

Donald W. VanAuken: Artist Statement

Don VanAuken graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in Illustration in 1997, he later received his M.F.A. in painting from The Ohio University in 2007. He has worked in secondary public arts education, in the museum field and as an instructor of art with Kellogg Community College, Kalamazoo Community College and most recently at Olivet College beginning in 2015 to the present. He has exhibited in regional, national, and international exhibitions. His work is included in more than 45 public and private collections.

VanAuken's artwork focuses on location and his surrounding environment which has played a crucial role in his creative process. The use of visual references of local wild life and fauna within this setting are allegorical, used as a means to explore situations, quandaries, and everyday experiences, contributing to the larger narrative that is constantly evolving in his prints and paintings.