Full artwork credits and transcript for the video of the virtual tour of:

The Essence of Nature: Paintings by Marlene T. Yu (The Green Movement in Art)

We invite you on this virtual tour of our current exhibition “The Essence of Nature: Paintings by Marlene T. Yu (The Green Movement in Art)” on view on the second floor of the D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts. Inspired by the natural world, Marlene T. Yu (born 1937) creates monumental canvases using energetic brushstrokes and vibrant colors. Born in Taiwan and trained in Chinese brush painting as well as academic drawing, Yu came to the United States in 1963, where she was exposed to Abstract Expressionism. For over fifty years, the artist has synthesized Eastern and Western traditions to create immersive abstractions that evoke the power and beauty of nature.

All artwork on loan courtesy of the artist.

Some photos are by JohnPolakPhotography.com and are designated as such.

1. Second Floor Landing

“The Essence of Nature: Paintings by MARLENE T. YU / The Green Movement in Art”

Bold, vibrant and dynamic are just a few of the adjective that can be used to describe Marlene T. Yu’s large-scale works of art. Inspired by the earth’s beauty, Yu creates captivating paintings that evoke the essence of nature by transforming patterns found in land, sea and sky into stunning abstractions. A pioneer of the Green Movement in art, Marlene Yu pays homage to the natural world and draws attention to the need to protect and preserve the planet.

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

2-4 “Disappearing Forest I and II,” 2002
Forest Fire Series
Acrylic on canvas

5. North Hallway, outside the Wheeler Gallery
Second Floor

“The Essence of Nature: Paintings by MARLENE T. YU / The Green Movement in Art”
February 8 – May 3, 2020

Season Supporter
MassMutual Foundation
6. North Hallway, outside the Wheeler Gallery  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts  
Full Artist Statement in the next photo.

7. Artist Statement  
The beauty of the universe changes with time. As the days pass and the seasons change, the sky, earth, mountains and rivers repeat in patterns that are never really quite the same. In my search for the variations of the many faces in nature, I have found that nature provides an infinite source of inspiration for artistic expression. I love the many elements in our environment, be they as broad as the horizon beyond or small as cells under the microscope. In this vast setting, I hope to capture the spirit of the universe, its rhythm and movements, its quiet and angry moods, its colors and forms.

With the traditional Chinese and Western art training, together with my own experiments, I have sought to create techniques that can fully express my ideas and feelings. The techniques may vary greatly from painting to painting, as to embody the scope of my expression. The reference to nature is the focus of all my paintings. I have found that painting in water media – acrylic – demands an absolute control of the medium to achieve the various effects, textures, and transparencies. The scale of the painting is a challenge, but not a limitation for me. To produce on canvas or paper what I have in my mind, my ideas and feelings on the universe, is a great challenge.

-Marlene T. Yu

8. North Hallway, outside the Wheeler Gallery  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

9. Looking across Blake Court to the South Hallway.  
D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

10. Opposite the entrance to the Wheeler Gallery:

“Brown and Purple Canyon,” 1993  
Canyon and Red Rock Series  
Acrylic on canvas

11. The next five photos take the viewer down the North Hallway towards the elevator.  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts
“Amber Glow I and II,” 2019  
*Amber Glow Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

*Avalanche Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

13. “Black and White Cracked Ice I and II,” 2018  
*Black and White Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

*Slow Motion and Floating Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

15. “Blue Slow Motion,” 1971  
*Slow Motion and Floating Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

16. Looking across Blake Court to the South Hallway.  
D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

17. Looking back down the North Hallway.  
D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

18. Wheeler Gallery  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Entering by the elevator.

“Emerald Forest,” 2000  
*Emerald Forest Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

“Iceberg with Aurora Borealis,” 2019  
*March of Iceberg Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

“Forest Moss,” 2000  
*Forest Moss Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

19. Wheeler Gallery
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

“Glacier Rapid Melting,” 2007
Glacier Melting Series
Acrylic on canvas

“Emerald Forest,” 2000
Emerald Forest Series
Acrylic on canvas

Glacier Melting Series
Acrylic on canvas

Emerald Forest Series
Acrylic on canvas

22. Wheeler Gallery
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

“Forest Fire,” 2003
Forest Fire Series
Acrylic on canvas

“Glacier Temple Melting,” 2007
Glacier Melting Series
Acrylic on canvas

“Disappearing Glacier,” 2007
Glacier Melting Series
Acrylic on canvas

Forest Fire Series
Acrylic on canvas

24. “Iceberg with Aurora Borealis,” 2019
March of Iceberg Series
Acrylic on canvas

Glacier Melting Series
Acrylic on canvas
26. View of the Wheeler Gallery from the door by the stairs.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

“The Green Movement in Art” can be read in the next picture.

