

History of the Art Collection

Public libraries are community spaces that support learning, creativity, and lifelong discovery. Art has long been a part of many libraries, enriching these shared spaces by encouraging curiosity, preserving local culture, and making creative works accessible to everyone. A library's art collection contributes to the cultural life of the community it serves.

The Marion Public Library's art collection reflects the creativity, generosity, and history of the Marion community. It has been shaped by the contributions of local artists, donors, and community supporters who believed that art should be accessible to everyone. Together, these works enhance the library experience while celebrating the people, places, and stories that make our

community unique.

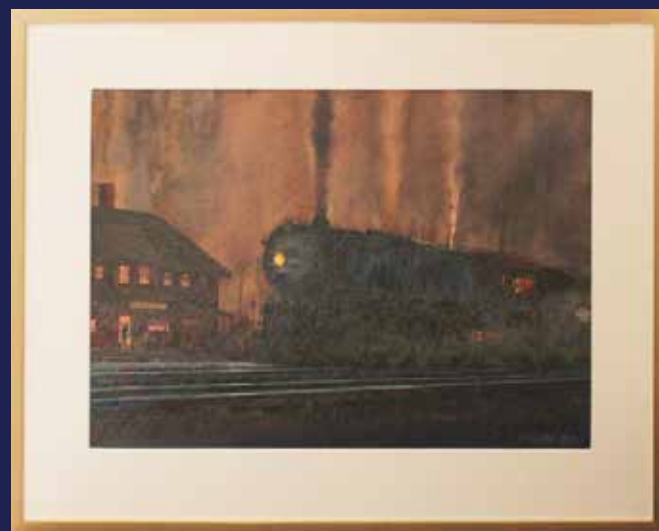
In 2020, the Nancy A. Miller Marion Public Library sustained significant damage during the historic Iowa derecho. As plans for a new facility took shape, preserving the library's art collection became an important way to carry the library's history forward. Artwork was carefully removed from the damaged building and evaluated for its condition.

Today, the artwork displayed throughout the library serves as a bridge between past and present. It honors the generosity of the artists and donors who helped

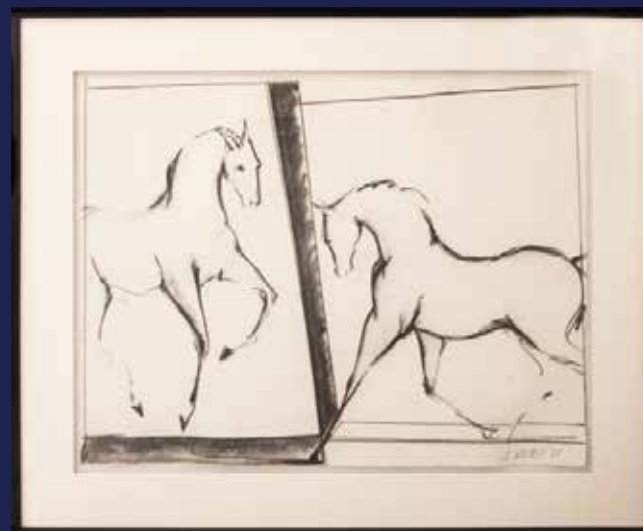
build the collection and continues the tradition of creating a welcoming, inspiring environment for all who visit. As the library and the Marion community continue to grow, the collection will evolve as well, preserving our shared history while embracing new artists, stories, and perspectives for future generations.



"Rock The House"
by Kimberlee Rocca (2009)



"The Midnight Arrow" by Wendell Mohr (1998)



"Storybook Horses" by Ann Royer (1997)



Permanent Art Collection Guide

The library's permanent art collection enriches the community by bringing creativity and imagination into a welcoming public space. Featuring works by local, regional, and national artists, the collection reflects a variety of styles, stories, and perspectives.

marionpubliclibrary.org/art

📍 1101 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

📞 319-377-3412

🌐 marionpubliclibrary.org

🕒 Mon - Thurs: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri & Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: 1 - 5 p.m.

Art Collection Details

This self-guided tour begins outside the library’s south (parking lot) entrance. The numbers on the maps correspond to various pieces of artwork in the collection.

Main Level

1 Bookworm II (Girl)

Gary Price, 1995
A bronze, free-standing sculpture depicting a child reading books.

2 Bookworm I (Boy)

Gary Price, 1995
A bronze, free-standing sculpture depicting a child reading books.

3 Storybook Horses

Ann Royer, 1997
A charcoal drawing on paper depicting two abstract horses, framed behind glass.

Second Level

4 Spring Symphony

Fred Easker, 2025
An oil on canvas painting depicting a panoramic, lush Iowa landscape in spring.

