



**LUTE WASSMANN**  
THE ARTIST AND HIS WORK



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*Lute Wassmann:*  
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Cover Image:  
*Casimir Pulaski Day in Evanston*  
(detail, full image at right), 1998  
Oil on canvas, 20-7/8 x 26-3/4 inches

Previous Page Image:  
*Self Portrait*, 1990  
Oil on canvas, 23-1/8 x 24 inches

Back Cover Image:  
*Comfrey*, 1998  
Oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches

Photography and Compilation:  
Allison Pautler  
Mary Pat Wassmann Pautler

Book Design:  
Annie Wassmann,  
Wassmann Design

Writing and Editing:  
Dan Wassmann



***“An Evanston house (located on Green Bay Road) on  
Casimir Pulaski Day. Actually, there are other houses  
close by, but I chose to make this one look isolated for  
the painting.”***

## FOREWARD

Lute Wassmann started painting as a sophomore in college in 1947 at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He was enrolled in an oil-painting class — taken for extra credit — while majoring in industrial design, which would become his professional occupation. He has been painting ever since, working from the basement of his Wilmette home.

Lute avoids what he calls “non-representational art,” leaning instead toward literal work that he finds more challenging.

Nature, wildlife, social injustice, alienation, religion and man’s rela-

tionship with his surrounding are some of the themes present in Lute’s work. He draws inspiration from a wide variety of daily experiences, including listening to music, reading about current events, and walking the streets of north suburban Chicago with Pat, his wife and life-long companion.

Creating art gives Lute a great deal of enjoyment, as it allows him to express how he feels about the world and its inhabitants.



*Gilson, n.d.*  
Color photograph

*211 Fifth Street, n.d.*  
Oil on panel



*A newsletter clipping announcing Lute Wassmann’s first-place prize in an art competition.*







*Dinkel's Bakery*, 1998  
Oil on canvas, 21 x 27 inches

*"This bakery was a couple blocks from where Pat used to teach on Belmont Avenue. After I dropped Pat off at school, I would drive down Lincoln Avenue and always see runners stopping for a snack at the bakery."*





Corner with Circus Sign, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches

*“The corner of Euclid and Ashland is significant because that is where I lived growing up in Chicago Heights, although this painting is far from what that intersection really looked like.”*



*The Sales Meeting*, 1998  
Oil on canvas, 31-1/8 x 42 inches

***“A spin-off of *The Last Supper*. All of the people portrayed are people I knew, including Pat, Cardinal George, Cardinal Bernardin, Margaret Smith (a friend from Cabrini Green), Scottie Pippen, and others.”***





*Afternoon Reflection*, c. 1995  
Oil on canvas, 28-1/4 x 20 inches

***“A fictional scene of quilters deep in thought.”***





*Ruth's Apartment*, 1991  
Oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches

***“An apartment building down the street from our house in Wilmette, at the corner of Fifth Street and Linden Avenue.”***



*Apprehension*, c. 1997  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 34-1/2 inches

***“This scene is from a doctor’s office in Evanston. The man’s apprehension as he looks out the window can be taken one of two ways. He is either waiting and worried about receiving bad news, or he has already had the examination and heard the bad news.”***





*Trick or Treats*, 1998  
Oil on canvas, 21-1/4 x 17-1/4 inches

***“This was a made-up scene of kids trick-or-treating. This was one of my paintings selected for the Northbrook Art Show in 2008.”***





*The Art Gallery*, 1995  
Oil on canvas, 12 x 19-1/2 inches

***“I saw this scene while walking in the parking garage near Columbus Drive in downtown Chicago and thought it would make an interesting painting.”***



*Don't Fence Me In*, 1987  
Oil on canvas, 40 x 48 inches

*"I gave this painting to my son, Dan. It is in his dining room and has inspired many post-dinner discussions, I am told."*





*Looking for Money in Winnetka*, 1996  
Oil on canvas, 16 x 20-1/2 inches

***“A person searching for money at the Winnetka beach with the beach house in the background.”***





*Co-op Laundry in Evanston*, 1993  
Oil on canvas, 48 x 36-1/4 inches

***“This laundromat was on Chicago Avenue in Evanston. Pat and I were walking in the neighborhood one night, and I thought it would make an interesting painting.”***



*Dr. Burke's Office*, 1993  
Oil on canvas, 28 x 34 inches

*"No particular office, and not sure why I added wings."*





*Barbecue in Evanston*, 1993  
Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 inches

***“This was a scene I saw while riding bikes with Pat along the lake front in Evanston. It was a cloudy day and I remember there was a lot of smoke coming from the barbecue grill.”***



