways, raising "timely and thoughtful environmental questions," Foley said.

Judging panels have selected Bondarchuk's work for "Birds in Art" seven times since 2008, her first year in the exhibition.

Being named as 2016 Master Artist gave Bondarchuk "a sense of surprise bordering on disbelief, given that I see so many other wonderful artists around me whenever I attend the opening of 'Birds in Art' at the Woodson. ... Without question, I am deeply flattered," she said. "The work we do as artists is largely a solitary pursuit, meaning that the art is often created in a vacuum, and yet receiving feedback from the outside is an important element in substantiating what we do."

Log on to www.lywam.org to learn more about Bondarchuk and her work.