27. The Green Movement in Art
Marlene T. Yu has been dedicated to addressing environmental issues since the 1960s. The monumental works in this gallery are inspired by the artist’s awareness of climate change as well as her appreciation for nature’s splendor. One of Yu’s most impactful works of art is her recent piece titled “Iceberg with Aurora Borealis” which measures about 36 feet long and is part of her March of Iceberg Series. Energized and impressed by the turquoise and white hues of glaciers as they rise above the water, Yu combined her impressions of ice with bright green brushstrokes that evoke the northern lights. Yu’s numerous other series address global warming and threats to the Earth’s forests. They include:

Glacier Garden Series (1966-2016)
Glacier Melting Series (1965-2019)

Emerald Forest Series (1998-2018)
Purple Swamp Series (2011-2019)

28. View of the Wheeler Gallery from the door by the stairs.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

29. This sign is located just inside the Wheeler Gallery door closest to the stairs.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Introduction
Born in Taiwan in 1937, Marlene T. Yu studied Chinese brush painting and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei before immigrating to the United States in 1963. By 1967, she had graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Colorado, Boulder and had become inspired by Abstract Expressionism.

For more than five decades, Yu has intentionally and effectively synthesized Eastern and Western painting techniques in order to establish a distinctive style. Her main source of
inspiration, the natural world is filter through a “multi-dualistic” lens. In addition to bringing the dualities of East and West together, Yu’s work blurs the line between naturalistic and abstract, while also imbuing content sourced from the environment with the artist’s inner thoughts and emotions. Approaching her subject matter with respect and awe, Yu infuses her canvases with what she describes as a “rhythm and movement of moods.” In fact, the energy that radiates from Marlene T. Yu’s expressive work echoes the physical action of their creation. Sweeping, gestural brushstrokes and bold splashes of paint are reminders of the artist’s involved process.

With titles like “Disappearing Glacier” and “Forest Fire,” Yu’s paintings are not only powerful tributes to natural elements and forces; they also draw attention to the global crisis of climate change. The artist’s call for a heightened awareness of environmental issues began in the 1960s, making her an early contributor to the Green Movement in Art. Yu began her “Glacier Melting” series in 1965, and its subject continues to address an issue of grave concern to scientists, activists, and world populations today.

Over the course of her career, Marlene T. Yu has produced over 4000 works of art and has been featured in exhibitions around the world. Now in her 80s, Yu continues to paint from her Long Island City, New York studio. Dedicated as ever to her concern with and celebration of the environment, Marlene Yu, along with her husband James Yu, also founded the Rainforest Art Foundation which aims to increase appreciation of nature through art. In 2014, a museum dedicated to Marlene T. Yu’s artwork opened in Shreveport, Louisiana.

   *Glacier Melting Series*
   Acrylic on canvas

   “Forest Moss,” 2000
   *Forest Moss Series*
   Acrylic on canvas

   *Glacier Melting Series*
   Acrylic on canvas

   *Forest Moss Series*
   Acrylic on canvas

33. Wheeler Gallery from the door by the elevator.
   Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

   Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

34. Alcove at the end of the North Hallway near the entrance to the elevator.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

35. “Pink Marble, 2016”  
*Canyon and Red Rock Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

*Turquoise Floating Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

37. “Purple Crystal I and II,” 2017  
*Purple Crystal Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

*Aspen Leaves Series*  
Acrylic on canvas

39. Entrance to the Barn Gallery from the North Hallway.  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts  

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

40. Barn Gallery  
Entering from the North Hallway  
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts  

West Wall  
“I hope through my art to convey the urgent message – earth is in danger, please help us protect it together.” – Marlene Yu

“Molten Lava,” 1997  
*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

“Molten Lava Veil,” 1997  
*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper
41. Barn Gallery
Entering from the North Hallway
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

