

Anne Labovitz

WATER STORIES

Minnesota Marine Art Museum

September 30 – January 22, 2023

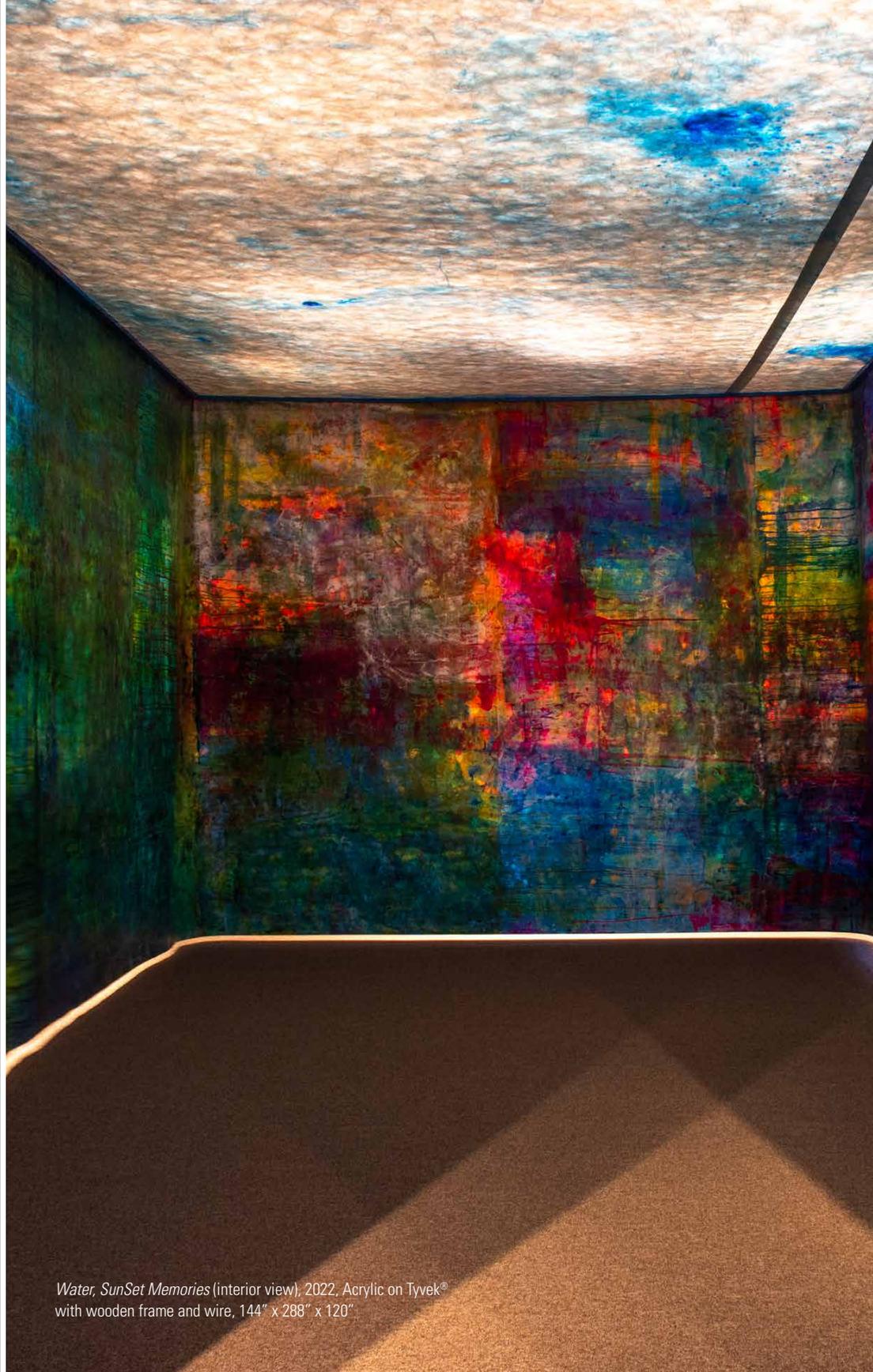
FROM THE MMAM DIRECTOR

Anne Labovitz reminds us how powerful art can be. While the Chagalls, Picassos, O'Keeffes and Monets will remain a central part of MMAM's DNA, Labovitz's brilliant and powerful abstract works will be what our next generation visitors remember. They will remember the way the light shifted, as it does in the reflective surfaces of water, when they walked past Labovitz's powerful *Water Works* series. They will remember the meditative yet haunting sounds of waves lapping on the shore while they stood in awe of *Water, SunSet Memories*. And maybe most importantly they will remember the invitation they received from Labovitz to share their own water memories and leave them for others to experience in the museum galleries.

