

a catalog of original work, prints & books

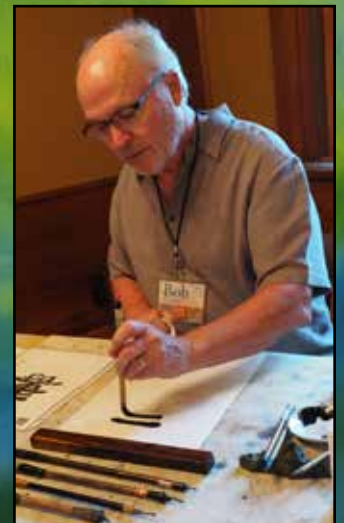
from the brush of Bob Schmitt



Bob Schmitt is a student and teacher of Chinese calligraphy and painting. He is also a practicing Quaker. He lives, paints and teaches from his little yellow cottage, Laughing Waters Studio, just blocks from Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He began brush painting as a 12 year old watching public TV. He has practiced all his life and studied weekly with a Chinese painting master for the last 20+ years.

To learn more about Bob and view his work, visit:
www.shopatlaughingwatersstudio.com



**LAUGHING
WATERS
STUDIO
MINNEAPOLIS**

experience. the power of the brush.

my relationship with the bamboo brush

I have been an artist as long as I can remember.

However, my relationship with the bamboo brush began when I was twelve years old.

There was an art program on local public (then educational) television teaching basic sumi-e (Asian black ink painting). I would come home after school and sit in front of the TV with my brush, paper and ink. Each day there would be a different object to paint: orchid, crab, etc. This is how I became attached to the brush. For over 60 years, I have been using ink and brush in the manner of Asian brush painters, primarily as a self-taught artist.

Then in 1995, I had the opportunity to take 2 workshops with 2 Chinese painting masters, Lok Tok and Yitong Lok of Toronto, Canada. This brief encounter turned my artistic world upside down. I received a glimpse of the depth and beauty of Chinese painting. I continued to study with the Loks during their biennial visits to Minnesota and as well as in visits to their home in Toronto.

In 1997, I took 2 terms of Chinese calligraphy at the University of Minnesota taught by Hong Zhang, a Chinese painting master who lives here in Minnesota. Shortly after those classes, I became a private student of Mr. Zhang. For 20+ years under his direction I continue to pursue a rigorous professional training in Chinese painting and calligraphy. My weekly training with Mr. Zhang challenges and strengthens my skills and understanding of this ancient form of creative expression. The rigor of practice in this tradition has deepened my understanding of the power of these simple materials: ink, brush, and paper.

It's with great pleasure that I present catalog of my paintings, using ink and brush in the Chinese painting tradition. It is also my pleasure to make these available in a variety of formats in prints and cards.

*May you find some measure of hope and peace in this artwork
as I have found in creating it.*



Bob Schmitt



a Chinese brush with a Minnesota spirit

dawn at Mather Point, Grand Canyon

2020

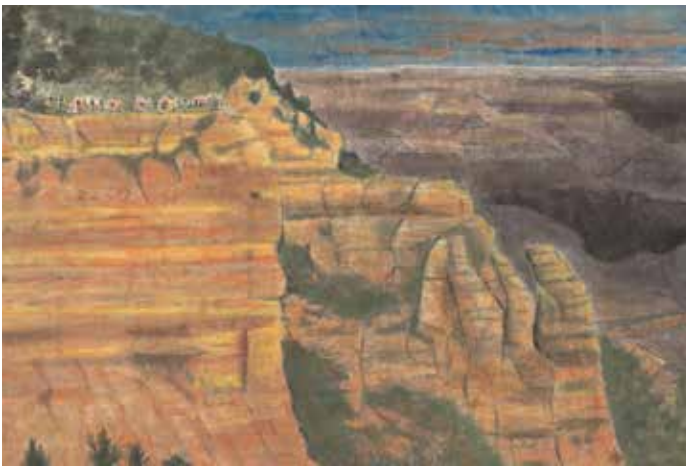


Bob's monumental 5-panel piece depicting the sunrise at Mather Point, Grand Canyon.



\$8000 / 5 panels (each 3'w x 2'h) framed in reclaimed weathered oak

detail: panel 1



detail: panel 5



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *dawn at Mather Point* premium card set (\$24)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

experience. the power of the brush.

the gold leaf collection

2020-2021

In the summer of 2020, Bob began to experiment with gold leaf and acrylic paint to capture his iconic one-stroke paintings.



