

FEATURE ARTIST – Nyle LaGrange



About the Artist

Nyle LaGrange is a Chisago County resident, living in North Branch with his wife, Carole. He served our country for four years as an officer during the Vietnam War.

After that, he worked in the business manufacturing industry for forty years, including an additional six years as an elected official in municipal government.

Mr. LaGrange's inspiration for his artwork draws on his childhood in northern Minnesota, where he grew to love the outdoors and the animals that lived there. His family did not have electricity, plumbing, or running water and he spent most of his time outdoors, especially in the summer. This solitary lifestyle, especially during long northern Minnesota winters, limited opportunities for social interaction, but allowed for Mr. LaGrange to try his hand at painting.

Mr. LaGrange has had no formal training in art and only entered one art competition. After many decades in the workforce, he again picked up a paintbrush and started to paint. The paintings that you see are reflections on his experiences in the outdoors.

Mr. LaGrange has a special connection with wolves, fondly recalling their communicating at night, with different pitches signaling different activities. Mr. LaGrange believes art serves as a positive mental therapy and continues to paint to this day.

We at the Chisago County Government Center thank Mr. LaGrange for his military and public service to our country and are proud to be able to display his artwork.



About the Artwork

“Roots of Tree Bark” - This watercolor pen and ink hides a pack of wolves within the roots of a cottonwood tree. According to Roman legend, it was a wolf that birthed the founders of Rome: Romulus and Remus. Man’s best friend is descended from the original wolves (canis lupus). This painting won first place of the People’s Choice Award at the Edge of the Wild art show in Bigfork, Minnesota, the only piece that has been entered in any contest by Mr. LaGrange.

“Eye Q” - This color-penciled drawing represents 15 of the most intelligent animals.

“Pursuit” - This multi-medium drawing of graphite pencil, colored pencil, and watercolor pencil, portrays wolves in a night hunt pursuing their prey.

“Partners in Crime” - This drawing shows a raven partially disguised within a wolf’s ear. Even though they work together here, neither particularly likes the other. The wolf depends on the raven’s superior eyesight and flying, whereas the raven depends on the wolf to kill the prey since it cannot.

“Wild Wood Mild Mood” - The painting depicts a peaceful and tranquil environment similar to northern Minnesota. Preservation of our forests and animals’ habitat have a calming effect, shown in the birch trees and their reflection.

“Home Improvement” - The bald eagle’s nest is always a work in progress. In order to complete a nest, an eagle spends three years on it, but makes unending improvements and additions. See if you can find the hidden word.

“Winter Wolverland” - This is a distant viewing project shows a wolf pack within the flocked pine trees. See if you can find all eight.

“Friday Fish Fly” - The painting represents the return of the bald eagle to its natural habitat. The largemouth bass is not happy with this development.

“Ice Cold Six Pack” - The cold and remote winter environment portrays nature’s playground and cafeteria for six alert wolves. The hungry wolf on the right has sensed a nearby rabbit.

To Learn More . . .

Additional information is available about the Artist or a particular piece of artwork. To learn more, or to learn how to participate in the County’s local artist/artifact display program, please contact Chisago County Administration at (651) 213-8830 or in Suite 170 of the Government Center.