Not only is the artist masterfully playing with the same horizon line as George Morrison did or peeling back the emotive layers of color in the same way Helen Frankenthaler did, Labovitz reminds us to honor the elusive nature of water and how the mystery and power of it connects us in ways seemingly unthinkable.

The exhibition underscores the vision for the MMAM, which is to engage visitors and the community with great art inspired by water.

— Scott Pollock, Executive Director
Minnesota Marine Art Museum



Water, SunSet Memories (interior view), 2022. Acrylic on Tyvek®
with wooden frame and wire, 144" x 288" x 120"



Water, SunSet Memories, 2022, Acrylic on Tyvek®
with wooden frame and wire, 144" x 288" x 120"



ARTIST REFLECTIONS

Bodies of water are meditative and offer essential, urgent restorative qualities that provide respite, refuge, and regeneration. The works in *Water Stories* examine water in different visual manifestations—highlighting its powerful and mesmerizing presence. The exhibition includes an immersive room installation with audio, nine paintings, artist's books, and a public participatory section.

Bodies of water have been a consistent theme in my artist praxis. For me, water has different iterations, components that are strong, loud, moving, and ever changing; mesmerizing, contemplative, engulfing, powerful; and provides a place for contemplation, solace, peace, and reflective moments of rigorous problem solving.

The color-filled room entitled *Water, SunSet Memories*, is an installation and experiential site, evoking memories and creating an immersive experience. The installation has a durational, performative quality, marking time, place, space, and experience. Physically, the public is immersed and becomes integral to the work. Visitors activate the installation through their movement, gently swaying the walls of the room mimicking the slight movement of calm water. Audio located inside *Water, SunSet Memories* was recorded at sunrise on the shores of Lake Superior. The soundscape connects to memory and place and was created in collaboration with author and musician Bill Gamble and jazz musician Benny Weinbeck.

The nine color field paintings embody the physicality of reflection through tonality, focusing on the water's surface quality and luminosity. The horizon line disappears as I prioritize a conceptual approach to water through the shimmering iridescent color created with over 300 tissue thin layers of paint.

The 96 artist's books were created over a period of two years during travels to various sites with bodies of water, including Lake Superior, Duluth, Venice, Italy, and San Diego, California.

A public participatory invitation is offered for audiences to engage in their own water story on artist-prepared paper. The key prompt is: "What does water mean to you?"

It is my hope that this body of work provides a place for discovery, delight, contemplation, and meditation on and about water.

