

Wanda Sigafus
Artist Statement
May 2021

This piece, "Lost Bloom", was inspired by the phone of the wind in Japan, established after the tsunami in 2011, to ease the grief of those who lost loved ones in the tragedy. A phone booth with an unconnected phone, along with a notebook to write in, were set up on a hill for survivors to write notes to their deceased, or talk to them symbolically on the phone to ease profound suffering. I found it equally beautiful and painful, and with so much loss and disconnection worldwide due to the pandemic, that feeling of emptiness, loss and grief were spread across the planet. Even in death and grief, the wind, sun, weather, and creatures of earth continue on.

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Work

Freelance Artist

Illinois, 1990-1999

Various dates from 1990 on, regarding group and solo art shows around the Midwest. First solo show, "*Strange Scenes*", at the Douglass Art School in Murphysboro, Illinois, 1999, showcasing large 2-D canvases in acrylic and oil. Subsequent solo shows in Chicago and Southern Illinois.

Concrete Finisher, Installation Specialist, Special Projects

Spirit Ridge Concrete, Houston, TX, 2000

Worked for a year at a custom concrete countertop manufacturer, mixing color for pours and portland for both utility and decorative effect. Performed decorative finishes post-installation, matching the product to the clients individual eye and artistic taste.

Artist In Residence, Mural Painter, Lead Maintenance/permanent house folk art collection

House Of Blues, Chicago, Ill., 2002-2006

Originally hired as a temporary mural installation artist and kept on to perform multiple artistic tasks in house, including maintenance, inventory and repair of large folk art collection. Single-handedly implemented and finished a large painting project for the theater's Foundation Room space, painting and gilding the ceiling. Use of multiple mediums and materials to achieve desired effects (paints, textures, glazes, leafing, etc.) Repainted the public-facing (FOH) retail store under deadline. Performed constant repair/touch-up work throughout the venue.

Freelance Artist, Seasonal Art Instructor

Various locations and events in the Eugene/Springfield area, 2013-2018

Various group shows through Emerald Arts, including 2nd place in Springfield's inaugural chalk art competition, and receiving the Director's Award in 2016 Springfield Mayor's Art Show for a large pen and ink piece. Worked for a season as an art instructor for a Saturday art class for elementary-aged students.