

May 5 through July 21, 2024

LITT (Light Inspired Texture & Translucence)

mixed media works by
Greg Biel
of Overland Park, Kansas

Artist Information

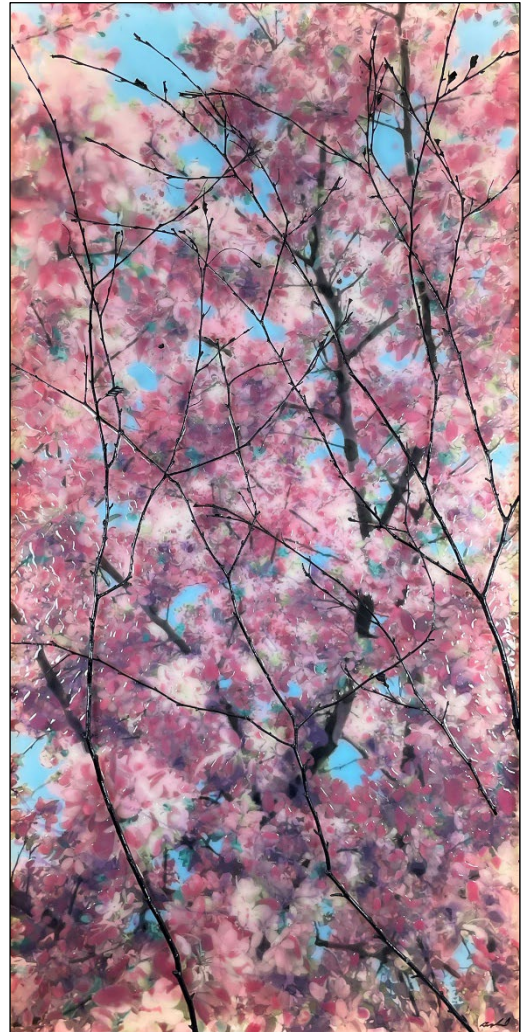
Forests are beautiful ancient places that exude a calming energy. They engage all of our senses through touch, smell, and sound. As a visual artist, I am most inspired when I gaze up and see the ever-changing movement of translucent colors and shadows in the trees.

My work blends a passion for nature with 35 years of experience in creative and graphic arts. Stained glass, photographic transparencies and even commercial billboards use additive and subtractive light to create dynamic images. My “3D lightbox paintings” apply those principles. I start with a black image printed on a translucent panel that serves as the canvas for layers of tinted resin. The resin adds color, depth and texture. I often fuse branches, wire or pebbles into the resin, then build custom frames with internal lighting to backlight the panel. Finished paintings have a high gloss sculptural surface. When illuminated, especially at night, all the details and vibrant colors are fully revealed.

I hope my art provides viewers with a metaphorical window that reminds us, both literally and figuratively to pause and ‘look closer.’

A brief additional note:

Author, professor, and researcher Ethan Cross shared in his 2021 book ‘Chatter,’ “green spaces seem to function like a great therapist, anti-aging elixir, and immune system booster all in one; the subtle perceptual features of nature act as a battery of sorts for the brain.” His research revealed another wonderful thing for those who don’t have access to greenspaces, pictures or videos of nature can have similar restorative benefits.



Cherry by Greg Biel, 2022, 3D mixed media, 53 x 29 inches

Artist Biography

I have worked at Hallmark Cards for 35 years in various Creative roles, supporting creative and print production teams on a wide range of product formats and businesses. I began my journey 'on the boards' as a production artist and eventually became the Creative Resources and Technical Services Director setting strategy for artwork collections and acquisitions, creative hiring, recruiting and college partnerships, creative technology, creative training & development, and intern programs. Currently, I lead the Creative Technical Services team - a group of creative technical experts who collaborate closely with illustrators, designers, engineers, and writers to bring new products to life.

As I approach retirement from Hallmark, I am fully embracing my passion for art through gallery relationships and participation in fine art shows. While I consider myself largely self-taught, it feels somewhat disingenuous to ignore the influence of the incredible fine artists, craftspeople, educators, and mentors I've encountered throughout my life. Here's a snapshot of my fine art accomplishments to date. I hope to see significant growth both in my list of achievements and body of work in the years to come:

- *Strecker Nelson West Gallery*: Located in Manhattan, KS.
- *Hallmark Commissions*: Several works purchased as corporate gifts.
- *Residential Mural*: Featured in the Kansas City Star.
- *Annual Participant*: Hallmarket Artist Art Fair and other local art shows.
- *'Everything You Love' Kansas City Stockyard Gallery*: Group exhibition.
- *Artwork Installations*: Work purchased and installed in homes across the country.
- *Awards of Merit*: Lenexa Art Fair and Omaha Summer Arts Festivals.



Birger Sandzen
- MEMORIAL GALLERY -

401 N. First Street, PO Box 348, Lindsborg, KS 67456

(785) 227-2220 sandzengallery@gmail.com www.sandzen.org

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.