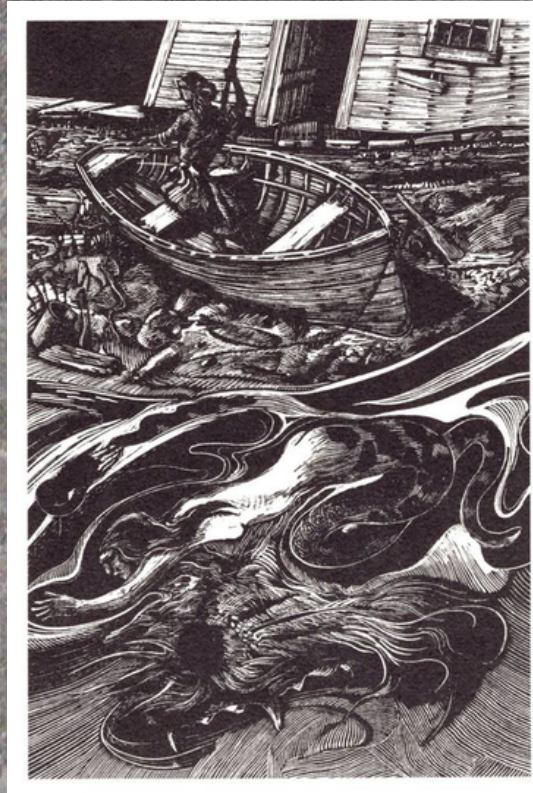


# ABOUT THE GALLERY

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays, to increase community involvement in the library, and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery, email us at: [splinfo@ci.stillwater.mn.us](mailto:splinfo@ci.stillwater.mn.us).



Wood Engraving by Fred Brian

## Stillwater Public Library

224 Third St N  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
651-275-4338

[stillwaterlibrary.org](http://stillwaterlibrary.org)

Pictured on the front:  
*Apple Tree* in acrylics by Holle Brian

In the gallery  
June & July 2022

## Holle Brian and Fred Brian Art Exhibit

Opening Reception  
Tuesday, June 14  
6-7:30 PM



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## ABOUT FRED'S WORK

## ABOUT HOLLE'S WORK

Holle Brian is a professional graphic designer and illustrator living in Taylors Falls, MN. She grew up in Bloomington/Normal, IL, where her father, Fred Brian, taught painting and printmaking at a local university. She moved to Minneapolis in 1979 and has pursued continuing education in art and graphics at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, White Bear Center for the Arts, and ceramics at the Edina Art Center. She and her husband Rich Smith moved to Taylors Falls when he retired in 2015.

instagram: hmbminnesota  
email: hollebrian17@gmail.com



Submitted by Holle:

*When I was asked to show some of my paintings at the Stillwater Public Library, I thought it would be a unique opportunity to have a joint exhibit with my father Fred Brian's work and my own.*

*Every family has a wealth of great stories. One of my favorite stories is of how my grandfather's old fishing camp evolved into a 100-year family legacy. Located in the deep forests of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, built by Finns out of logs they had to bring to the site by boat, and expanded, decorated and modernized by numerous wives and daughters, the old log house has been enjoyed now by five generations of Brians. It's been the source of memories, myths, nightmares, and tragedies, but always a haven of love and good company. As a teacher, my father Fred never worked in the summer, preferring to spend his time at the cabin, so when we were growing up my sister and I spent several months every year in the north woods, with no television or other kids to play with. We learned how to fish and sail and do carpentry and repair plumbing. And we drew pictures, all the time.*

*My father never painted at the cabin. He stored all the images of the woods and water in his head, then recreated them prolifically when he was back in Illinois. I grew up with pictures on the walls. Art was all around us. I think I am a very visual person; I look at paintings for meditation and relaxation. I love having my father's art around: his pictures are like old friends, sharing old stories again and again.*

Fred Brian was a painter, printmaker, teacher, sailor, and fisherman, who lived from 1924 to 1999. He taught art at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL from 1952-1984. When he retired from teaching, he and his wife Leona moved to Stillwater, MN where they lived until his death. Fred spent every summer with his family at their cabin on Lake Gogebic in the Ottawa National Forest; his love for the north woods, his experiences as an air force pilot during Word War II, and his interest in indigenous American art and culture provided much of the inspiration for his work.

[facebook.com/Fred-Brian-artist](https://facebook.com/Fred-Brian-artist)



*In the last couple of years, I've been revisiting the act of drawing - the interaction between eye, brain, hand and medium that makes a picture. Trying to render what I see faithfully, with the collaboration of paint and pencil. Enjoying playing with compositions and the juxtaposition of favorite objects. It's both a pleasure and a challenge.*



*Self-Portrait in pencil, Holle Brian*

*The St. Croix Valley gives me a lot of inspiration. I really enjoy doing botanical drawings; as a gardener, I am interested in all the stages of plants, from seed to dormancy; and as a naturalist, I am making it a project to study the plants and trees of this area and really get to know them. I have been keeping a journal of wild flower sketches and notes. Sometimes I feel like there can be no better use of one's time than to learn all about this beautiful Earth, and share the stories of our families.*