Lake Pepin: Maiden Rock



Lake Pepin: Point, No Point

both *Lake Pepin* paintings available in:
• gold leaf: lake pepin premium card set (\$24)



begging monks



black falls



north shore



enso



pine



Contact Bob for current selection and prices.

dreams of six grandfathers

2020

inscription:

clouds
arising
aimlessly
above
the peaks



inspiration:

Long before four of the largest faces on Earth were dynamited into the granite edifice of what is now known as Mount Rushmore, the Lakota Sioux saw a different set of portraits. The Lakota saw a line of wise protective figures on the domed granite skyline of the sacred mountain they called the Six Grandfathers.

The site was officially renamed after wealthy New York investor Charles Rushmore only in 1930, years after its famous construction project began, but *Thun̄kášila Šákpe* had been an integral part of Lakota identity for generations.

Before it was called Six Grandfathers Mountain (*Thun̄kášila Šákpe*), it was called Cougar Mountain (Igmu Tanka Paha) because of many cougars or mountain lions living in the vicinity. Then around the early part of 1870, an experience by Nicolas Black Elk, a Lakota medicine man, changed the name to Six Grandfathers because of the six outcrops of the mountain and a dream or a vision.



\$5000 4' high standing floor screen
acrylic on gold leaf

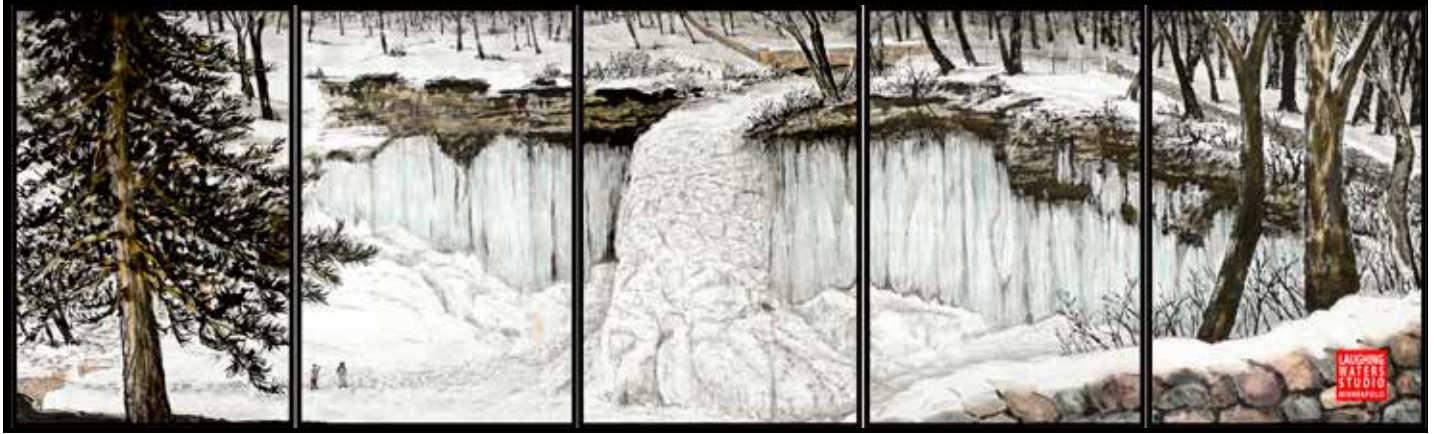
available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *dreams of six grandfathers* premium card set (\$24)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

experience. the power of the brush.

frozen sound of Minnehaha in winter

2018



original painting is 5-panels, each panel 2 feet w x 3 feet h. framed.
\$7500.

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *frozen sound of Minnehaha in winter* premium card set (\$24)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request
- also as a desk top folding screen, 5.5h x 17 w, \$10. or 3/\$25.