*Lunch Break at the Lighthouse*, 2000  
Oil on canvas, 22 x 28 inches

***“Pat and I saw these painters having lunch while were biking past the lighthouse on Sheridan Road in Evanston.”***





*Danger*, 1996  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 28 inches

***“I based this painting on a scene I saw at the sailing beach. I saw a woman sitting on a bench at the top of the hill, and I added the rocks for visual interest.”***



Queen Anne's Lace, 1984  
Oil on canvas 30 x 24 inches

*"A made-up scene of two people relaxing on the rocks by Lake Michigan."*





*Monday Night Football*, c. 1997  
Oil on canvas, 48 x 35-3/4 inches

***“This is a scene from a garden apartment that Pat and I encountered on one of our walks in Evanston.”***



*Alderman*, c. 1996  
Oil on canvas, 28-1/4 x 34-1/4 inches

***“The two people are waiting for the election results  
and want to speak with the local alderman.”***





*Marie's Restaurant, 1986*  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 20 inches

***“A painting of Marie’s Restaurant located at 4th Street and Linden Avenue in Wilmette. One night Pat and I were walking by the restaurant around 6 p.m. and saw the cook and Marie sitting at the counter watching Oprah on TV. This scene took place right around the time that Oprah was becoming popular.”***



*Hecky's*, 1996  
Oil on canvas, 28 x 40 inches

*"I had just dropped off Pat at school and was driving home when I passed under a viaduct in Evanston. I liked the contrast in light and decided to paint it."*





*Christmas Eve on Lincoln Avenue,*  
c. 1997  
Oil on canvas, 16-3/4 x 26-3/4 inches

***“A sad painting of a man all by himself on Christmas Eve.”***



*First Date at the Lincoln, 1995*  
Oil on canvas, 31 x 42 inches

***“My first date with Pat was at the Lincoln Theater right after I got out of the service. The movie listed on the marquee, The Razor’s Edge, was the movie that we saw together.”***





*Easter Sunday*, n.d.  
Oil on canvas, 18 x 36 inches

***“This is another painting inspired by my teaching experience at Cabrini Green in Chicago. I saw an article in the Chicago Tribune of women wearing all sorts of hats on Easter Sunday. I gave two of the woman the same eccentric hat.”***



*Paint by Numbers, 1998*  
Oil and tissue collage, 36-7/8 x 48

*“I was interested in seeing how it would turn out if I painted Pat in a paint-by-numbers format. I thought it was successful. Pat thinks it’s humorous also.”*





Left:  
*Woman with Head in Knees*, 1987  
Oil on canvas

Right:  
*Pat Reading Books*, 2000  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches

***“Two paintings of  
Pat doing one of her  
favorite things — reading.  
The one on the left was  
done while on vacation.”***







*The Principal's Chair*, c. 1988  
Oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches

***“I had my daughter Sue in mind when I did this painting. The chair is in our dining room. It is the chair the principal used at the grade school that Pat attended.”***



*Conversation*, c. 1986  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

***“A made-up scene of  
three chairs.”***

Next page:  
*Apartment Windows*, n.d.  
Oil on canvas, 34 x 35 inches

***“This was the side of a  
building in Cabrini Green  
that I photographed. I  
thought the pattern of the  
windows was interesting.”***







*Thy Will Be Done on Earth  
as It is in Heaven, 1992  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches*

*“This painting was inspired by my time volunteering at Cabrini Green. Cabrini Green was a pretty spooky place because there were a lot of deserted areas covered in graffiti. It was located west of the Loop and included many high-rise and apartment buildings, which have now been torn down. It bothered me greatly how little help these people received, so I used red, white and blue graffiti in the painting to make a statement. The man in charge of urban development for Chicago was eventually arrested for stealing money, which upset me even more. I taught an after-school art class to 5th and 6th grade kids for three years in Cabrini Green after I was retired and Pat was still teaching. The Chicago Youth Organization had a recreation center in the heart of Cabrini Green called Lower North, which is where my class was located. There were 15-20 kids per class, and I had to supply all my own art supplies.”*





*The Game is Over*, 1992  
Oil on canvas, 42 x 32 inches

*"I used to listen to country music while I painted, and I'm sure I was influenced by the music in deciding to do this one."*



*Pat O' My Heart*, 1990  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

***“I saw a picture of this jukebox and loved all the color. One of the songs on the play list was one that Pat and I loved.”***