East Wall
“Moss Carpet,” 1998
*Forest Moss Series*
Acrylic on paper

“Brown Sweep,” 1976
*Sweep and Splash Series*
Acrylic on paper

“Hot Pink Sweep,” 1986
*Sweep and Splash Series*
Acrylic on paper

“White Crest Park,” 2005
*White Crest Series*
Acrylic on paper

42. Barn Gallery
Entering from the North Hallway
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Starting on the wall to the left (East Wall) and circling the room clockwise:

“Spring Ice Melting,” 1988
*Melting Series*
Acrylic on paper

*Forest Moss Series*
Acrylic on paper

44. “Brown Sweep,” 1976
*Sweep and Splash Series*
Acrylic on paper

45. “Hot Pink Sweep,” 1986
*Sweep and Splash Series*
Acrylic on paper
46. “White Crest Park,” 2005
White Crest Series
Acrylic on paper

47. Barn Gallery
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

East Wall:
“Spring Ice Melting,” 1988
Melting Series
Acrylic on paper

“Moss Carpet,” 1998
Forest Moss Series
Acrylic on paper

“Brown Sweep,” 1976
Sweep and Splash Series
Acrylic on paper

“Hot Pink Sweep,” 1986
Sweep and Splash Series
Acrylic on paper

“White Crest Park,” 2005
White Crest Series
Acrylic on paper

48. A view of the Barn Gallery with the viewer’s back to the South and the Carol and Noel Leary Gallery of Impressionist Art.

D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

49. “Rolling Red Rocks,” 2002
Canyon and Red Rock Series
Acrylic on paper

50. Barn Gallery
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

West Wall
“I hope through my art to convey the urgent message – earth is in danger, please help us protect it together.” – Marlene Yu
“Molten Lava,” 1997  
*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

“Molten Lava Veil,” 1997  
*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

“Purple Veil,” 1987  
*Concave Veil Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Molten Lava Series*  
Acrylic on paper

*Concave Veil Series*  
Acrylic on paper

55. East Wall of the Barn Gallery and South Hallway with the viewer’s back to the South and the Carol and Noel Leary Gallery of Impressionist Art.  

Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts  

Photo by JohnPolakPhotography.com.

56. “Forces of Nature” sign located in the Barn Gallery next to the South Hallway.  

**Forces of Nature**  
The flow of molten lava, the swirling of water and surf, the rush of an avalanche as it falls towards the earth: these are among the forces of nature that fascinate artist Marlene T. Yu.
Movement is essential to her expression of these forces and to her painting process. Works like “Blue Slow Motion” and “Hot Pink Sweep” teem with vitality and rhythm, but also allude to the choreography of the artist’s brush. By combing specific brushstrokes borrowed from her background in Chinese brush painting with bold colors and abstract form, Yu fills her compositions to their very edges. In creating her works on paper, Yu even tears the edges to create a rough, natural effect that aligns with her desire to simulate dimension, movement and texture. With the broader theme of forces of nature in mind, Yu has also created the following series:

Column 1
Avalanche Series (1968-2018)
Black and White Series (1965-2019)
Canyon and Red Rock Series (1967-2018)
Geyser and Spring Series (1968-1992)

Column 2
Melting Series (1965-2007)
Molten Lava Series (1968-2019)
Reflection Series (1963-2011)
Slow Motion and Floating Series (1968-2007)
Sweep and Splash Series (1971-2005)
Turquoise Floating Series (1968-2007)
Wave and Fall Series (1968-2017)

57. Looking across Blake Court to the North Hallway.
D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

58. Looking down the South Hallway from the entrance to the Barn Gallery.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

59. Looking down the South Hallway from the entrance to the Barn Gallery.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

60. The next seven paintings start at the end of the South Hallway outside of Barn Gallery:

“Deep Ruby Cave,” 1988
Cave Treasure Series
Acrylic on canvas
_Dancing Coral Series_
Acrylic on canvas

_Blue Lagoon Series_
Acrylic on canvas

63. “Sunken Treasure Gold Ring,” 2015
_Sunken Treasure Series_
Acrylic on canvas

64. “Fly Over Milky Way III and IV,” 2014
_Galaxy and Milky Way Series_
Acrylic on canvas

_Galaxy and Milky Way Series_
Acrylic on canvas

66. Looking down the South Hallway from the Second Floor landing.
Second Floor, D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

67. “Heart of Cave,” 1994
_Cave Garden Series_
Acrylic on canvas

68. Looking across Blake Court to the North Hallway.
D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts

Music:
"Deep Meditation" by David Fesliyan
Royalty free music from https://www.fesliyanstudios.com