a wintry wave at split rock

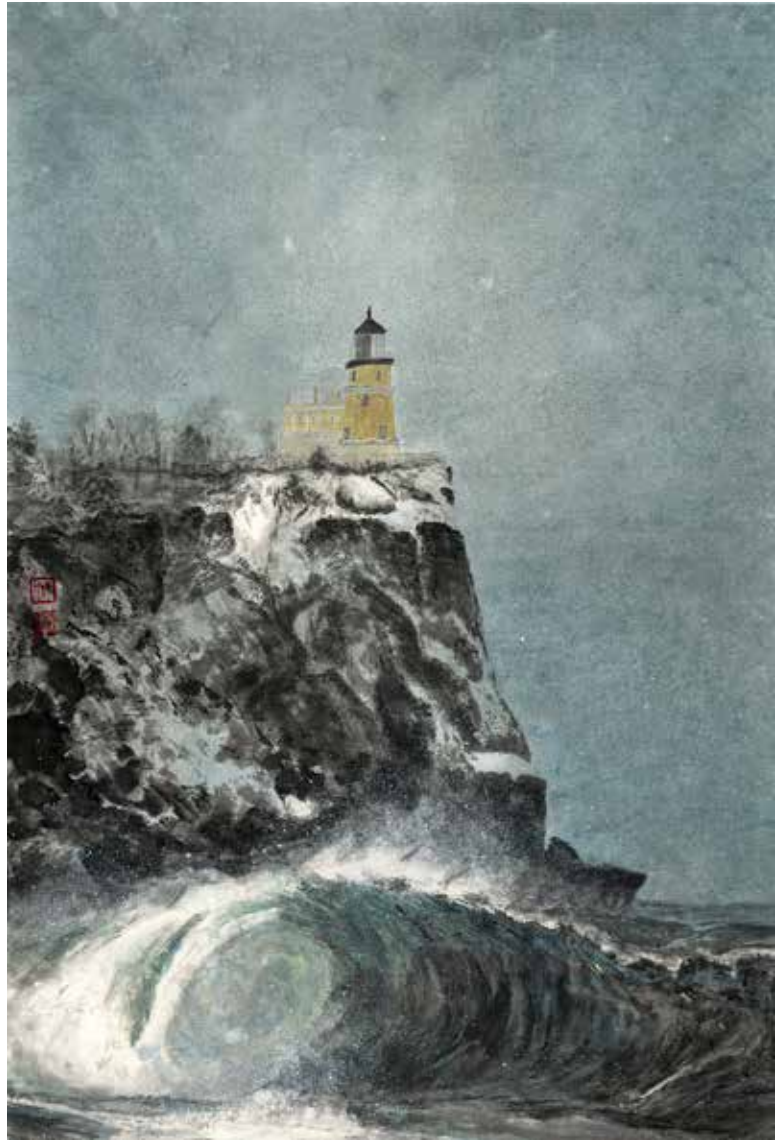
2020

accompanying poem:

Through the winter's fog,
the yellow lighthouse stands firm.
A solo beacon for safety's sake,
while waves continue to beat its base,
relentless in their crashing power.
Water covers rock,
rock resists water.

In the bitter cold of this winter scene,
with no birds, no wildlife, no visitors,
only the poet is witness,
seeing both the power of the wave
and the strength of the rock.
The rock is steadfast in its resistance
and the water is steadfast in its persistence.

Warmer days, calmer waters
are both a part of the past
and a part of the future.
But right here, right now
is the breath-taking power of a single wave,
as open to meeting the present moment
as it is to meeting the rock.



a wintry wave at split rock



\$1500 / in custom quartered sawn oak frame

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *The 2022 Collection of Paintings* premium card set (\$24)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

landscape scrolls

2020

dye sublimation on fabric

(silk patterns created from sampling section of painting and digitally manipulating to create faux silk patterns)

trimmed with ribbon for hanging

weighted with oak dowel

price: \$900.



3 superior falls

dimensions: 21”w x 80”h



song of Minnehaha

dimensions: 29”w x 80”h

landscape scrolls

2020



superior view

dimensions: 21”w x 80”h



superior pallisade

dimensions: 21”w x 80”h



superior moon

dimensions: 21”w x 80”h

the Nine Gates scrolls

2010-2011

dye sublimation on fabric

(silk patterns created from sampling section of painting and digitally manipulating to create faux silk patterns)

