

For Immediate Release
August 9, 2021

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1. Fred Easker. *July Near Lycurgis*. Oil on canvas. 26" x 44"

Meditations on Moments in the Landscape by Fred Easker— solo exhibition

Exhibit Dates: August 20-October 2, 2021

Reception: September 17th, 5:00-7:30pm

Gilded Pear Gallery

808 3rd Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319)-366-0205

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Description:

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.— Gilded Pear Gallery is excited to exhibit, *Meditations on Moments in the Landscape*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Cedar Rapids artist, Fred Easker.

Fred's landscapes offer an extraordinary view into the ordinary. Drawing on familiar scenes from the back roads of his native eastern Iowa, he explores both the aesthetics and the character of the place, offering a keen meditation on the power, vulnerability, and eloquence of this beautiful land.

Speaking about the new work in the exhibition, he states, "These days I am inspired by the landscape of northeast Iowa and the remarkable, unique and beautiful Driftless Region along the Mississippi River in the northeast corner of Iowa. It is where I spend about a third of my time. The area is a very spiritual place and has a unique energy that must have been felt by the early inhabitants. They left effigies on the unique topography which was shaped by water rather than glacial action or seismic shift. It is home to hundreds of species of wildlife and is the annual migratory path of thousands of birds. And there are people living there, sometimes

tucked away in the coulees, who are profoundly connected to the place. I feel good there...As I strive to interpret what I see with oil paint, my process becomes a meditation on the instant captured by the camera.”

About the artist (abbreviated):

The paintings of Fred Easker are included in museum, corporate and private collections throughout the Midwest and has appeared in a number of periodicals and books. He was featured as an “Iowa Master” in a series produced by Iowa Public Television. Recently he was commissioned by the General Services Administration to create a painting for the United States Federal Courthouse in Cedar Rapids. Over the span of his career he has worked with private galleries in New York, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Tulsa, Des Moines, and Cedar Rapids. The artist holds a BA and MA in Art Education from the University of Iowa.

Fred Easker has been painting full time since 1994. The artist resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where he grew up, and actively participates in the life of his community by working on boards and organizations involved in the arts, historic preservation and the humanities and was awarded the Friend of the Arts Award from Marion Fine Arts Council in 1993. His wife Velga who was born in Latvia is also an artist. Recently the couple recently established a part time working studio in Lansing, Iowa, an historic small town located in northeast Iowa on the Mississippi River.

A reception will be held at the gallery September 17th, 2021 from 5:00-7:30pm. *Event details regarding COVID-19 below. *Meditations on Moments in the Landscape* is in the Main Exhibition space on the first floor and will share the same reception as a posthumous exhibition of work by Stephen Metcalf, *The Promise of Life*, in the Second Floor Gallery. Stephen Metcalf passed away last year.

Gilded Pear Gallery is located at 808 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. For hours and more information visit <http://www.gildedpeargallery.com>—or- call: 319-366-0205

Gallery operations, features, and procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Event: The gallery requires that all persons attending the reception (vaccinated or unvaccinated) be masked. We appreciate you doing your part to keep everyone healthy! If you feel sick, have a fever, have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not fully recovered, or have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting your test results, you may not participate in this event. The exhibit will be on view for a while, stop back in when you’re feeling better! Food and beverage details will be updated on our social media and website; as well as RSVP link to the event.

Visit Us: Drop in anytime during our regular business hours: Monday-Friday 10:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm, and CLOSED on Sunday. Appointments for our services (i.e.-custom framing, art appraisals) are preferred. Private viewing appointments are still being offered and can be made by contacting the gallery via email or phone (this is a great option for anyone still leery about public events).

Features: A limited parking lot is available with 1 handicap space. On street parking is available on 3rd Avenue and 8th Street- non-metered. The MedQuarter features protected bike lanes and bicycle “parking” can be found on the opposite side of the building by the Pocket Park on 3rd and 8th.

There are no admission fees for private viewings or virtual receptions.