

# Colleen Gunderson

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Colleen Gunderson is an award-winning photographer best known for her images of the natural world. Originally from Milwaukee, she currently resides in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Happiest by the water, she is either planning — or enjoying — a visit to a lake.

Her process begins as meditative, rooted in a generational appreciation for nature and art. Time spent on regular walks through the woods during childhood is foundational to her practice. Visits to Door County art studios, while she was growing up, had a formative influence on her work.

The photographic images she creates are intuitive, exploring themes such as connection and understated beauty. Birds, branches, sky, and water frequently help tell the story. Highlighting a few elements at a time seeks to draw out the poetic within the everyday. Archival pigment-based ink and 100% cotton rag fiber paper provide rich depth and texture to the finished prints.

## Selected Exhibitions and Awards

2023 *Art of Water VII*. James May Gallery. Milwaukee WI

Curator: Kendra Bulgrin, owner and director, James May Gallery

2023 *Perspectives*. Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts. Fond du Lac WI

Jurors: Debra Brehmer, owner and director, Portrait Society Gallery of Contemporary Art, Milwaukee WI and Leslie Iwai, installation artist and sculptor, Middleton WI

2022 *Mother | Nature*. Alverno College Art and Cultures Gallery. Milwaukee WI

Jurors: Wisconsin Visual Artists members

2019 *Art of Water III*. James May Gallery. Algoma WI

Curator: Kendra Bulgrin, owner and director, James May Gallery

2018 *The Hal Prize*. Peninsula Publishing & Distribution. Baileys Harbor WI

**(Honorable Mention)** Judge: Carl Corey; photographer, Guggenheim Fellow, author; River Falls WI

2016 *All About Trees*. Riverfront Arts Center. Stevens Point WI

Curator: Rachel Widner, director, Riverfront Arts Center

2016 *26th Annual Midwest Seasons*. Center for the Visual Arts. Wausau WI

Juror: Diane Canfield Bywaters, professor of art, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

2015 *25th Annual Midwest Seasons*. Center for the Visual Arts. Wausau WI

Juror: Helen Klebesadel, director of the Wisconsin Regional Art Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison

2014 *Visions XVI*. Riverfront Arts Center. Stevens Point WI

**(Honorable Mention)** Juror: Susan Morrison, professor of art, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

- 2014 *CoPA: The People in Your Neighborhood*. Museum of Wisconsin Art. West Bend WI  
Juror: Graeme Reid, director of collections and exhibitions, Museum of Wisconsin Art
- 2013 *CoPA 7th Annual Midwest Juried Exhibition*. Walker's Point Center for the Arts. Milwaukee WI  
Juror: Karen Irvine, chief curator and deputy director, Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, Chicago IL
- 2013 **Four-person exhibition**. *The Spring City Fine Art Photographers Show*. Studio 723. Waukesha WI
- 2013 *Visions XV*. Riverfront Arts Center. Stevens Point WI  
**(Honorable Mention)** Juror: Daniel John O'Neal, artist, Stevens Point WI
- 2012 *CoPA 6th Annual Midwest Juried Exhibition*. Walker's Point Center for the Arts. Milwaukee WI  
**(First Place Award)**  
Jurors: Graeme Reid, director of collections and exhibitions, Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend WI and Annemarie Sawkins, PhD; independent curator, art historian, art consultant; Milwaukee WI
- 2012 *Visions XIV*. Riverfront Arts Center. Stevens Point WI  
Juror: Diana K. B. Hoover, professor of graphic design, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

## Selected Bibliography

- 2023 *Perspectives 2023*. Wisconsin Visual Artists. ([catalog](#))
- 2022 *Mother | Nature at Alverno College*. Wisconsin Visual Artists. ([catalog](#))
- 2018 *The Hal Prize*. Peninsula Publishing & Distribution. ([annual publication](#))
- 2013 *7th Annual Midwest Juried Exhibition*. Coalition of Photographic Arts. ([catalog](#))
- 2012 *CoPA's sixth annual juried show at Walker's Point*. Urban Milwaukee. ([review](#))
- 2012 *6th Annual Midwest Juried Exhibition*. Coalition of Photographic Arts. ([catalog](#))
- 2011 *Capture Wisconsin: Wisconsin Through the Eyes of Wisconsin Photographers*. Pediment Publishing. (book)

## Professional Service

- 2013–2016 Advisory board. Riverfront Arts Center. Stevens Point WI
- 2013 Gallery assistant. Ellison Bay Pottery Studios. Ellison Bay WI
- 2012–2014 Exhibitions committee. Coalition of Photographic Arts. Milwaukee WI
- 2012–2014 Editor and contributing writer. [copamilwaukee.com](http://copamilwaukee.com). Milwaukee WI
- 2011–2012 Communications liaison. Stevens Point Area Public School District. Stevens Point WI  
(contributing photographer and writer to *The Portage County Gazette* and the *Stevens Point Journal*)

## Membership

- 2022–present Wisconsin Visual Artists — Professional (juried)