trimmed with ribbon for hanging

weighted with oak dowel

dimensions: 21" w x 80" h

price: \$900. each

DARKNESS



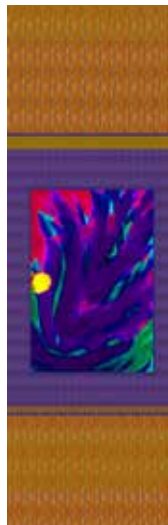
LONGING



ABANDONMENT



RAGE



EMPTINESS



COMPASSION



UNBRIDLED JOY



ONENESS



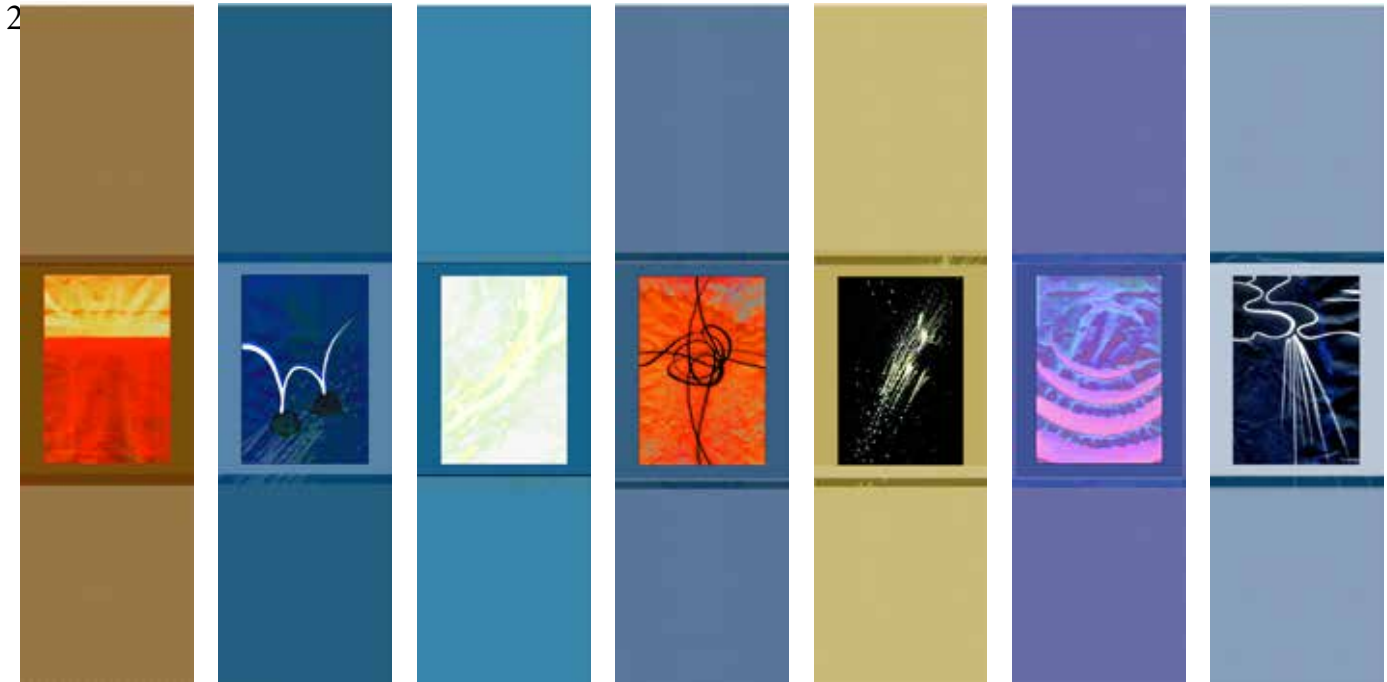
DELUSION



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *nine gates scrolls* premium card set (\$30)

the seven allusions scrolls



dye sublimation on fabric

(silk patterns created from sampling section of painting
and digitally manipulating to create faux silk patterns)

trimmed with ribbon for hanging

weighted with oak dowel

dimensions: 21”w x 80”h

price: \$900. each

the superior series

2010-2011

four original compositions depicting the everchanging moods of the greatest of lakes, Lake Superior.

each exploring a different variation on depicting water in the tradition of Chinese painting.

each demonstrating the multiple ways in that tradition to enscribe words on a painting: ancient poetry, original poetry, narrative and prose.

visit:

www.laughingwatersstudio.com

for inscription translations

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *the superior series* premium card set (\$24)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request



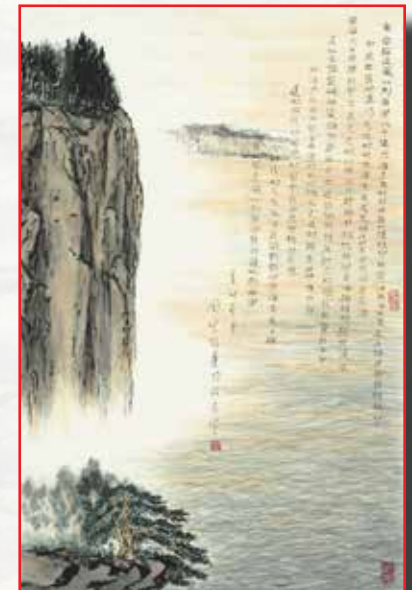
superior moon



superior wave



superior view



superior pallisade

Three Superior Waterfalls

2001

inscription

*Three rivers on the north shore
of Lake Superior,
each heading in its own way,
cutting through stone and forest
until it reaches its destination
— the great lake.*

*Three rivers, three waterfalls,
each a jewel, a drama, a climax.*

*The falls on the Gooseberry River,
so open and public,
a collection of countless little falls.*

*The falls on the Brule River,
a magic act, half of the river disappears
into the rock—the Devil's Kettle
— where does it go?*

*The falls on the Pigeon River,
so private, a hidden falls,
so close to the Canadian border.
The tallest falls in Minnesota,
yet seldom seen by visitors.*

*I see my life in all three falls.
Open, public. Mysterious, disappearing.
Hidden, isolated. Exposed and flowing.
Mindlessly flowing to the source unseen.*

— Bob Schmit

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *three superior waterfalls* note card set (\$20.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request



experience. the power of the brush.