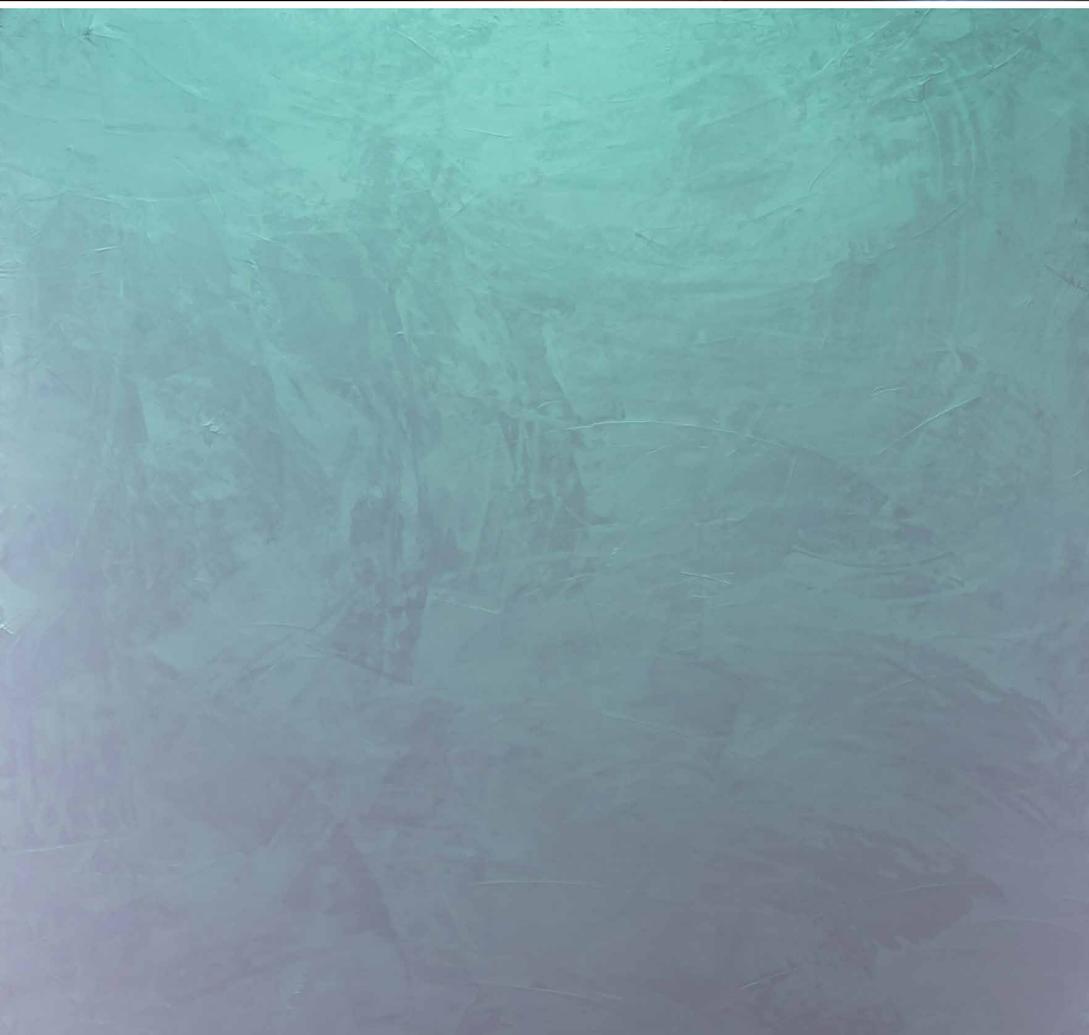


ARTIST BIO

Anne Labovitz lives and works in St. Paul, MN. Notable solo exhibitions include University of Raparin, Rania, Iraqi Kurdistan; Växjö Kunsthall, Växjö, Sweden; Petrozavodsk City Exhibition Hall, Petrozavodsk, Russia; Isumi City Hall, Isumi City, Japan; MSP Terminal 2, Minneapolis, MN; MSP Terminal 1, Minneapolis, MN; Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay, Canada; Burnet Gallery, Le Méridien Chambers in Minneapolis; Tweed Museum, Duluth, MN; The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, La Jolla, CA; Cray Art Gallery, Warren, PA; Chapman Art Center at Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, New York.

Labovitz's artwork can be found in the following public collections: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport; Minnesota Museum of American Art; The Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth, MN; The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, La Jolla, CA; Frederick R Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Historical Society; International Gallery of Portrait, in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Växjö Kommun, City of Vaxjo, Sweden; Isumi City Offices, Isumi City Japan; University of Raparin, Rania Iraqi Kurdistan; and the City of Petrozavodsk, Petrozavodsk, Russia.

Upcoming solo exhibitions include, *The Nexus of Well Being and Art*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN (2023); The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, La Jolla, CA (2023), Minnesota State Capitol (2024).



ABOVE:
Installation view

LEFT:
Water Works IV, 2022,
Acrylic on canvas, 60"x 60"



ABOVE:

Bassano del Grappa I, 2022, artist books, watercolor on Rives BFK,
9" (w) x 2 3/4" (d) x 3" (h) each

COVER:

Water Works IX, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 60" x 60"



annelabovitz@gmail.com
labovitz.com

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ART MUSEUM

L A K E
AND COMPANY

W Merchants
Bank



This activity is made possible by the voters
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