*Michael, Paul, and Mark, 2000*  
Oil on canvas, 34 x 26 inches

***“These are three of my grandsons playing by a river that flows through a park in the town where they grew up. The town is Pontiac, Illinois”***



*Spring Lake, 1999*  
Oil on canvas, 38-1/4 x 26 inches

***“Kids jumping off the bridge in Spring Lake, Michigan  
behind Annie and Tom’s house.”***







*Noel Reading His Little Green Book, 1980*  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches

***“Noel Dunderdale, our next-door neighbor, sitting outside on his porch reading a book.”***

Opposite page:  
*Woman with Apples, 2000*  
Oil on canvas, 18 x 18 inches

***“I didn’t have a model for this. I just decided to paint it.”***





*Blue Bedroom*, 2002  
Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 inches

***“This is a bedroom where Pat and I slept one night while visiting Dan’s in-laws in Charlevoix, Michigan. I thought the room was interesting.”***



*Is Your Picture Here?*, c. 1996  
Oil on canvas with mirrors and  
shelf construction, 42 x 49  
inches

***“There is actually a real shelf attached to the bottom  
of the painting. I also added some actual frames, but  
not photos in all of them, to make it more intriguing.”***





*Dot Trees, 2007*  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches

*“A view of Lake Michigan from the parking lot at Gilson Park in Wilmette. This was one of the paintings I had in the Northbrook Art Show in 2008. This is the only painting I ever did using this dot technique.”*





*Bridge in Spring, 1988*  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches

***“This is the canal near the Bahá’í Temple, which is close to our house. As the seasons changed I ended up doing other paintings of the same view. It wasn’t planned, it just happened that way.”***









Previous page (left to right):  
*Bridge in Autumn*, 1991  
Oil on canvas, 24-1/4 x 20 inches

***“This is the canal in the fall. The bridge in the background is Maple Street.”***

*Bridge with Crows*, 1987  
Oil on canvas, 25-1/8 x 21 inches

***“The canal during the summer with a flock of crows in the foreground on the grass.”***



Above:  
*Sunset at the Bridge*, 1990  
Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 inches

Left:  
*The Way to Gilson*, 1998  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches

***“The paintings on this spread are near where Sheridan Road crosses the North Shore Sanitary Canal in Wilmette. The view was always different depending on the season when we were walking over the bridge. Each painting varies based on the color, the light, and the time of year.”***





*Bridge/Autumn Evening*, c. 1990  
Oil on canvas



*Bow fishing for Carp*, c. 1995  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 22-3/8 inches

***“The canal once again, but with a man in the background in red using a bow and arrow to fish for carp.”***

*North Shore Canal*, n.d.  
Oil on canvas, 14 x 11 inches

***“A scene taken from the other side of the canal in the spring.”***



Top to bottom:  
*The Bridge in Snow*, c. 1992  
Oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches

***“The Maple Street bridge in winter  
as seen from Sheridan Road.”***

*The Bridge in Snow*, n.d.  
Oil on canvas

***“Another view of basically the  
same scene.”***







*Noel's Birds*, c. 1986  
Oil and tissue on canvas, 40 x 30 inches

***“The view of Noel Dunderdale’s back porch. The Dunderdales were our neighbors to the north when the kids were growing up. He used to sit out there and feed the starlings. This is a tissue collage combined with oil paint.”***

Opposite Page:  
*The King of the Road*, 1990  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches

***“While driving to Chicago Heights one time there was a bad snowstorm. I pulled up next to a truck at a stoplight and saw the truck driver clean his window with his hand.”***







*Spring Morning at the Yacht Club, 1997*  
Oil on canvas, 36-1/8 x 24-3/4 inches

***“A scene of the harbor in the spring before they put the  
boats in the water at Gilson Park.”***



*Morning Crows*, 1995  
Oil on canvas, 34 x 29-3/4 inches

***“These trees were in our backyard. It was early on a foggy morning, and the sun was trying to break through. That’s why part of the tree is that orange color. It was the combination of light that inspired me, and I added the crows for interest.”***





*Gilson Winter Trees*, 1995  
Oil on canvas, 16 x 11-3/4 inches

***“These were trees in Gilson Park in the winter.”***



*Winter Afternoon Walk*, c. 1997  
Oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches

***“A Lake Michigan painting with a crow added for a dramatic effect.”***





*Walking the Dog, n.d.*  
Oil on canvas

***“A painting of a man I saw walking his dog through Gilson Park.”***





*Blue Trees, n.d.*  
Oil on canvas, 36 x 18 inches

*“An abstract painting of trees at Gilson Park along the lake.”*