Storm over Split Rock

2008



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *light at split rock* note card set (\$20.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

The silent pines stand as a witness

2006

inscription

*The silent pines stand as witnesses
as memories of you are awakened.*

We were here together:

The sounds, The smells. I recognize the signs.

And the light. Yes, the light.

You must be near:

I sit. I wait. I look. I yearn.

The cawing of the crows cuts into the silence.

The current of sadness cuts into my heart.

*Cautiously I step, looking for sure footing
from rock to rock.*

*The rocks—beautifully worn smooth,
worn down by the water.*

*Openly displaying their strength
and their weakness—*

the places where the waters can seep in.

And the water does seep in,

seeking that weakness, to penetrate

and crack the rock in two,

to reveal the hardness within.

—Bob Schmitt January 2006



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

experience. the power of the brush.

the pine series

2012

dancing pines



dragon pine



picnic under the pines



snow pine



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *the pine series* premium card set (\$24.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

dawn on city lakes series

2013

harriet dawn



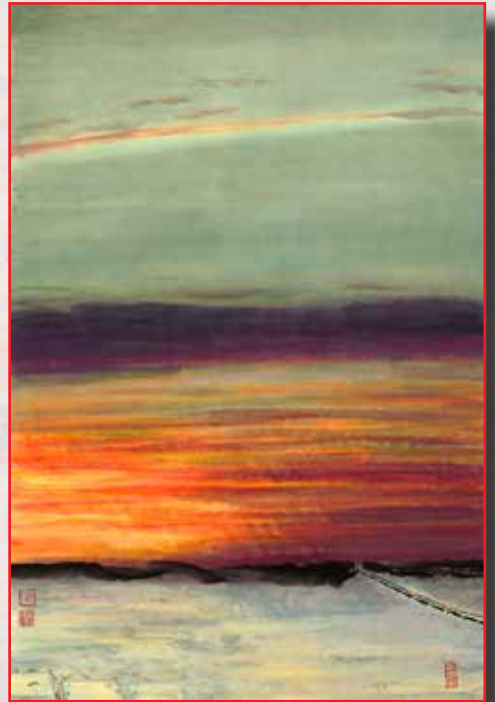
isles dawn



bdé makhá ská dawn



nokomis dawn



imagined sunrises on the shores of four of Minneapolis' lakes.

each focusing on iconic features of that lake's identity:
the islands, red roofed pavilion,
cedar shaked bandstand and pond hockey.

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *dawn on city lakes* premium card sets(\$24.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

experience. the power of the brush.

Minnehaha Falls in 4 seasons

2004-2008



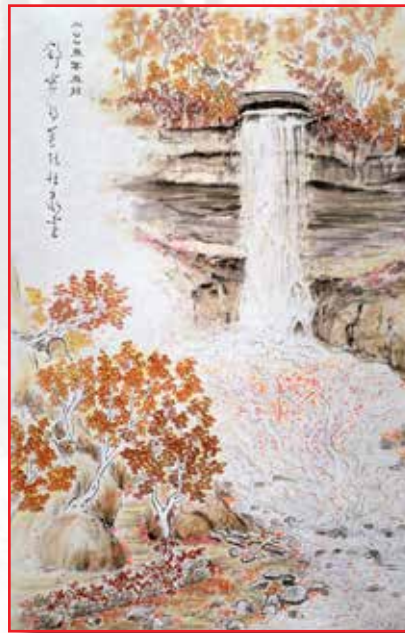
the surging power of spring



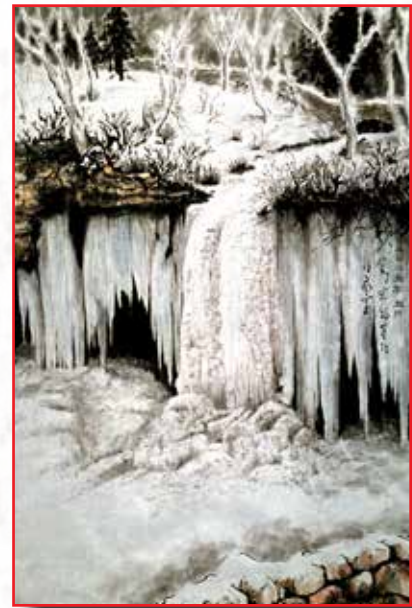
the sound of laughing waters

in the heart of the city,
this waterfall creates its
singular magic day after day,
season after season.

depicting water by using the
color of the raw paper to denote
the changing power of the water
through the year.



the crisp fall leaves color the air



the roaring silence of a frozen falls

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *minnehaha falls collection* premium card sets(\$24.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

song of Minnehaha

2008

inspiration

“Yet the way seemed long before him,
And his heart outran his footsteps;
And he journeyed without resting,
Til he heard the cataract’s laughter,
Heard the Falls of Minnehaha
Calling to him through the silence.
‘Pleasant is the sound!’ he murmured,
‘Pleasant is the voice that calls me!’”

