

## Artist's Statement

I CREATE COLORFUL, textured paintings that explore the historical and contemporary dynamics of the Midwest's changing landscape. Over the past 200 years, our once virgin prairie has been domesticated and cultivated into the rich productive farmland we experience today. These vast agricultural changes have had tremendous implications for our land and our world. Our history, our culture, our economy and even the health of our planet are all rooted in the beautiful, fertile plains that we call home. My artwork captures the rich colors and textures of the landscape and speaks to the intricate relationships that exist within this prairie ecosystem.

The expressive and versatile medium of watercolor enables me to capture the grace, grit, and beauty of Iowa's prairies and farmland. By using a variety of resist techniques, I am also able to create lively textures and distinctive shapes. Once I've finished the painting portion of the artwork, I then use a pen or charcoal pencil to outline shapes—weaving together all the elements within the composition. The resulting visual tapestry serves as a metaphor of our connection to this ecosystem and the impact our actions have upon our landscape.

—Judy Thompson

*Abundant Acres*, 2021, Watercolor with mixed media  
[www.judythompsonwatercolors.com](http://www.judythompsonwatercolors.com)

