

College of Fine Arts & Communication
Take Me To The River: *Healing Waters*

Healing Waters is a multi-disciplinary series of events designed to engage students (K-12 and university), faculty and the regional community in celebration of water and its profound impact on the region. The Guest Artist Residency will be held September 20-24, 2023, and is sponsored by the UWSP College of Fine Arts & Communication, Academic Affairs, the Native American Center, and the City of Stevens Point.

Take Me To The River is a collaborative project by an international group of visual and performance artists from four continents who share a common vision of building bridges across borders to address environmental concerns about water. The group has traveled to various states and countries to work with communities to connect with the arts. The community work and exhibitions include New Orleans, LA, Montevideo, Uruguay, Aix-en-Provence, France, Maryland/DC, Wichita Falls, TX, South Africa, and Cairo, Egypt. In reaction to the 2020 pandemic, the artists created works which expressed healing and surviving. Artist Judy Jashinsky (UWSP alumna in Art, 1970), one of the longstanding visual artists of this collective, proposed the theme and title of this project, “Healing Waters,” inspired by Wallace Nichols, marine biologist and author of the book, *Blue Mind*, which focuses on the “benefits of being in, on, under, or simply near water.” This concept fit well with the artist group whose mission is to spread the importance of water, life, and stewardship. Dr. Nichols plans to make a special appearance at the *Healing Waters* events held on September 23, 2023.

Events include art workshops with K-12 and university students, along with community sessions at Bukolt Lodge and Riverfront Art Gallery, both on the Wisconsin River. September 23 features a gallery opening of original *Healing Waters* works with comments by seven visiting artists, Wallace Nichols, followed by a *Healing Waters* concert highlighting a world premiere of TMTTR member Ashraf Fouad, Cairo, Egypt. These events will be held at the Noel Fine Arts Center Carlsten Gallery and Michelsen Recital Hall. All are welcome to attend. Highlights of September 24 include a Pop-Up Art Gallery, Native American celebration of water with a drumming circle, a lecture: “A River and A Place Remembered,” given by Ray Reser, former Director of the UWSP Museum of Natural History, followed by music concert—all at Bukolt Lodge. September 24 events will be held from 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

Additional events focused on the celebration of water include art galleries in three communities on the Wisconsin River: the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum: “See/Sea: Beyond the Horizon” exhibit (Wausau); the Riverfront Art Center: “Open Water” exhibit and Hector Acuna *En plein air* workshops; Gallery Q Artists Cooperative: “Just One Drop” exhibit (Stevens Point); and the Central Wisconsin Cultural Arts Center: “Rapid Waters” (Wisconsin Rapids).

Please see the Healing Waters website for more details at:
<https://www.uwsp.edu/cofac/healing-waters/>