—The Song of Hiawatha

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1855

inscription

*Through a lagoon still and shallow,
Flows a creek with easy motion;
Flowing past the yellow birth house,
Small memory of Longfellow;
Flowing past the bronze Hiawatha,
Carrying his Minnehaha.
Fact or fiction, it does not matter,
As the creek falls swiftly downward,
Crashing on the rocks worn smooth.
Now it travels with more passion;
Twisting, turning to find its way;
To the river that it’s seeking;
A time for rest—another day.*

—Bob Schmitt July 2007



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *minnehaha falls collection* premium card set (\$24.)
- *song of Minnehaha* premium card set (\$24.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

experience. the power of the brush.

waters laughing after a spring snow

2008



available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- *minnehaha falls collection* premium card sets(\$24.)
- full size giclee print or print on aluminum, price upon request

one stroke makes a painting: *enso & other zen paintings*

My interest in the zen of brush painting goes back over forty years. I had found a slim volume by Kazuaki Tanahashi, Japanese calligrapher and zen teacher, entitled Brush Mind. That little book of pithy, often humorous sayings and big bold splash paintings kept alive in me an interest in zen painting. I attempted for years to practice on my own but learned much later that one can only go so far on one's own effort. In the late 90s I was fortunate to begin to study with Lok Tok, Yitong Lok of Toronto and Hong Zhang in Minneapolis—three incredibly gifted Chinese brush painters and teachers. Their perspective radically changed my life. I was a beginner once again.

Now after 20 years of dedicated study in Chinese brush painting with master Hong Zhang, I found myself drawn back to the practice of painting enso and other zen paintings. With Hong's grounding presence and the skills he has nourished in me, I have returned to exploring the essence of the simple circle, the reality of being present to this moment with this brush and this ink, and the mysteries that can be brought to light in a single brush stroke. And I find myself a beginner once again.

In this volume, I share the fruits of this most recent work—the one-stroke enso and the calligraphy that flowed out of my brush to the paper in the course of this exploration. I remain as ever fascinated in the range and depth of expression, emotion and power that can be communicated with such ancient technology as the bamboo brush, ground ink and xuan paper.

- Bob

one stroke makes a painting: *enso* & other zen paintings

available in:

- 8x10 prints (unframed: \$20),
- 11x17 digital prints (unframed: \$30),
- selections from *one stroke makes a painting* premium card set: \$30.
- price for full size giclee print or print on aluminum upon request



what is this?



the mosquito bites the iron bull



the willing heart is the dojo

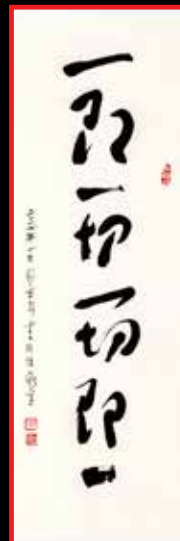


even this is a circle



cloud leisure, pine longevity

*form is not different from emptiness
emptiness is not different from form.
form is emptiness,
emptiness is form.*



in one you can see all,
in all you can see one



if you penetrate one barrier, there is another



nothingness

one stroke makes a painting: *enso & other zen paintings*

available in:

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the all-roundedness is like the vast emptiness, nothing lacking, nothing in excess