5 Squaw Creek Park: June

Karen Hoyt, 2003
A triptych landscape done in pastel on watercolor paper, framed behind glass.

6 Blues Men

Peter Thompson, 1998
An oil on canvas painting depicting two local musicians: Bryce Janey and Merrill Miller.

7 Flute and Guitar

Peter Thompson, 1998
An oil on canvas painting depicting two local musicians: Jan Boland and John Dowdall.

8 Rock the House

Kimberlee Rocca, 2009
An abstract piece created with foil stamping on paper, framed behind glass.

9 Fusion Realm

Kimberlee Rocca, 2009
An abstract piece created with foil stamping on paper, framed behind glass.

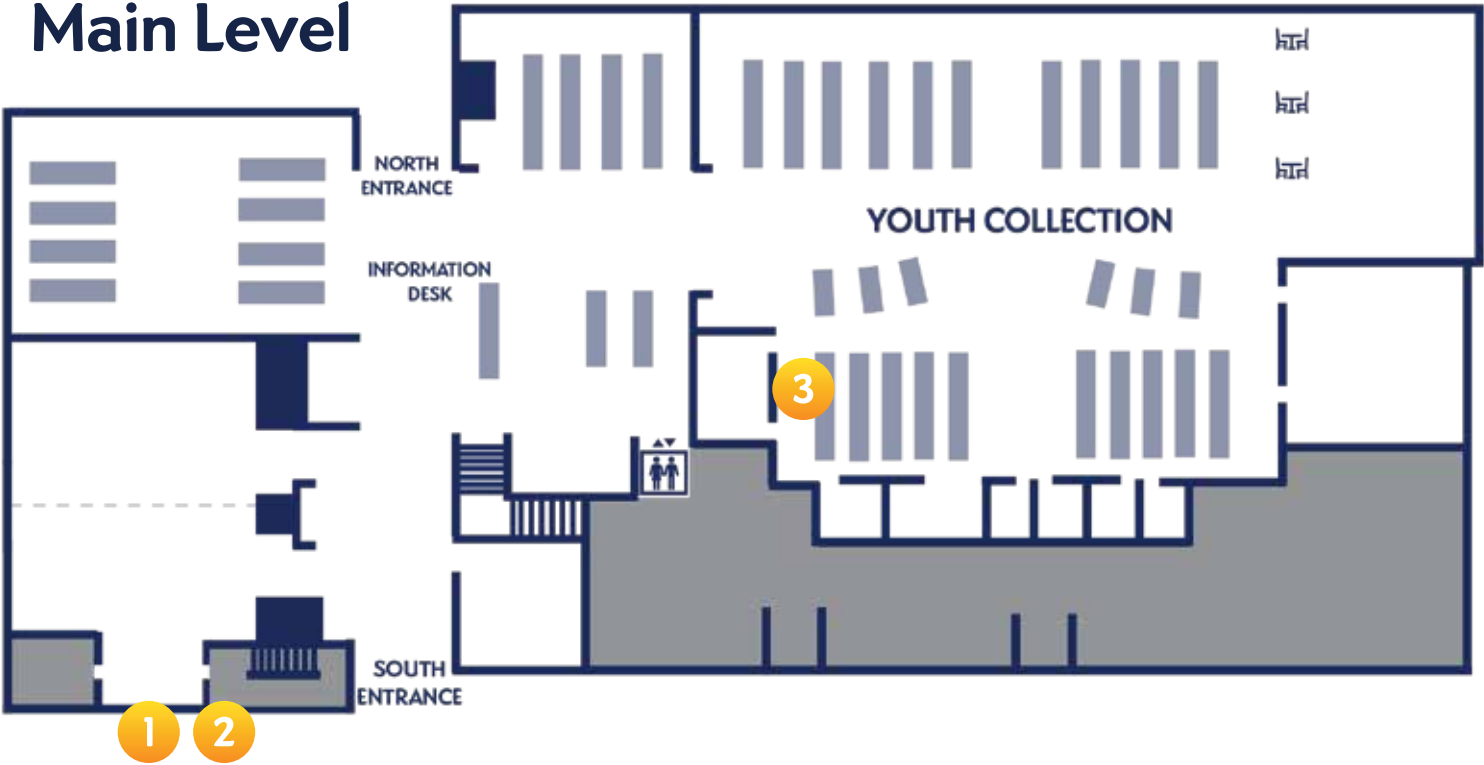
10 The Midnight Arrow

Wendell Mohr, 1998
A watercolor painting on paper depicting a passenger train in the 1940s, framed behind glass.

11 North County Fields

Fred Easker, 1997
An oil on canvas painting depicting Iowa farmland.

Main Level



Second Level