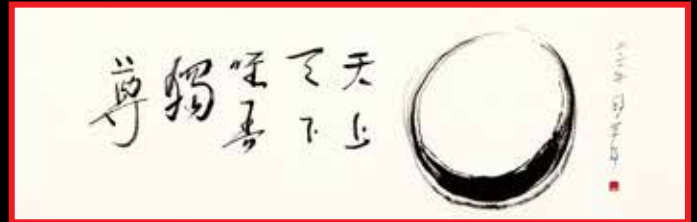
dream



no host, no guest



beyond the wind, listen to the bamboo



in heaven above and earth below, there is only one person



eat this and have a cup of tea



leaf after leaf in the gentle wind

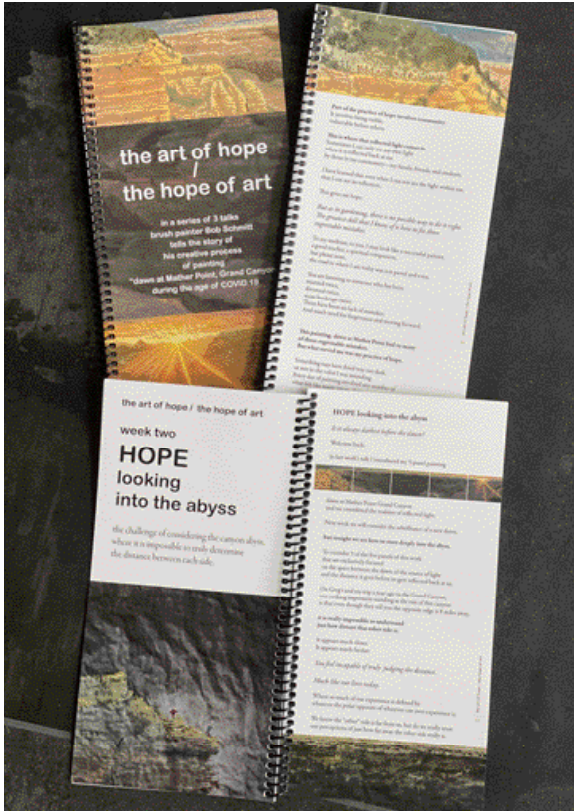


what is this?

books of Bob's paintings, poetry & practice

the art of hope the hope of art

Bob tells the story of the practice of the art of hope and the hope of art in this time of pandemic and social unraveling.



48-page, 5.5 x 11 spiral-bound volume filled with a score of full color closeup images of the painting, "dawn at Mather Point, Grand Canyon," includes the text of three Zoom talks Bob gave in the fall of 2020 under the sponsorship of Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, St. Paul, MN.

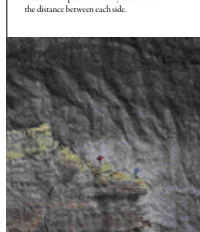
\$30. plus shipping

included in this volume:

the art of hope / the hope of art
week one
HOPE
in reflected light
 exploring the difference between direct light and reflected light.



the art of hope / the hope of art
week two
HOPE
looking into the abyss
 the challenge of considering the canyon abyss, where it is impossible to truly determine the distance between each side.

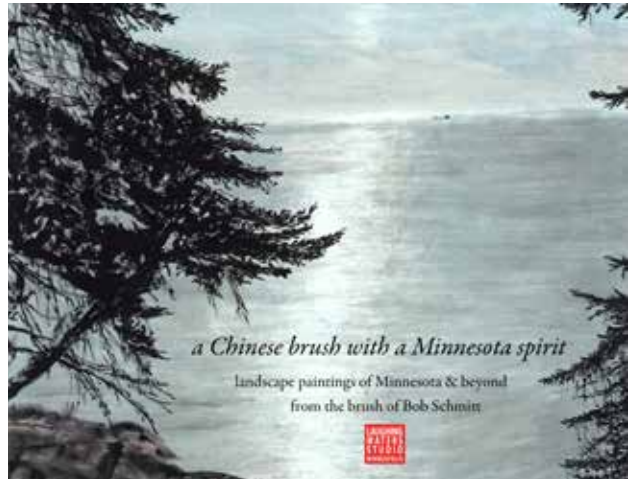


the art of hope / the hope of art
week three
HOPE
rebrilliance
 and finally the singularity of light bursting onto an otherwise dim, dead and unfeathered chaos.



a Chinese brush with a Minnesota spirit

landscape paintings of Minnesota & beyond



24-page, 12x12 perfect bound full color book filled with a selection of Bob's Minnesota landscapes with English translations of his poetic Chinese calligraphy inscriptions.

\$30. plus shipping

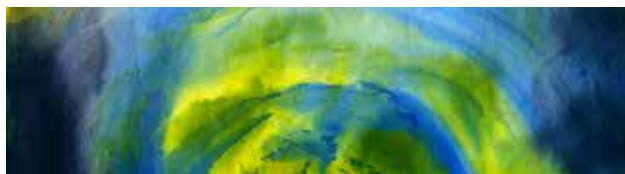
included in this volume:



books of Bob's paintings, poetry & practice

The NINE GATES

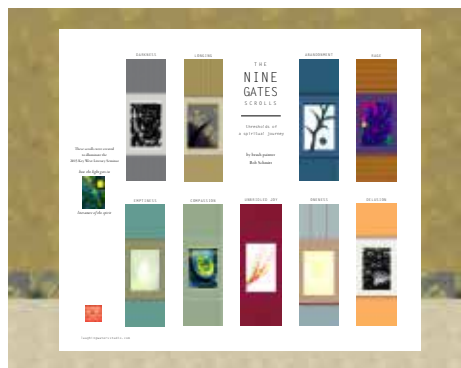
thresholds of a spiritual journey



20-page, 8.5x11 perfect bound includes closeups of each scroll and Bob's poetic inscriptions for each gate.

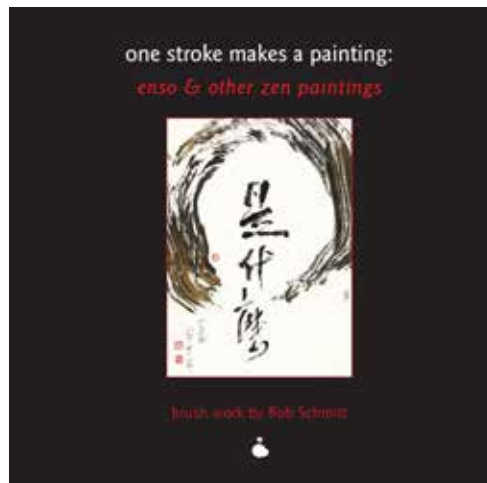
\$30. plus shipping

included in this volume:



one stroke makes a painting

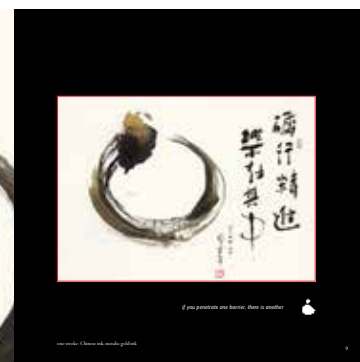
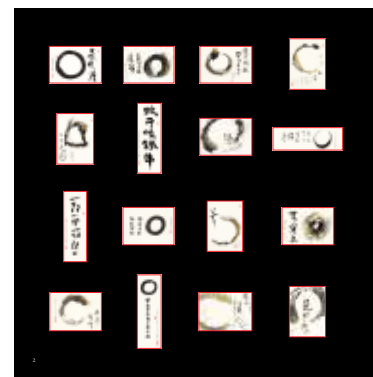
enso & other zen paintings



36-page, 8x8 perfect bound volume of 16 of Bob's brush paintings focused on the enso (one circular stroke) and other zen themes and calligraphy. Great gift for reflection or meditation.

\$30. plus shipping

included in this volume:



experience. the power of the brush.

order form

quantity	item type/title (print, book/painting name)	item size if print	unit price	price
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Shipping/handling will be calculated upon receipt of order _____

You can place your order by:

email

bob@laughingwatersstudio.com

phone

612-333-1881

mail

Laughing Waters Studio
3718 Minnehaha Pkwy East
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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phone _____

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address _____

city/state/zip _____

check credit card: Visa Mastercard

name on card _____

card number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

expiration date: ____ / ____



a Chinese brush with a Minnesota spirit

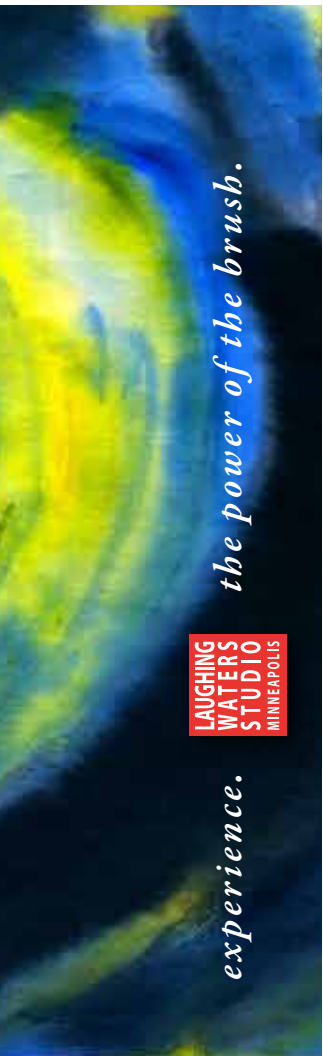
experience.

LAUGHING
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STUDIO
MINNEAPOLIS

the power of the brush.

visit: www.shopatlaughingwatersstudio.com

call: 612 333-1881



LAUGHING
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experience.

3718 Minnehaha Parkway East, Minneapolis, MN 55406

from Laughing Waters Studio:

- Chinese painting / art instruction
- distance learning / performance art